NPL FORMER SCIENTISTS FORUM

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Management Committee of the NPL Former Scientists Forum, held jointly with the Constitution Committee entrusted with the task of Drafting the Rules and Regulations of the Forum, on Friday, February 4, 2003 at 11.00 A.M. in the Conference Room of the National Physical Laboratory.

1 Introduction: The First Meeting of the Management Committee of the NPL Former Scientists Forum, (which was constituted at the meeting of the Forum held on January 17, 2003 at 11.00 A.M. in the TEC Conference Room of the National Physical Laboratory), was held on February 4, 2003 at 11.00 A.M. in the Conference Room of the National Physical Laboratory. The main item of Agenda for this meeting was the consideration of the Rules and Regulations of the Forum that had been drafted by the Following Constitution Committee, which had also been assigned this task by the Forum, at its meeting held on January 17, 2003:

1. Dr. S V Gupta
2. Dr. P C Jain
3. Dr. V S Panwar
4. Shri G K Arora
5. Dr. S K Sharma … … Convenor

The above Members of the Constitution Committee were also invited to participate in the meeting, which was Chaired by Dr. V N Bindal, the President of the Forum.

2 Attendance: The following attended the Meeting:

Dr. V N Bindal President
Shri V P Wasan Treasurer
Mrs. Santosh Aggarwal Member
Dr. O P Bahl Member
Shri R C Dhawan Member
Dr. A P Jain Member
Dr. P C Jain Member
Dr. (Mrs.) Namita Kundu Member
Dr. K C Nagpal Member
Dr. V S Panwar Member
Dr. J K N Sharma Member
Shri Shiv Nath Member
Dr. S K Sharma Convenor, Rules & Regulation Committee
Shri G K Arora Secretary

Dr. J C Trehan, Member, and Dr. S V Gupta expressed their inability to attend the meeting. Dr. B N Srivastava, Member was absent at the meeting.

3 Consideration of the Draft Rules and Regulations of the NPL Former Scientists Forum:
Copies of the Draft Rules and Regulations (Appendix I) were placed on the table at the time of the meeting. It was noticed that there was a typographic error in the numbering of the Sections after Section No 16 relating to “Appointment of Returning Officer”, and Dr. Bindal requested that the subsequent Sections and Sub-Sections may be suitably renumbered.

Dr. Bindal requested the Members to spend some time to go through the Draft, where after the various Sections of the Document were taken up for consideration one by one.

The Members appreciated the effort put in by the Constitution Committee in preparing a pretty well drafted document in such a short time under the guidance of Dr. V N Bindal.

Dr. Bindal said that despite the fact that the Members of the Constitution Committee live pretty far from each other, it was possible to prepare this Document through the efforts put in by Shri G K Arora, who acted as the Coordinator in this exercise and communicated very effectively through the telephone calls and e-mails.

After a lively discussion, a number of suggestions were made for improvement of the Draft Rules and Regulations of the NPL Former Scientists Forum. In particular, the following observations were made in respect of the various Sections/Sub Sections of the Draft:
Section 2: ‘Definitions’

Sub-Section 2.5: ‘Scientist’

1. It was felt that the term “Senior Capacity (Officers Level)” could better be replaced by the term “Scientist/Technical Officer”.

2. It was felt that persons who had not been associated with NPL in any substantive position of Scientist/Technical Officer, but who had worked as Research Fellows, Research Associates, Pool Officers etc. may also be included in the Definition of the Term ‘Scientist’. Accordingly it was decided to add another Sub-Section as under:

“Any other retired person who had been associated with research activity at the NPL.”

Sub-Section 2.6: ‘NFSF’

Majority opinion was in favour of using the acronym ‘NPL-FSF’ instead of the proposed acronym ‘NFSF’, and making the necessary changes in the other parts of the Document accordingly wherever the term ‘NFSF’ has been used.

Section 3: ‘Aims and Objectives’

Sub-Section 3.2

It was decided to insert the following words:

“in the form of some publication e.g. Newsletter, from time to time”

after Members of the Forum in the second line.

