Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA) Annual General Meeting Minutes, August 30, 2025

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA) was held in-person, from 12:08 pm to 1:25 pm Eastern Time at Regency Manor & Banquet Center, 25228 W 12 Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48034, United States.

- ***Annexure 1*** 2025 AGM Notice and Agenda.
- ***Annexure 2*** List of CUFSAA members participated at the AGM 2025.
- ***Annexure 3*** Project progress Slides.
- ***Annexure 4*** Secretary's (Annual) Report.
- ***Annexure 5*** Treasurer's report.
- ***Annexure 6*** 2025-2027 Executive Members Introduction.

Call the Meeting to Order

Reshan Fernando, President of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association (CUFSAA) – North America, warmly welcomed all members who joined the meeting and officially called it to order at 12:08 noon. He shared his excitement about the celebrations scheduled for later that evening — the Tamasha 2025 Gala — as well as the picnic brunch planned for the following day.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

President Fernando shared the PowerPoint file prepared for the 2025 AGM. He shared the agenda slide with the members. Since no comments or objections were received, the agenda was accepted unanimously, as proposed by Prof. Tillekeratne and seconded by Angelo Gunasekera.

Opening Remarks by the President

The President remarked that it had been an honor and a pleasure to serve the organization for the past two years, and appreciated all the help he received from the members. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Tamasha Committee and all those who had supported the initiative, and thanked them sincerely for their contributions. He acknowledged the executive committee members who had served over the past two years and expressed deep gratitude for their time, talent, and the efforts they had contributed. He

also reminded that with Tamasha 2025 CUFSAA will be celebrating the organization's 10th anniversary. He then presented slides summarizing CUFSAA's ongoing and completed projects over the past two years. He expressed his sincere appreciation for the generous contributions made to CUFSAA and conveyed his gratitude to all those who supported the initiative.

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on November 04, 2024

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on November 04, 2024, was shared with the membership in advance of the meeting via email and through CUFSAA website (www.CUFSAA.org). CUFSAA Vice President Binodh De Silva presented the minutes with a brief summary on behalf of the secretary Wasundara Fernando and assistant secretary Neranjaka Jayarathne who were not able to attend. As there were no comments or concerns regarding the minutes, Vice President Binodh De Silva asked for a proposal to accept and second the minutes. Since there were no objections, minutes of the AGM 2024 were approved, proposed by Sumedha Jayasena and seconded by Mahendra Munidasa.

Annual Report Presented by the Secretary

Again, CUFSAA Vice President Binodh De Silva presented the Annual Report (or the Secretary's Report) for the period of Oct. 1, 2024 to Jul. 31, 2025, with a brief summary, on behalf of the secretary Wasundara Fernando and assistant secretary Neranjaka . The report was prepared and distributed to the membership in advance of the meeting as well as posted on CUFSAA website (www.CUFSAA.org). The Report included a summary and details of what CUFSAA has accomplished during the term Oct. 01,2024 to Jul. 31, 2025. The floor was opened for any questions or comments from the members. Without any questions, objections, or comments, the annual report was accepted, proposed by Prof. Tillekeratne and seconded by Nalin Samarasinha.

Treasurer's Report

CUFSAA Treasurer Sandya Liyanarachchi presented the Treasurer's Report for the period beginning from Oct 01, 2024 to Jul 31, 2025. The Treasurer's report was distributed among the members in advance of the meeting as well as posted on CUFSAA website (www.CUFSAA.org). She provided an overview of the accounting including the beginning balance, numerous donations received for projects, project expenses, and the ending balance. The beginning account balance was $69,949.79 and the ending account balance was $88,413.08. Part of the balance, $60,000 was invested in a CD and at the end of the report period stand at $62,109.65. The balance sheet reflected the growth and the financial strength of the organization. Total income and donations were at $49,686.04 and the project expenses were at $31,222.75. Sandya expressed her gratitude to all who supported her, specially the assistant treasurer Jeeva Witanachchi. The floor was opened for any questions or comments from the members. Without any questions, objections, or comments, the Treasurer's report was accepted, proposed by Angelo Gunasekera and seconded by Harshani Munidasa.

Ratification of Nominations for the Executive Committee for the term 2025-2027

Nomination committee comprised the Chair and Immediate Past President of CUFSAA Vicum Perera, Founding President Prof. Tillekeratne, President Reshan Fernando and President Elect Chandrasiri Jayakody. Prof. Tillekeratne presented the nominations that the nomination committee has decided to recommend. The list consisted of 25 members (***Annexure 6)*** including 5 newcomers from the young generation. The floor was opened for any questions or comments from the members. Without any questions, objections, or comments, the nomination list was ratified, proposed by Binodh De Silva and seconded by Geetha Wanigasekera.

Address by the incoming President

Outgoing President Reshan Fernando introduced the new President of CUFSAA Chandrasiri Jayakody to the audience. He also expressed his appreciation for the executive committee members who would be stepping down, acknowledging their many years of dedicated service. He noted that, although they had decided to take a well-deserved break, they would continue to support the organization's programs, projects, and initiatives.

President Chandrasiri Jayakody thanked Reshan for his dedicated service and leadership during the past two years. He highlighted Launch Pad student bursary program and the Synthesis and Drug Discovery Lab project as two major projects initiated during outgoing President Reshan Fernando's tenure. He expressed his hope that everyone would continue their support and place their trust in his leadership for the upcoming two years. He affirmed that he would do his best to fulfill the organization's mission and expressed his hope that everyone would join him in that effort.

Opened the floor for discussion/suggestions

- Two new members of the executive committee present, Vindula Alwis and Indika Mallawaarachchi, introduced themselves.
- Outgoing President Reshan Fernando also took a moment to thank CUFSAA partners at the University of Colombo — including the Faculty of Science staff, administrative staff, the Dean of Science, and the Vice Chancellor —, noting that they had been a tremendous support over the past nine-plus years. He acknowledged that the university partners had effectively served as the on-the-ground crew, helping make everything they've accomplished possible.

- Executive committee member Unil Perera briefed the audience regarding a project proposal received very recently from University of Colombo Science Faculty. They aimed to utilize Sri Lanka's natural resources—such as graphite and various minerals—for the development of energy storage materials. It was a well-conceived and promising project proposal. Agreed to consider this as a new proposal brought to the executive committee at the AGM and will be taken up for discussion at upcoming monthly executive committee meetings.

