



Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA)
Annual General Meeting Minutes, 30 October 2021

Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association - North America
2021 Annual General Meeting Notice

- Due to Covid-19 situation in the country, we are organizing the 2021 Annual General Meeting virtually this year on Saturday, October 30th, 2021 at 5.00 pm Eastern Time. Please use the Zoom link below to register for the event Registration is needed for the participation for the meeting and we hope that you all can join this event and support your association and its path forward. The AGM will be recorded this year for future reference. All reports were audited and verified by an independent, certified auditor.

Agenda for the AGM Meeting

1. Call the meeting to Order
2. Approval of the minutes of the annual general meeting held in May 26, 2018
3. Welcome remarks and President's Address
4. Annual Report (2018-2021) presented by the Joint secretaries
5. Treasurer's Report (2018-2021)
6. Proposed Amendments to the constitution
7. Ratification of Nominations for the Executive Committee for the term 2021-2023
8. Open the floor for discussion/suggestions
9. Any other business
10. Adjournment

Due to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) situation in the country, the Annual General Meeting of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA) for the term 2018-2021 was held virtually via a ZOOM conference on Saturday, October 30th, 2021 from 5.00 pm to 6.02 pm Eastern Time. With the approval from the members, the AGM was recorded this year for future reference. A total of 40 members registered and joined the conference (**See Annexure 1** for the list of CUFSAA-NA members participated at the AGM 2021)

Call the Meeting to Order

With the permission from the members without any objection, the 2021 virtual AGM was recorded for future reference.

Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke, President of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on May 26, 2018

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on May 26, 2018 at the LaCentre Conference & Banquet Facility, 25777 Detroit Road, Westlake, Ohio 44145 USA were distributed to the membership by Joint Secretaries of the Association two (2) weeks in advance as per our By-laws. Since we have not received any comments, concerns regarding the minutes, Dr. Goonetilleke asked that we approve this minutes without objection. With no objections, 2018 AGM meeting minutes was approved.

Welcome Remarks and President's Report

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke welcomed all the members virtually attended the AGM and highlighted the activities and projects that were successfully completed during the three year-term from 2018-2021. During his three year term, Dr. Goonetilleke pointed out that we have done a tremendous amount of work ever since five years ago we have formed CUFSAA-NA under Professor L.M.V. Tillekeratne's leadership. During the past three years current executive committee worked hard on behalf of the CUFSAA-NA membership, and have accomplished a tremendous amount of work and have done a great amount of service to the Science faculty of the University of Colombo. The details of these accomplishments were shared by Joint Secretaries and Treasurer's reports. All These accomplishments would not have been possible without great help, service and sacrifices by many people. Dr. Goonetilleke thanked the whole committee and the entire membership for the support given over the past three years. He particularly thanked executive committee members those who are not going to come back for various reasons and the new executive committee members those who joint to serve for the new term.

Annual Report Presented by the Joint Secretaries

Dr. Chandrasiri Jayakody informed that the Annual Report of Joint Secretaries prepared by Dr. Chandrasiri Jayakody and Dr. Randara Pulukkody was distributed to the membership two (2) weeks in advance as per our by-laws. The Report summarized what we have accomplished during the term 2018-2021 (**See Annexure 2 Secretary's Report**). In addition to the annual report, a video presentation highlighting the progress made during 2018-2021 by CUFSAA-NA was shown to the membership. Dr. Jayakody thanked Dr. Sumedha Jayasena and Dr. Randara Pulukkody for the creation of a beautiful video presentation to go with the Secretary's Report (**see Annexure 3 - Link**)

It was also informed to the members virtually gathered that the official versions of the annual reports for the past three (3) years were prepared and distributed to the membership two weeks in advance as per by-laws.. The links were shared at the AGM as well. (**See Annexures 4, 5, and 6** for official annual reports for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020).

As we are still facing the pandemic, the Executive Committee was highly grateful to all members those who registered and joined the virtual meeting. As scheduled, we were unable to hold the AGM in 2020 due to covid-19 pandemic, at the request of the executive committee, Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke who was serving as the president at that time kindly agreed to extend his term for another year. For last three (3) years Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke led the organization as the president and we at CUFSAA greatly appreciated his vision, unwavering commitment and time dedicated to the organization. Today we welcomed CUFSAA-NA's new president Prof. Vicumpriya Perera.