Sub-Section 3.3

It was decided to add the following at the end of the sub section:

“e.g. in regard to matters relating to their Family Pension”

Section 5: ‘Membership’

It was felt that the issue of Membership of the Forum May be de-linked from the BASE LIST.

Section 6: ‘Membership Fee’

It was decided to raise the Life Membership Fee from Rs. 400/= to Rs. 500/=.

Section 8: ‘Frequency of Meeting of NFSF’

It was decided to substitute the last sentence by the following:

“The M.C. shall suitably notify the Agenda for such meetings.”

Section 9: ‘Management Committee’

It was decided to have two Vice-Presidents instead of 1.

Section 10: ‘Roles of the Office Bearers’

Sub Section 10.2

In view of the above decision, the role of the Vice President was advised to be revised as under:

“Vice President: One of the two persons holding this Office shall act for, and on behalf of the President whenever an exigency arises. The President shall generally name the person who shall deputise for him in his absence, failing which the senior of the two (by age) shall discharge this duty.”
Sub –Section 10.3

It was decided that one of the duties of the Secretary which required to be specifically reflected was the maintenance of the ‘Membership Register’, and this may be suitably reflected.

Section 11: ‘Frequency of Meetings of the M.C.’

It was decided that the Section may be re-drawn as under:

“ There shall be at least one meeting of the M.C. per quarter. The Agenda for this meeting shall invariably include (i) Confirmation of the Minutes of the earlier meeting of the M.C., (ii) Report by the Secretary on the decisions taken at that meeting, and (iii) presentation of the reports by the Coordinators in respect of their wards. The other items on the Agenda shall be decided by the President, and shall be notified to the members of the M.C. ahead of the meeting.”

Section 13: ‘Elections’

It was decided to have on-the-spot nominations and to modify the Sub-Sections 13.2 and 13.3 accordingly.

Section 14: ‘Finances’

Sub-Section 14.3

It was decided to replace the existing Sub-Section by the following:

“14.3 All the cheques and other financial documents shall require the signatures of any two of the following:
   a) President
   b) General Secretary
   c) Treasurer”

Sub-Section 14.4 & 14.5

It was felt that the limit of Rs. 250/= was too low, and it may be raised to Rs. 500/=.

Section 17: ‘Adoption of Constitution and Amendments thereto’

It was decided to change the heading of the Section as under and to suitably replace the term ‘Constitution’ by the term ‘Rules and Regulations’

“Adoption of the Rules and Regulations and Amendments thereto”

Sub-Section 17.2

It was decided to deleted the following:

“ The onus of getting the signatures of the Members in favour of the proposed amendments/additions in the Rules and Regulations shall lie with the Proposer, who shall submit the same to the President after the meeting for necessary action.

Section 18: ‘Drafting of the Rules and Regulations of NFSF’

It was decided to replace this Section by the following Section:

Essentiality Certificate:

Certified that this is the correct copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Forum

(Dr. V N Bindal) (Shri G K Arora) (Shri V P Wasan)
President Secretary Treasurer

Decision: In the light of the above observations, the President was requested to make the necessary changes in the Rules and Regulations with the assistance of the Secretary, the Treasurer and any other Member of the Forum whom he may like to be associated with him to give it a proper shape so that the same may be placed before the Forum at its next meeting to be held on March 7, 2003.
4 Opening of Bank Account

The following resolution was unanimously passed:

" It is resolved that a Savings Fund Account may be opened in the name of ‘NPL Former Scientists Forum’ with the Syndicate Bank, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, by the following:

1. Dr. V N Bindal President
2. Shri G K Arora Secretary
3. Shri V P Wasan Treasurer

It is further resolved that all the cheques etc. shall be signed by any two of the above.”

5 Letterhead

It was decided to redesign the Letterhead, and in addition to the names of the President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer, the names of all the other Members of the Management Committee may also be given. In addition information about the Residential Phone Numbers of each may be provided. It was also decided that the design of the Letterhead should be ‘Computer-Friendly’.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.