- It was announced that the inaugural issue of the SciFact newsletter will be launched today. All were invited to contribute articles, a brief summary of your already published research work.

- Prabath Kuruwitaarachchi asked about the possibility of CUFSAA getting involved in projects beyond

Colombo Science Faculty, given the expertise in CUFSAA membership who have industry experience in science and technology, and the academic knowledge. Answer: The consensus was we would continue to do what we do best, mostly because of the connections CUFSAA has with the Science Faculty and the familiarity with it. But if there are requests from other sources for non-monetary help CUFSAA can take it up for discussion. In fact, CUFSAA has helped Sri Lanka in a big way in emergency situations such as COVID pandemic.

Adjournment

With no other businesses to discuss, the AGM was adjourned at 1:25 pm Eastern Time.

Thank you,

Respectfully Submitted,
Mahendra Munidasa (Secretary)

Annexure1

2025 AGM Notice and Agenda

Colombo University Faculty of Science

Alumni Association–North America (CUFSAA-NA)
7th Annual General Meeting (AGM 2025) August 30, 2025
at 12:00 Noon – 9:00 pm Eastern Time

LOCATION:
Regency Manor & Banquet Center
25228 West 12 Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48034
United States

Dear CUFSAA-NA Member,

The Annual General Meeting of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA) will be held on Saturday August 30, 2025 from 12.00 PM – 1:00 PM Eastern Time at Regency Manor & Banquet Center, 25228 W 12 Mile Road Southfield, MI 48034 United States.

Please see below for the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) agenda, and related documents.

All CUFSAA-NA members are cordially invited to attend!

Thank you!

CUFSAA-NA Executive Committee

AGM Agenda

1. Call the meeting to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on November 04, 2024
4. Welcome remarks and President's Address
5. Annual Report (2024-2025) presented by the Secretary
6. Treasurer's Report (October 2024 – July 2025) presented by the Treasurer & Asst. Treasurer
7. Proposed Amendments to the constitution (no amendments are proposed) presented by the Bylaws Committee
8. Ratification of Nominations for the Executive Committee for the term 2025-2027
9. Open the floor for discussion/suggestions
10. Any other business
11. Adjournment

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https://www.cufsaa.com/agm2025/

Annexure 2

List of Participants at the AGM 2025

Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA)
Annual General Meeting, August 30, 2025

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association–North America (CUFSAA-NA) was held in-person, from 12:00 pm to 1:20 pm Eastern Time at Regency Manor & Banquet Center, 25228 W 12 Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48034, United States. The list of attendees is given below.

In-Person

1. Viranga Tillekeratne
2. Sumedha Jayasena
3. Oshadha Ranasinghe
4. Asoka Pinnaduwage
5. Vindula Alwis
6. Angelo Gunasekera
7. Mahendra Munidasa
8. Isurika Weerasinghe
9. Harshani Munidasa
10. Nalin Samarasinha
11. Geetha Wanigasekera
12. Sachith Dissanayake
13. Jeeva Witanachchi
14. Sandya Liyanarachchi
15. Chandrasiri Jayakody
16. Reshan Fernando
17. Binodh De Silva
18. Unil Perera
19. Harshika Fernando
20. Chathuri Pathirage

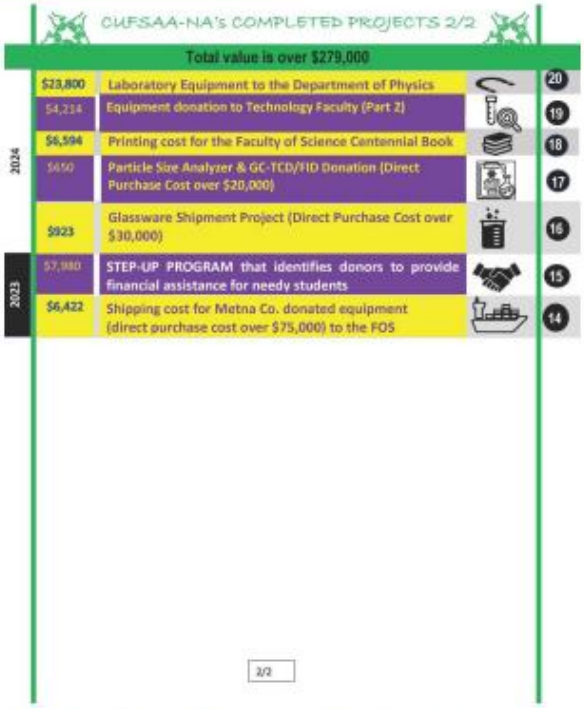
Via Zoom (Executive Members who couldn't travel to Michigan)

1. Vicum Perera
2. Prabath Kuruwita Arachchi
3. Indika Mallawaarachchi

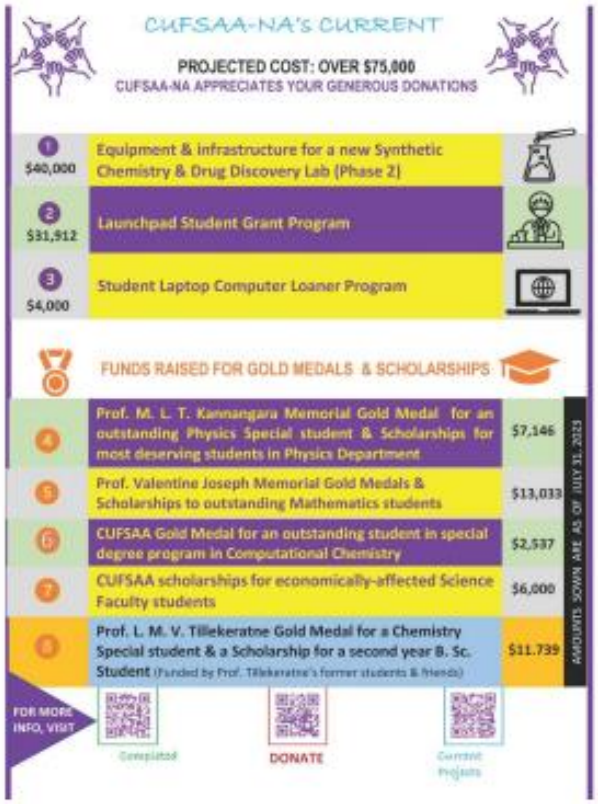
Annexure 3

Project Progress Slides

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS



WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS



WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

SINCE LAST TAMASHA - 2023

OPENING BALANCE (AUG 1, 2023)	INCOME & DONATIONS	PROJECTS EXPENSES	CLOSING BALANCE (JULY 31, 2025)
$28,244	**$131,673**	**$71,504**	**$88,413 (*)**