Treasurer's Report

Professor Saliya de Silva presented the Treasurer's Report for the period beginning from May 18th, 2018 to September 30, 2021. The Treasurer's Report was also distributed among the members two weeks in advance as per by-laws and the link was shared online on the chat box during the presentation. The account balance as of 09/30/21 was \$31,967.23 (**See Annexure 7: Treasurer's Report** for details).

Prof. Saliya de Silva also thanked Dr. Vicumpriya Perera for the Excel spreadsheet created for accounting purposes and Mr. Gajaka Weerasinghe for checking the numbers with him. The report was audited by a person not affiliated with CUFSA-NA and received an e-mail notification stating that everything was in order and the signed statement later in the evening.

Report was opened for any questions or comments from the members. Without any questions, objections, or comments, the Treasurer's Report was accepted, proposed by Dr. Reshan Fernando and seconded by Dr. Angelo Gunasekera.

The proposed amendments to the constitution (By-laws)

Dr. Binodh De Silva, member of the By-laws committee proposed a few changes for approval and ratification. Most of the other items remained intact. Other members of the By-laws committee were Dr. Vicumpriya Perera and Dr. Nalin Samarasingha.

Proposed Bylaws Change – AGM 2021

Section: I-A Founder President

The Founder President of the Association is Professor L. M. Viranga Tillekeratne.

Current Version Section: IV-A Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of twenty-five (25) members including: The President, The President-elect, The Immediate Past President, Three (03) Vice Presidents, Two Joint Secretaries, The Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Fifteen (15) Ordinary Members.

Proposed Changes Section: IV-A Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of twenty-five (25) members including: The President, The President-elect, The Immediate Past President, three (03) Vice Presidents, two (02) Joint Secretaries, The Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and fifteen (15) Members-at-Large.

The Office Bearers of the Association are: The President, The President-elect, The Immediate Past President, The Vice Presidents, Two Joint Secretaries, The Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer.

Current Version
Section: IV-D
The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year on or before the last Sunday of the month of September. The AGM will be held physically on even numbered years.

On odd years the AGM will simply consist of approving the Annual and Financial reports by the Executive Committee upon acceptance by the general membership. Fifteen working days prior to the last Sunday of September, the Annual report and the financial report will be distributed to the general membership via electronic mail. The membership will be requested to respond to the Executive committee within 10 business days if there are objections. If no objections are received the Executive Committee will finalize the reports.

If there are objections, the Executive committee will address these issues, and finalize the reports. The final resolution will be communicated to the members who raised the objections.

The approved Financial and Annual reports will be distributed to the general membership via electronic mail.

Proposed Changes
Section: IV-D
The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held each year at a time determined by the Executive Committee during the fourth quarter of the calendar year. In addition to these Annual General Meetings, **Special General Membership Meetings** may also be held if the Executive Committee resolves that such a meeting would be beneficial to the CUFSA-NA.

The Annual General Meetings and Special General Membership Meetings should be held either in-person, virtually or a combination thereof as determined by the Executive Committee. Only members participating either in-person or virtually and verified by the Joint Secretaries will have the right to vote.

Fifteen (15) days prior to the Annual General Meeting, the Annual Report and the Financial Report will be distributed to the general membership via electronic mail. If there are objections, the membership will be requested to respond to the Executive Committee within ten (10) days. If no objections are received, the Executive Committee will finalize the reports. Any objections received and not resolved at the AGM will be resolved and finalized by the Executive Committee and will be communicated to the members within forty-five (45) days after the AGM.

The finalized Annual and Financial reports will be approved by the Executive Committee upon the acceptance by the general membership at the AGM.

FIRST SCHEDULE OFFICIAL ADDRESS

The registered address of the Association shall be **Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association, 15 Karnell Drive, Piscataway, NJ 08854.**

The official web domains of the Association shall be **cufsa.org** and **cufsa.com**.

The proposed changes were distributed to the membership two (2) weeks in advance as per our by-laws (**See Annexure 8**) but not received any comments or objections. Dr. Unil Perera asked whether simple majority or 2/3rd majority is used to finalize the executive committee decisions. The subcommittee agreed to review old by-laws and get this clarified. Dr. Unil Perera proposed current changes to the by-laws to be accepted as it was. Seconded by Dr. Reshan Fernando. Prof. Vicumpriya Perera invited Dr. Unil Perera to join the by-laws sub-committee to help and improve any discrepancies in the by-laws.

