

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 07:45 h in IISER Pune Guest House

Members present: S. Ramakrishnan, Anil Kumar, Bhoje Gowd, Unnikrishnan, Tarun Mondal, Badigar, Vimal Katiyar, Ashok Misra, S. Sivaram

Prof. Ramakrishnan welcomed the members and gave his introductory remarks wherein he highlighted the challenges faced during the lockdown period in terms of conducting the activities of SPSI. He also explained the reasons for cancelling the SPSI Macro 2020, which was to be held at IIT Guwahati in December 2020. He then informed the members about the creation of the new Mumbai chapter and expressed his deep appreciation for the initiative taken by the Pune chapter, especially Drs S K Asha and Samir Chikkali from NCL, to organize Macro 2022 at Pune, in fairly short notice and also because this event will provide the polymer science community an opportunity to express their appreciation for the remarkable leadership of our past president Dr S Sivaram, on the occasion of completing his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday year.

Prof. Ramakrishnan also informed the committee about the creation of a new award, namely Dr. K. H. Gharda Industrial Innovation Award in Polymers, which will be administered by SPSI; this award will recognize outstanding applied research work carried out in an industrial setting and would fulfill the long-desired need to recognize our fellow scientists working outside of the traditional academic setting. An MOU has been signed between SPSI and Gharda Chemicals, who are the sponsors of this award, which will be awarded along with the Kishore and Santappa awards during the biennial MACRO meetings of SPSI. Ramakrishnan placed on record the deep appreciation to Dr Sivaram, who was the prime force behind enabling setting up of this award.

Thereafter, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were confirmed.

Prof. Anil Kumar presented a brief overview of the activities of SPSI, as detailed below:

1. Launch of Mumbai Chapter with one day symposium (2 March 2020).

2. SPSI continued its activity in the online mode during the lockdown. We organized more than 33 webinars, symposiums, during this period wherein speakers were chosen both from within India and abroad.
3. After several online deliberations of the executive committee, it was decided that MACRO-2020, which was to be held in IIT, Guwahati, will now take place in December 2023 at IIT, Guwahati. Prof. Vimal Katiyar, who is the convener suggested 10-13 December 2023, as possible dates for the conference.
4. The first in-person meeting, post-pandemic (Two-day symposium) was conducted by the Mumbai Chapter and was held at the Somaiya University in May 2022 and was organized by Professor V N R Pillai.
5. A committee was constituted to examine and deliberate on improving the participation from Industries in the SPSI activities. The committee made several recommendations to improve the interactions and one of the major recommendations was to recognize industrial R&D, which has now been realized through the Dr K. H. Gharda Industrial Innovation Award in Polymers.

Further to this, Dr. Sivaram proposed a few changes to the Constitution of the SPSI; these are done primarily to reflect the aspirations of the membership and also to streamline some of the processes. The proposed changes/modifications are detailed below:

#### **Election of the Office-Bearers**

- i) The election of the office-bearers and other Members of the Executive Committee shall take place every two years by a ballot of all the Life- Members with voting rights and the results shall be declared at the Annual General Body Meeting of the Society. Postal or electronic ballot shall also be considered.
- ii) The tenure of the Office Bearers will generally begin on January 1 of the year, following the elections, and will terminate on 31 December of the second year of assuming office.
- iii) The President and Vice-Presidents shall compulsorily retire every two years but are eligible for re-election. The balance nine Members of the Executive Committee

shall also serve the term co-terminus with the President and the Vice-Presidents and will also be eligible for re-election.

- iv) The manner of conducting the ballot for election of office bearers of the Society are set forth below:
  - a) The outgoing Executive Committee shall prepare a slate of potential office bearers of the Society through a wide consultative process involving the Presidents of the chapters and members of the Society.
  - b) The slate of office bearers, thus arrived at, will be put on a ballot paper and sent to all the members in good standing by post/Email, or any other electronic means, for their ratification.
  - c) Members shall return their voting papers to the Honorary Secretary, by post/ E mail or web-based electronic voting.

### **The Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall consist of not more than twelve persons including the President, two Vice-Presidents, one Past-President, one Honorary Secretary, one Treasurer and six elected members. In addition, the Presidents of all approved Chapters of the Society will be executive Members, ex-officio. Of the office bearers, the Treasurer shall preferably be from the Headquarters.

### **Local chapters and their administration**

As per rule 3x, formation of local chapters to enhance and widen the activities of the society and carry forward the Aim and Objectives of the society is strongly encouraged. Local chapters shall elect a President and at least two office bearers, namely Secretary and Treasurer, to manage and conduct the local chapter activities. The Duties and Responsibilities of the office bearers shall be the same as those for the office bearers of the society and the rules for election to the office and the terms and conditions of their service shall remain the same.

Finally, the Executive Committee deliberated on these suggestions and agreed to incorporate the changes to the constitution, after circulation to the membership; thereafter, implementation of the changes would be done with immediate effect.

Based on the deliberations of the EC, the following slate of names are suggested for the office bearers of SPSI; the list reflects the desire of the committee to enhance the representation from Industry and also move towards greater gender balance. The new office bearers are expected to takeover the reigns of SPSI from January 1, 2023:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
President	Professor S. Ramakrishnan	Professor Anil Kumar, IIT Bombay Mumbai
Vice Pres. (2)	Dr A. Ajayaghosh Dr Tarun Mandal	Dr S. K. Asha, NCL Pune Professor Tushar Jana, University of Hyderabad
Hon. Secretary	Professor Anil Kumar	Dr Bhoje Gowd, NIIST Trivandrum
Treasurer	Dr C.V. Avadhani	Dr Samir Chikkali NCL Pune (Headquarters)
Members (10)	Presidents of Chapters (Ex-officio)	Presidents of Chapters (Ex-Officio)
Members (6)	None at present	Dr Anubhav Saxena (Pidilite Industries, Mumbai) Prof. Bimlesh Lochab (Shiv Nadar University) Prof. Priyadarshi De (IISER-Kolkata) Dr. Rahul Shingte (Solvay, Vadodara) Prof. Suryasarathy Bose (IISc Bangalore) Prof. Parbati Biswas (University of Delhi)