(*) Year-marked Funds

Expenses on 13 Projects

Annexure 4

Secretary's (Annual) Report

Secretary's Report

Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA-NA)

Year 2024-2025

Executive Summary

CUFSAA-NA Executive Committee was led by the president of CUFSAA-NA, Dr. Reshan Fernando, during this reporting period. The current Executive Committee members of the Association have actively participated in the association activities throughout the year and contributed their time, talent, and treasure. They are listed below.

Binodh De Silva – Vice President	Sumedha Jayasena	Kirthi Premadasa
Saliya De Silva – Vice President	Prabath Kuruwitaarachchi	Oshadha K. Ranasingha
Sachith Dissanayake – Vice President	Sandya Liyanarachchi – Treasurer	Kumuditha Ratnayake
Reshan Fernando – President		
Wasundara Fernando – Secretary	Mahendra Munidasa	Nalin Samarasinha
L.C. Goonetilleke – Past President	Lalith Perera	L.M.V. Tillekeratne – Founder President
Angelo Gunasekera	Unil Perera	Gajaka Weerasinghe
Chandrasiri Jayakody – President Elect	Vicumpriya Perera – Immediate Past President	Isurika Weerasinghe
Neranjake Jayarathne – Assistant Secretary	Asoka Pinnaduwage	Jeeva Witanachchi – Assistant Treasurer

The following activities were completed, started, or are being continued during the reporting period of **October 01, 2024, to July 31, 2025.**

Completed projects:

1. Laboratory Equipment Donation to Science Faculty

CUFSAA, in partnership with Chemists without Borders (CWB), and Dow Chemical Company facilitated the donation of two particle size analyzers (Coulter) and a gas chromatograph (Agilent 6890) with TCD/FID detectors to the Science Faculty. Guided by CWB's mission to leverage scientific knowledge for community advancement and humanitarian efforts, these advanced instruments are intended to support both science education and research, enhancing the faculty's capability to empower students and improve quality of research.

2. Equipment Donation to Technology Faculty

The Technology Faculty of the University of Colombo has been involved in materials research for many years. Expansion of their research capabilities required an establishment of a new material science research laboratory equipped with advanced instrumentation. Upon request, CUFSAA provided funds through one of its alumni to purchase a ducted fume hood which was critical for conducting advanced research in the laboratory.

3. Laboratory Equipment to Physics Department (Phase Two)

The phase two of the project included purchase and shipment of several critical equipment that are essential for the teaching and research laboratory. The equipment includes Magnetic susceptibility-quincke's method, B-H curve/magnetic hysteresis curve, Zeeman effect apparatus, Michelson & Fabry-Perot interferometer, and Photoelectric Effect Apparatus.

4. Launch Pad Student Grant Program (Year 1)

The Launch Pad is a premium student grant program created to support undergraduates having the gravest financial difficulties in continuing their education. A total of thirty-six recipients are selected annually across six departments within the Science Faculty by a committee representing all departments in the Science Faculty. The first year of the program was successfully completed in 2024 and thirty-six students received their grants.

5. Gold Medals and Scholarships

a. ***Professor M.L.T. Kannangara Gold Medal and Memorial Scholarships***

A gold medal and scholarship project established by CUFSAA in memory of Professor M.L.T. Kannangara, awards a gold medal to the most outstanding physics special student with first-class honors and provides two scholarships for students enrolled in the special degree physics programs. Two students received scholarships, and the gold medal was awarded to Mr. W.D.R. Kalhara in 2025.

b. ***Professor Valentine Joseph Gold Medals and Memorial Scholarships***

A gold medal and scholarship project established by CUFSAA in memory of Professor Valentine Joseph, awards two gold medals, one for applied mathematics and one for computational mathematics, and provides two

scholarships for students enrolled in the special degree mathematics programs. Two students received scholarships, and Mr. J.A.D.O. Chinthila received the gold medal for applied mathematics in 2025. No student qualified for the computational mathematics gold medal.

c. ***Professor L.M.V. Tillekeratne Gold Medal and Honorary Scholarship***

A gold medal and scholarship project established by students and friends of Professor L.M.V. Tillekeratne to honor this beloved professor for his decades of service to the Science Faculty. The project awards a gold medal to the most outstanding student in the chemistry special degree program and the scholarship to a rising second year student. One student received the scholarship, and the gold medal was awarded to Mr. S.J. Kuruppu in 2025.

d. ***Gold Medal for Special Degree Program in Computational Chemistry***

A gold medal project, named "CUFSAA Gold Medal for Computational Chemistry" established by CUFSAA awards a gold medal for the best student enrolled in the special degree program in computational chemistry. The gold medal was awarded to Mr. H.M. Lokuhapuarachchi in 2025.

On-going projects:

1. Synthetic Chemistry and Drug Discovery Laboratory Project

Chemistry department in the Faculty of Science, UoC has developed a strategic plan to improve and expand its research portfolio into advanced chemical synthesis and modern drug discovery technology. Synthesis of novel chemical compounds has immense commercial importance and is expected to provide many opportunities for students and faculty to establish partnerships with the industry and make significant contributions to the economic developments of the country. Current facilities are inadequate to support this strategic development plan. Under the leadership of Prof. Tillekeratne, CUFSAA has launched one of the largest fundraising efforts to support this project and raised funds to advance the project.

2. Launch Pad Student Grant Program

Launch Pad Grant program continues into the second year. The program extends across the entire Faculty of Science and is considered one of the most comprehensive grant programs implemented in the history of the University. The program strives to support undergraduates who are under grave financial difficulties. The awardees are selected by a cross-departmental committee. At present, thirty-six students have been selected for the current academic year and have successfully dispersed the first six-month installment. The CUFSAA is actively working on raising funds for the second six-month bursaries and to sustain this flagship program into the future.