Ratification of Nominations for the Executive Committee for the Term 2021-2022

The nominations for the Executive Committee for the new term were made as per the definition in Article 4 of the By Laws and distributed among the members a two weeks in advance. Before the slate was distributed, about one and half months in advance, all of our 400+ members were invited to suggest nominations for the executive committee. The nominations link was shared in the chat box and names were read out by Dr. Goonetilleke. Any objections or counter proposals were not received. As per by-laws, the slate presented to the membership at the AGM could be accepted unless alternate suggestions were passed by 2/3rd majority of the members present.

Office Bearers:

President: Vicumpriya Perera

President elect: Reshan Fernando

Immediate Past President: Chandana Goonetilleke

Vice Presidents: Sumedha Jayasena, Kirthi Premadasa, Chandrasiri Jayakody

Joint Secretaries: Harshica Fernando, Pujitha Gunaratne

Treasurer: Gajaka Weerasinghe

Assistant Treasurer: Lalith Perera

Committee Members-at- Large:

Ashan Ariyawansa

Binodh De Silva

Saliya De Silva

Sachith Dissanayake

Wasundara Fernando

Angelo Gunasekera

Neranjaka Jayaratne

Sandya Liyanarachchi

Unil Perera

Asoka Pinnaduwege

Oshadha Ranasingha
Nalin Samarasinha
Prof. L.M. V. Tillekeratne
Tharanga Wijetunge
Jeeva Witanachchi

Without any objections, the proposed slate for the new term was accepted, proposed by Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne and seconded by Mrs. Jeeva Witanachchi.

With the new committee in place, Dr. Goonetilleke thanked again the outgoing executive members for their service to the association and welcomed all new members to take the association to the next level. At this point, Dr. Goonetilleke welcomed the new president of the Colombo University faculty of Science Alumni Association, Prof. Vicumpriya Perera to chair the meeting.

Prof. Vicumpriya Perera, faculty member in mathematics at Kent State University, Trumbull Campus, Ohio, chaired the meeting to continue the agenda. He graduated from University of Colombo in 1984 with a BSc degree in mathematics and worked as an Assistant Lecturer until August 1986 and then came to the US for graduate studies.

In his remarks, Prof. Vicumpriya Perera welcomed all attended the AGM virtually and thanked entire membership for the support given to the association over the past years. He mentioned that it was a tremendous honor to lead the CUFSAA-NA and a tall order to follow the footsteps of illustrious past presidents, Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke and Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne. He hoped that with the help of everyone, including incoming and outgoing members of the executive committee and with the help of all our members, we can continue the tradition our Founding Father, Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne established. His vision was to bring together like-minded individuals who graduated from the science faculty and who reside in the North America to help and support the Science Faculty, thereby University of Colombo and Sri Lanka. The association started in New Jersey in late 2016 with our social event Tamasha 2016. The association has now grown into what it is today. Many individuals helped to shape the association. Some worked in the two previous executive committees, some from the outside. Many helped the objectives of the association financially. Many with their time, talent and the fashion. He thanked all for their dedication and support given to the organization.

Prof. Perera specially thanked the out-going executive committee for the tremendous work they have done for past few years, especially at this pandemic time to raise and donate about \$150,000 worth of medical equipment to serve and save Sri Lanka from covid-19.

Prof. Perera then recognized the following out-going executive members by unmuting the Zoom videos.

Prof. Saliya de Silva – Out-going Treasurer, Instrumental in making sure all financial transactions, money transfers happened in time and working with many outside associations, agencies and companies getting the work done.

Dr. Chandrasiri Jayakody and Dr. Randara Pulukkody - Outgoing joint secretaries: working many long hours and sleepless nights and hard work of writing down and communicating association needs to executive committee, outside groups and membership.

Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke – Outgoing President: leading the association to complete a tremendous amount of work during the past three years, appreciated his leadership, consideration, all around sincerity and

humbleness. CUFSAA was so fortunate to have him to lead the association at this critical time, done an excellent job and eternally grateful for his work. At this point Prof. Perera offered a small token of gratitude to Dr. Goonetilleke, but shipment got delayed to have it in time. Prof. Perera read the inscription on the crystal plaque ***“One becomes succeed by the quality of actions and the integrity of intension, Presented to Chandana Goonetilleke, in appreciation for your leadership to CUFSAA during one of the gravest hours of humanity”***

Prof. Vicumpriya Perera then welcomed the new 25-member executive committee that would provide the leadership for the association for next couple of years. He said that we would try to follow the course as two previous committees. CUFSAA membership is pretty much active leaders from academic and professional and leaders in various areas and hope to use this collective expertise towards the common good of Science Faculty, University of Colombo and Sri Lanka. He said “Let’s start sharing our knowledge if possible, we can use zoom technology and try to connect with everyone in Sri Lanka and see that is something we can achieve during next couple of years.