3. North America Inter-University Alumni Softball Cricket Tournament

The Inter-University Cricket Tournament has been a tremendous success in 2024. Leaders from both the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association (CUFSAA-NA) and the University of Peradeniya Alumni

Association (UPAA-USA) got together and decided to provide an opportunity for the thousands of Sri Lankan university alumni living in the USA and Canada to come together and strengthen their relationship for the common purpose of supporting students and universities in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, we want to advocate and promote alumni from other Sri Lankan universities to establish their own alumni associations. The planning has been started for the 2025 Inter-University Cricket Tournament and alumni from both universities are working with alumni from several other universities to make the event a success.

4. Student Laptop Computer Loaner Program

Information Technology Services Center (ITSC) has been established in the Student Service Center building. The facility has multiple computer labs. Computer science courses are taken by almost all students (more than 1100 students). University offers 4 Computer Science courses in level 1 and 2, however, computational techniques are embedded in numerous courses across all departments.

Many of these courses include both online and classroom instructions with hands-on activities with computers. Students are required to bring a laptop to engage in classroom activities. The examinations are open book and computer based. A considerable number of students can not afford to purchase a suitable laptop to fully engage and get the maximum benefit from these courses.

Students (mostly underprivileged and coming from rural areas) who do not have a laptop and can not afford one due to the financial constraints are left behind and unable to get the maximum benefit from the variety of academic courses offered by University of Colombo. Furthermore, these students will miss out on the absolute best education University of Colombo has to offer and also can adversely impact their dreams and ambitions, especially post graduate studies, and potential job opportunities.

Science faculty has planned to eliminate this disparity by establishing a Student Laptop Loaner Program where students who can not afford to purchase a laptop could borrow a laptop for the duration of the course. CUFSAA will partner with the Science Faculty and provide seed funding to start this program. We expect to start the program before the end of the calendar year 2025.

5. Gold Medals and Scholarships

a. *Professor M.L.T. Kannangara Gold Medal and Memorial Scholarships*

The gold medal and scholarship project established to honor late Prof. M.L.T. Kannangara will continue its efforts to commemorate his personal impact and maintain and honor the legacy of Prof. Kannangara. This project recognizes the most outstanding physics special student with first-class honors with a gold medal and awards two scholarships to two students, one third year and one fourth year, enrolled in the physics special degree program. The scholarship recipients are selected by the department of physics based on specific selection criteria that include both economic need and academic performance.

b. *Professor Valentine Joseph Gold Medals and Memorial Scholarships*

The gold medal and scholarship project established to honor late Prof. Valentine Joseph will continue its efforts to commemorate his personal impact and maintain and honor the legacy of Prof. Joseph. The project recognizes two most outstanding students in the fields of applied mathematics and computational mathematics with two

gold medals and provides two scholarships for students enrolled in the special degree mathematics programs. The scholarship recipients are selected by the department of mathematics based on specific selection criteria that include both economic need and academic performance.

c. ***Professor L.M.V. Tillekeratne Gold Medal and Honorary Scholarship***

The gold medal and the scholarship project established to honor Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne will continue its efforts to honor Prof. Tillekeratne, one of the most beloved professors of our time. The project was initiated and established outside of CUFSAA with funds generated by a group of friends, well-wishers, and former students. The project celebrates his life-long dedication to teaching, mentoring, and student welfare and the profound impact he has on his students. The project recognizes the most outstanding student in the chemistry special degree program with a gold medal and provides a scholarship for a rising second year student enrolled in any of the departments within the Science Faculty. The scholarship recipient is selected by the Dean, Science Faculty based on specific selection criteria that include both economic need and academic performance.

d. ***Gold Medal for Special Degree Program in Computational Chemistry***

The gold medal project named, "CUFSAA Gold Medal for Computational Chemistry' established by CUFSAA will continue its efforts to recognize the best student enrolled in the special degree program in computational chemistry with a gold medal.

6. Membership and Member Services Project

The Member Services Committee was formed to provide services to all members of the UoC Alumni in North America and current students in Sri Lanka with an intention to come to North America for graduate studies. The offerings were for career and professional development, mentoring and advising, and to support settling in the US when the students arrive in North America. There were five students who were supported by CUFSAA members to get settled in North America in 2024. There were seven mentor-mentee matches that were provided to those who had requested through our website. The inaugural Sci-Fi Facts newsletter with the accomplishments and publications from our members will be issued at the Tamasha 2025.

Detailed Report

In this report, we outline the activities of the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association – North America (CUFSAA) completed or initiated during 20214-2025 as well as our ongoing projects. Furthermore, we articulate the future vision and aspirations of the association during the years ahead.

The 25-member "Fourth" Executive Committee of the Association was appointed at the fourth AGM held in-person on September 02, 2023, for the term 2023-2025. Dr. Reshan Fernando, was elected as the President of the Association. The executive committee continues to hold its regular monthly meetings *via* Zoom technology typically on the first Monday of each month to discuss the progress of current projects and subcommittees, associated activities, future projects, and finances of the organization.

The association's online presence through its website (www.cufsaa.org OR www.cufsaa.com) and social media accounts on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/CUFSAA/), YouTube Channels (https://www.youtube.com/@CUFSAA andhttps://www.youtube.com/@CUFSAASpeakerSeries), Instagram (www.instagram.com/cufsaa_na), and LinkedIn account (https://www.linkedin.com/company/cufsaa/) are being used for informing the membership of the association's achievements and ongoing projects, releasing regular newsletters, promoting fundraising activities, as well as to attract new members from all over North America under one umbrella.

At the end of the 2023-2024 year, we were able to initiate, complete, or continue to proceed forward with the following projects and programs.

1. Laboratory Equipment Donation to Science Faculty

It has been challenging to keep up with the aging equipment or invest in new equipment to advance the science curriculum due to due to the high cost and the limitation of funds. This unfortunate situation has limited the student exposure to new and advanced techniques and instrumentations. CUFSAA was able to secure several laboratory instruments through Chemists without Borders (CWB), and Dow Chemical Company and ship them to the Science Faculty. The shipment contained two Particle Size Analyzers (Coulter), an Agilent 6890 Gas Chromatograph equipped with TCD and FID detectors. Dr. Anagi Balachandra, a CUFSAA member and Dr. Ronda Grosse of "Chemists without Boarders" coordinated the donation of these instruments from the Dow Chemical Company, Carrollton, Kentucky.

The shipment reached the University in good condition in November 2024. We thank Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke for arranging the shipment with Asanka Dharmakeerthi of TRICO.

The installation of these instruments have been completed successfully in the Chemistry laboratory and shared across numerous departments. These instruments enable students to continue their hands-on learning experience in teaching labs and engage in research projects in research labs. Furthermore, academic staff now has the opportunity to develop/design new experiments to enhance students learning experience using the new equipment.

2. Equipment Donation to Technology Faculty

The Technology Faculty of the University of Colombo has been conducting materials research for many years. In recent years there has been a significant effort in expanding the research programs within the technology faculty through collaborations with the researchers in the physics department and the establishment of a new materials science research laboratory. The proposed facility is expected to house advanced instrumentation and enhance the materials science research programs and add capacity for advanced research, and collaborations. The new laboratory will include research on solar energy materials, 3D printing, and otheradvanced materials. Upon request, CUFSAA provided funds through one of its alumni to purchase a ducted fume hood which was critical for conducting advanced research in the laboratory.

3. Laboratory Equipment to Physics Department (Phase Two)

Phase two of the project included two parts, Part 1 and Part 2. Part 1 included purchase and shipment of several equipment critical for teaching fundamental concepts and advanced research. The instruments were directly

purchased in August 2024 from Holmarc Opto-Mechatronics, Ltd, Kochi, Kerala, India. The instruments included (a) Magnetic Susceptibility-Quincke's Method (b) B-H Curve/Magnetic Hysteresis Curve. The instruments were delivered to the Physics Department in October 2024.

Part 2 of the project included purchase and shipment of several more equipment that are essential for teaching laboratories and research laboratories. The instruments were directly purchased in August 2024 from United Scientific, Canada. This second set of instruments included (a) Zeeman Effect Apparatus (b) Michelson & Fabry-Perot Interferometer and (c) Photoelectric Effect Apparatus. The majority of these instruments had to be custom ordered to meet the required specifications. The instruments were delivered to the Physics Department in April 2025.

We express our heartfelt thanks to the CUFSAA alumnus who generously donated funds to complete both Part 1 and Part 2 equipment purchases. The successful completion of this project would not have been possible without the financial support from the donor. Additionally, CUFSAA wants to express its deep appreciation for the project chairperson, Dr. Sachith Dissanayake, committee members and coordinators including Dr. Chandana Goonetilleke, Dr. Saliya De Silva, Ms. Sandya Liyanarachchi, Dr. Chandrasiri Jayakody and Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne for their support in facilitating vendor payments and coordinating the shipment. CUFSAA also wants to thank Prof. Upul Sonnadara, Dean, Faculty of Science, Prof. Chandana Jayaratne, Head of the Physics Department, Prof. I.M.K. Fernando, and Dr. Kanishka Wijayaratne for their invaluable support in coordinating clearance of the shipment and arranging transportation in Sri Lanka.

4. Launch Pad Student Grant Program

The Launch Pad Student Grant Program has become one of the flagship projects of CUFSAA as it provides direct benefits to students and helps shape the future of the students.

Due to recent developments in Sri Lanka, a considerable number of undergraduates at the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo, are undergoing severe economic hardships, which are hindering their education. CUFSAA, with the collaboration of the Faculty of Science, stepped up to support them by offering a premium grant scheme “Launch Pad,” to thirty-six of the most disadvantaged special degree students through yearly support equivalent to US$360 each.

CUFSAA is proud to report that with the help of our generous alumni and well-wishers, we have now completed one full cycle of the program and have disbursed first of the two installments of the second cycle. In other words, you, the grateful alumni of the Faculty of Science, have rallied to bring relief to seventy-two families in the darkest hours for two consecutive years!

This was no easy task. The Faculty of Science first advertised the grant scheme to the students. In response to this advertisement, the faculty received 189 applications from the students during the first cycle and 91 applications during the second cycle. The inter-departmental committee then faced the daunting task of selecting thirty-six students each year. The committee and the Dean’s office staff worked diligently in a very short period to shortlist this pool of applications.

Following this, the department conducted in-person interviews with each student on the list, ensuring that the most financially distressed students were selected. Two CUFSAA observers worked with the inter-faculty committee to finalize the list, carefully reviewing each application. CUFSAA treasurers then wired thirty-six individual transfers directly to the students within 40 days of their first application each year, bringing swift relief. The students reacted to this by providing heartfelt relief by writing notes, which you can now see in the

Launch Pad web page. These personal notes offer a glimpse into individual stories of these students and show that hardship is widespread and severely impacts their academic performance and mental health. Furthermore, they convey the relief these students experienced after learning that they were selected to receive these grants. Students who had no idea how to survive the next week of their lives were able to continue their education. None of these would have been possible without the generosity of our donors. You helped bring much-needed relief to the thirty-six most distressed families two years in a row. Thank you so much, donors. You did it. You helped launch one of the biggest (and most premium) student grant programs in the University of Colombo's history. Please accept our deep appreciation. We urgently need your support to sustain the Launch Pad grants for many years to come. Your immediate pledge is crucial. Please donate by visiting the "Launch Pad" page at https://www.cufsaa.com/launch-pad/. We invite you to read the student letters and the donor dedications. It is heartwarming to see how you, who once upon a time roamed the Faculty and benefitted from the education it gave you, have rallied together to help the next generation of science students in their darkest hour. Didn't we say how proud we are to be in the same club as you? Thank you!

We are immensely grateful to our donors and faculty committee members for their unwavering support and dedication, without which this initiative would not have been possible. We thank CUFSAA executive committee member and assistant treasurer Jeeva Witanachchi for organizing live performances from Sri Lankan legends, □□□□□□□□□□□ in September 2024, to support fundraising efforts towards this program. Many thanks to the CUFSAA executive committee member and Launch Pad project chairperson Dr. Kirthi Premadasa and the Launch Pad sub-committee for their hard work and unwavering commitment to this project.