Prof. Perera also thanked seventeen (17) previous executive members who are continuing to serve in the executive committee, President Elect Reshan Fernando, Immediate Past President Chandana Goonetilleke, Vice Presidents Sumedha Jayasena, Kirithi Premadasa, Chandrasiri Jayakody, Joint Secretary Harshica Fernando, Treasurer Gajaka Weerasinghe, Assistant Treasurer Lalith Perera, Committee Members-at-Large, Binodh de Silva, Saliya de Silva, Angelo Gunasekera, Asoka Pinnaduwege, Oshadha Ranasingha, Nalin Samarasinha, Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne and Jeeva Witanachchi for agreeing to serve another term.

Prof. Perera then welcomed and recognized the eight new executive committee members that joined in and thanked them for their commitment to serve. The new committee members are Dr. Pujitha Gunaratne (Joint Secretary), Committee Members-at-Large, Mr. Ashan Ariyawansa, Dr. Sachith Dissanayake, Dr. Wasundara Fernando, Dr. Neranjaka Jayaratne, Mrs. Sandya Liyanarachchi, Dr. Unil Perera and Dr. Tharanga Wijetunge.

Open the floor for discussion/suggestions

Prof. Perera then opened the floor for discussion and Suggestions and the following suggestions were discussed.

Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke - What we realized was that there will be lot of needs for students once the pandemic is over and they come back to in person classes. Many people may have lost their income support and have faced many other issues. Would it be possible for us to take that up as one of the major CUFSAA projects for the next year?

Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne – We are also looking for volunteers who will be willing to carry a laptop computer to Sri Lanka to help with the remote learning project. Computers here are cheaper compared to Sri Lanka and shipping is the problem. Prof. Tillekeratne asked if you know anybody going to Sri Lanka in the near future, would like them to inform the committee so we can make arrangements to send these computers to Sri Lanka.

Dr. Chandrasiri Jayakody – as a membership drive, he suggested that we personally reach out to our 500+ members individually and ask them to recruit one more member so that we can almost double our membership to 1000 members during this term.

Prof. Tillekeratne said that the video on Secretary Report was very nicely done and congratulated Dr. Sumedha Jayasena and Dr. Randara Pulukkody for the job done well and suggested that we send a copy to the Faculty of Science.

Dr. Binodh de Silva – suggested that we put a link of the video on the website and the Facebook page. Dr. Sumedha Jayasena informed that the video is on the YouTube and that he can send the link to the executive committee to post on the website. Dr. Binodh de Silva asked whether we can post that in FB page, Dr. Sumedha Jayasena agreed to post the link.

Dr. Kirthi Premadasa – mentioned about the benevolent fund of the CUFSA and the helping students in Sri Lanka. He mentioned that we are helping students of the faculty of science who are in need of financial help by matching students with donors. So far we have helped 4 students and would like to help another 4 students more. We are matching students with donors who can actually help with Rs. 5,000-10,000 per month. If you really want to help a student struggling in UoC, please send an email to our general email we will keep in a roster. Full confidentiality will be guaranteed. One year commitment, money can be consolidated and send in three payments.

Dr. Sumedha Jayasena and Dr. Randara Pulukkody were greatly appreciated by the committee for creating a great video to go nicely with the Secretary Report.

Prof. Vicum Perera asked members to use any of the CUFSA email addresses to send suggestions and comments.

Any New Businesses

As an appreciation for their hard work during the last three years, Prof. Tillekeratne officially proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing committee for their leadership and the membership. Seconded by Mr. Gajaka Weerasinghe.

Dr. Reshan Fernando and Prof. Vicum Perera thanked all the participants who virtually joined the AGM.

Adjournment

With no other businesses to discuss, a motion to adjourn the AGM was proposed by Dr. Binodh de Silva. Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke seconded the adjournment with tremendous amount of thanks to everyone and also with best wishes for wonderful future for new committee and the new President.

The 2021 AGM meeting was adjourned at 6.02 pm Eastern time

Thank you,
Respectfully submitted for CUFSA-NA by
Dr. Chandrasiri Jayakody and Dr. Randara Pulukkody
(Joint Secretaries)
10/30/2021