5. Professor M.L.T. Kannangara Gold Medal and Memorial Scholarships

Professor M.L.T. Kannangara, Emeritus Professor of Physics and former head of the Department of Physics at the University of Colombo (UoC), began his undergraduate studies at UoC in 1943 and earned his BSc in Physics and was appointed as an Assistant Lecturer in 1948. He obtained his PhD from the University of Manchester in 1953 working on Cosmic Ray Physics. He spent several sabbaticals including one at the well-known Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University. He spent his entire academic career (1943-1990) at University of Colombo, eventually becoming head of the department (1978-1984), retiring as a Senior Professor of Physics in 1990.

Against all odds, Professor Kannangara led a productive research program throughout his career. He published two articles in the Journal of Geophysical Research (a leading journal on geophysics) with his colleague, late Professor PCB Fernando, on geomagnetic micro-pulsations and frequency spectrum and another single-author article in the same journal on polarization characterizations of micro pulsations from observations taken close to the geomagnetic equator, which runs through Sri Lanka. Returning from a sabbatical at the Uppsala University in Sweden, he was instrumental in initiating an extremely successful international research collaboration with the Uppsala University colleagues in Sweden through the International Science Program (ISP), which was the first ISP program in Sri Lanka making the pathway and infrastructure to award local PhDs in physics from University of Colombo Physics, benefitting many current and previous members of the University of Colombo Department of Physics. Professor MLT Kannangara was elected President of SLAAS Section E in 1963 and became a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, London in 1971. He served as the Chief Examiner for the GCE A/L Physics exam in 1974-75 and was a founding Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka in 1977. Known as an excellent teacher, he meticulously prepared lecture notes, emphasizing physics principles, error analysis, and the joy of learning. Taking great care to prepare his own lecture notes, updating often eagerly pointing out the underlying physics, he emphasized the importance of assessing the relative contributions from different physical parameters to a

particular phenomenon. Reflecting on his contributions to science and education in Sri Lanka, University of Colombo awarded him an Honorary DSc in 1994.

In memory of Prof. M.L.T. Kannangara, CUFSAA, with university approval, established the M.L.T. Kannangara Memorial Gold Medal for the Most Outstanding Physics Special Student with first-class honors, to be awarded at the convocation. The first recipient in 2022 was Ms. Limini Fonseka who is pursuing her PhD at University of Virginia in Physics. The 2023 award went to Mr. Buddhika Rasanjana who received the award at the 2024 October convocation. The Gold Medal winner selection will continue yearly from each batch from the endowment established at the University by CUFSAA. Additionally, the M.L.T. Kannangara Memorial Scholarship was created for Special Degree Physics students. One student is selected annually and receives funding for two years. Currently, there are two active scholarship recipients at University of Colombo Physics. In 2025, two students received scholarships, and the gold medal was awarded to Mr. W.D.R. Kalhara. CUFSAA expects to continue this project for years to come.

6. Professor Valentine Joseph Gold Medals and Memorial Scholarships

Since 2020, in memory of renowned mathematician Professor Valentine Joseph, CUFSAA has been funding an annual gold medal for a student with an outstanding performance in the computational mathematics special degree. CUFSAA is proud to report that starting in 2024, a second gold medal will be awarded to a student excelling in Applied Mathematics. In addition, since 2020, in line with the compassionate spirit of the late Professor V. Joseph, two scholarships have also been awarded to students in grave economic need in the mathematics department. The scholarships pay US$ 35/= per month. Two students received scholarships, and Mr. J.A.D.O. Chinthila received the gold medal for applied mathematics in 2025. No student qualified for the computational mathematics gold medal.

7. Professor L.M.V. Tillekeratne Gold Medal and Honorary Scholarship

A group of friends, well-wishers, and former students have come together and decided to establish a Gold Medal and an honorary scholarship at the Science Faculty, UOC to honor Prof. Tillekeratne, one of the most beloved professors of our time. The gold medal and the scholarship were established outside of CUFSAA using funds raised by a group consisting of former students, friends, and well-wishers.

He has dedicated his whole life to teaching, mentoring and student welfare. Prof. Tillekeratne made a profound impact on our lives when we were students at UOC and even today, after more than three decades, he continues to have a tremendous influence and inspiration for us. Furthermore, he continued to provide guidance to many of us throughout our journey, encouraging us to focus on the directions of our careers.

Even after his departure from UOC, Prof. Tillekeratne continued to serve his alma mater through the CUFSAA, a non-profit organization he founded in 2016 with the mission to unite all UOC Faculty of Science alumni scattered throughout the US and Canada under a common purpose to support our alma mater, Faculty of Science, UOC. He has served and shaped the organization as its founder president for the first two years and continues to play a vital role as an active member of the current executive committee.

In 2022, we launched the Prof. L.M.V. Tillekeratne Gold Medal for Chemistry and the Honorary Scholarship. This is one of the few scholarships available to students who are in the second year of their undergraduate program. We partnered with the Dean’s Office to provide a need-based scholarship for a second-year student who has

successfully completed the first-year coursework and is in the gravest economic need. One student received the scholarship, and the gold medal was awarded to Mr. S.J. Kuruppu in 2025.

8. Gold Medal for Special Degree Program in Computational Chemistry

The award was named the 'CUFSAA Gold Medal for Computational Chemistry' and shall be awarded annually from the academic year 2019/2020 for the best performance with either a First or Second Class (Upper Division) in the Honors degree examination in Computational Chemistry. In 2023 convocation held on 4th October 2024, the gold medal was awarded to Mr. S.P. Sandaruwan.

9. Synthetic Chemistry and Drug Discovery Lab Proposal

Think of the days when you carried out your laboratory experiments or research projects with limited and aged equipment and facilities but still received a good education which paved the path for your success. With those limited facilities, the department impart quality education that made you the successful person you are today!

The Department of Chemistry has initiated a project to set up a Synthetic Chemistry and Drug Discovery Laboratory and CUFSAA has agreed to fund the phase 2 of the project. This phase will fund the basic lab infrastructure consisting of fume hoods, chemical resistant benches, Schlenk line, solvent purification system, rotary evaporators, balances, ovens, hotplates, stirrers, and other general lab equipment which involves upgrading the basic laboratory construction will be carried out by the University and the Department of Chemistry. CUFSAA plans to implement phase 2 of the project in three stages.

The Department of Chemistry engaged a private design company to create a comprehensive laboratory layout and infrastructure plan. The design phase is now complete, and the plans address modern requirements for synthetic chemistry, materials chemistry, medicinal chemistry, and drug discovery research. "The proposed facility will significantly enhance our capacity for advanced research, postgraduate training, and collaborative projects with both local and international partners," says Professor Nalin de Silva, Head and Chair of the Department of Chemistry. The Chemistry Department is confident that, with successful fundraising by CUFSAA, they can complete construction and commissioning of the laboratory by the end of this year. This will enable the Faculty and students to conduct cutting-edge research that contributes to the advancement of science and fosters innovation in areas of national and global importance.

The initial estimate for Phase 2 of the project, which CUFFSA-NA undertook responsibility of funding, was $35,000. Due to a need to absorb a portion of the cost of Phase 1 of the project, this had to be revised to $40,000. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, we have been able to meet our initial target of $35,000 (including a $2,500 pledge) to date. We are confident of raising the remaining $5,000 with your support soon. Please talk to any executive committee member if you are interested in learning more about this project. We welcome your generous support!

In addition, we have already provided some of the equipment listed above through a separate project led byDr. Anagi Balachandra. Phase 1 of the project is expected to be completed by the University, after which CUFSAA will undertake the implementation of the first stage of phase 2. The target date of completion will be December 2025.

10. North America Inter-University Alumni Softball Cricket Tournament

There are thousands of Sri Lankan university alumni living in the United States. However, there are only two formal alumni organizations, the Colombo University Faculty of Science Alumni Association (CUFSAA-NA) and the University of Peradeniya Alumni Association (UPAA-USA). Both organizations strongly believe that true partnership and close working relationship between the two organizations could benefit all students and universities in Sri Lanka. CUFSAA partnered with the UPAA and jointly organized the first ever Inter-University Softball Cricket Tournament to promote social interactions between members and to lay a foundation for future collaborations between the two organizations.

The inaugural North America Inter-University Alumni Softball Cricket Tournament, jointly organized by CUFSAA and UPAA was held in September 2024 and exceeded all our expectations and turned out to be a joyful experience for participants, organizers, and spectators.

This tournament was more than just a cricket match; it was a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with your university alumni, make new friends, and have fun in a vibrant and engaging social event while raising some funds for the Association programs. The planning for the 2025 Inter-University Cricket Tournament has already started and is in full operation. Whether you are a seasoned cricket player or just want to be a part of the excitement, we welcome teams from all Sri Lankan university alumni associations to join us this year.

Three teams—University of Colombo, University of Peradeniya, and University of Moratuwa—participated in the inaugural tournament and we expect more universities to participate this year.

11. Student Laptop Computer Loaner Program

TheInformation Technology Services Center (ITSC) has been established in the Student Service Center building. The second floor is dedicated for the ITSC where there are two computer labs where each can accommodate sixty students. The third floor has two large computer labs (200+ capacity) and on the fourth floor has two large computer labs which can accommodate 80 students each. Although designated as computer labs, these are simply multifunctional halls. At present, these facilities include desks with power outlets, Wi-Fi, projectors, and audio systems. Students must bring their own laptops.

In 2025, ITSC started teaching CS 1101, Fundamentals of Programming course. We deliver it as a flipped class. Students come to the class after completing online/recorded lectures and in the class, they do hand-on activities with computers. Students manage to bring a laptop to engage in classroom activities. The examinations are open book and computer based.

Additionally, computer Science is taken by nearly all Science Faculty students (over six hundred from level 1 and about five hundred from level 2). UoC offers 4 Computer Science courses in level 1 and 2, however, computational techniques are embedded in numerous faculty courses. A considerable number of students can not afford to purchase suitable laptops to fully engage and get the maximum benefit from these courses.

Students (mostly underprivileged and coming from rural areas) who do not have a laptop and can not afford one due to the financial constraints are left behind and unable to get the maximum benefit from the variety of academic courses offered by UoC. Furthermore, these students will miss out on the absolute best education UoC has to offer and also can adversely impact their dreams and ambitions, especially post graduate studies and potential job opportunities.

Science Faculty would like to establish a Student Laptop Loaner Program where students who can not afford to purchase a laptop could borrow a laptop for the duration of the course. Students are required to return the laptop at the end of the course completion. UoC is willing to manage this program. UoC would like to start this program initially with a pool of about twenty-five laptops. In general, this pool will help students who don't have financial means to purchase a laptop to get access to a suitable laptop without a huge hassle. Having a laptop will enable these students to receive the maximum benefit from these courses and allow them to achieve their full potential.

At present UoC has a pool of four laptops which are being used to address any emergency situations where students have unexpected issues with their personal laptops, especially during exams. Even now, there have been instances where students from various departments borrowed laptops to finalize their thesis.

CUFSAA has partnered with the Science Faculty and agreed to provide seed funding to start this program. At present, CUFSAA has received USD 4,000 from a special donor who is not a member of CUFSAA but has ties to Sri Lanka and strongly believes in creating a supportive learning environment where students feel valued and can thrive. Using the seed money provided by this donor, we expect to start the program before the end of the calendar year 2025. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the sponsor who provided funds to make this program a reality.

12. Membership and Member Services Project

As of the end of September 2024, we had 559 members. We encourage past students, academic staff, and specifically junior alumni of the University of Colombo Science Faculty residing in the USA and Canada to join the association and support our mission by completing the online membership application available on our website: CUFSAA Membership Form.

The Membership Services Project, led by CUFSAA Vice President Dr. Binodh de Silva and the sub-committee, aims to: (a) Recruit new members (b) Keep existing membership information up to date (c) Develop services and benefits for members.

The member service committee was formed to provide services to all members of the UoC Alumni in North America and current students in Sri Lanka with an intention to come to North America for graduate studies. The offerings were for career and professional development, mentoring and advising and to support settling in the US when the students arrive in North America. There were five students who were supported by CUFSAA members to get settled in North America in 2024. There were seven mentor mentee matches that were provided to those who had requested through our website. The inaugural Sci-Fi Facts newsletter with the accomplishments and publications from our members will be issued at the Tamasha 2025.

New member recruitment will help CUFSAA grow its volunteer and donor base, train future leaders, and assist newly arriving students. Maintaining an updated membership database enables us to find volunteers for specific CUFSAA projects/sub-committees, mentor members, and provide advice on job opportunities. If you haven't done so yet, please take a moment to update your membership profile by following this link: Update Your Membership Profile.

We plan to offer services tailored to junior members (graduate students, fresh graduates, postdoctoral candidates, early-career professionals, etc.) including resume development/review, mock interviews, mentoring, internship/job opportunities, and postdoctoral opportunities.

Additionally, we offer relocation and settlement support for newly arriving students in the USA and Canada. Prospective graduate students can connect with CUFSAA members via University of Colombo faculty members. We extend our thanks to CUFSAA members who have recently assisted several students who arrived in the USA and Canada, with transportation, lodging, and settlement support.

Ear-marked Funds and Programs

1. CUFSAA Student Assistant Account (The Benevolent Fund)

The Emergency Fund to help UOC Science Faculty Students was initially started in 2016 to help students affected by the unexpected flooding. This effort was strengthened by establishing an official Emergency fund to support Science Faculty students who need help in emergency situations. An amount up to Rs. 25,000 per student can be disbursed from this account as the need arises (without prior consultation with CUFSAA). Financial assistance must be related to the student's educational needs either for undergraduate education assistance or for higher education assistance. This fund was later renamed as the Benevolent Fund. This fund is a stationary fund of the association.

2. Mentoring Program

CUFSAA created this program early in its formation and is continuing to this fiscal year. It wasestablished to provide guidance and advice to Sri Lankan graduates who are interested in higher education in the United States and Canada as well as students who have recently graduated from the United States and Canada and are looking for employment opportunities. Many students were supported during the 2024-2025 year through our volunteer services.

3. Take a Book Program

Take a Book Program is another successful project launched by CUFSAA through the generosity of our members. This program has supplied numerous expensive and important textbooks to the Faculty of Science. Under this program, CUFSAA members who are visiting Sri Lanka for vacations take a book with them and hand it over to the Dean of the Faculty of Science. This program was also established early in its formation of the Association. The program has been in temporary pause during the 2024-2025 period as many of the textbooks are accessible via online.

Future Vision

Today, we are proudly celebrating ten successful years of CUFSAA since its inception. As in previous years, we have successfully completed many projects during the past year. All these activities have benefited the students, staff and faculty of the Science Faculty, University of Colombo. We express our sincere gratitude to our loyal members who have been instrumental and provided their unwavering support throughout this period.

With ten remarkable years of progress, CUFSAA is poised to continue its mission to improve the academic life of students, aspire them to achieve the highest academic excellence, and help them reach their full potential through many projects and programs. Furthermore, CUFSAA will continue its partnership with the resolute faculty and staff of

the Science Faculty and provide resources to further their commitment to enable a first-class education to the students of Science Faculty and shape the minds of next generation leaders and entrepreneurs for a better tomorrow.

For us to continue our mission and to grow and expand our association, we encourage all alumni to join CUFSAA and get involved with its activities. We need volunteers to lead our projects, champions to chair our sub-committees and many others to play active roles in the association. We respectfully ask that you get involved with CUFSAA in whatever capacity you can and be generous with your time, talent, and treasure. Finally, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the membership for their active participation and generous contributions that helped us achieve the goals of the association to benefit our Alma Mater.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted, Dr. Wasundara Fernando (Secretary), Dr. Neranjake Jayarathne – Assistant Secretary /CUFSAA https://www.cufsaa.com

Annexure 5

Treasurer’s Report

CUFSAA account summary for the time period between 2024 AGM -2025 AGM

(October 01, 2024 - July 31, 2025)

Description	Opening Balance on October 01, 2024	Income & Donations	Expenses	Closing Balance on July 31, 2025
Benevolent Fund	$1,056.55			$1,056.55
General Fund	$17,638.80	$4,912.97	-$4,772.35	$17,779.42
Medical Supplies Fund	$913.45			$913.45
Prof V Joseph Gold medal and Scholarship Fund	$6,769.90		-$840.00	$5,929.90
Prof LMV Tillekeratne Gold medal and Scholarship Fund	$8,319.75	$500.00	-$630.00	$8,189.75
Prof MLT Kannangara Gold medal and Scholarship Fund	$3,604.58	$950.00	-$840.00	$3,714.58
Technology Fund	$1,181.19			$1,181.19
100 Year book	-$4,336.11	$1,013.54		-$3,322.57
Physics Equipment	-$3,169.69	$12,793.00	-$11,360.40	-$1,737.09
Synthesis Lab	$25,331.18	$2,830.00		$28,161.18
CUFSAA Launch Pad Grants	$12,640.19	$12,467.07	-$12,780.00	$12,327.26
Student Laptop Loaner		$1,000.00		$1,000.00
Tamasha 2025 Ticket Sales/Donations/Souvenir		$11,109.81		$11,109.81
BoA CD interest		$2,109.65		$2,109.65
Total	**$69,949.79**	**$49,686.04**	**-$31,222.75**	**$88,413.08**

Account Summary

Opening Balance on October 01, 2024	**$69,949.79**
Closing Balance on July 31, 2025	**$88,413.08**

Bank & PayPal Accounts Balances	
Bank of America Account Balance	$24,432.80
Bank of America CD Balance	$62,109.65
Paypal Balance	$1,870.63
Balance as of July 31, 2025	**$88,413.08**

Annexure 6

2025-2027 Executive Member Introductions

EXECUIVE COMMITTEE 2025-2027

Office Bearers:

President: Chandrasiri Jayakody
President Elect: Saliya De Silva
Immediate Past President: Reshan Fernando
Vice Presidents: Sachith Dissanayake, Sumedha Jayasena, & Oshadha K. Ranasingha
Secretary: Mahendra Munidasa
Assistant Secretary: Wasundara Fernando
Treasurer: Sandya Liyanarachchi
Assistant Treasurer: Jeeva Witanachchi

Committee Members (15):

- Vindula Alwis
- Narada Bombuwala Dewage
- L.C. Goonetilleke
- Prabath Kuruwitaarachchi
- Indika Mallawaarachchi
- Unil Perera
- Vicumpriya Perera
- Asoka Pinnaduwage
- Kirthi Premadasa
- Gayan Premaratne
- Kumuditha Ratnayake
- Nalin Samarasinha
- L.M.V. Tillekeratne
- Isurika Weerasinghe
- Dhanushan Wijayaratna