

Minutes of the AMM General Body Meeting (GBM) held on December 02, 2011

The AMM GBM was conducted on December 02, 2011 at IIT Madras, after the conclusion of NaCoMM 2011. Though a large number of AMM members participated in the conference, only 4 members (except the Vice-President and the Secretary of AMM) attended the meeting. On one hand, this allowed detailed discussion on each of the agenda points, while on the other, it was felt that the number was too small for some of the decisions that needed to be made by AMM. It has been therefore accepted that AMM Secretariat would make arrangements for collecting opinions from the members on a number of issues before taking a final decision on them. A summary of the discussions follows.

- It was formally announced that NaCoMM 2013 would be organised by IIT Roorkee, with Prof. P. M. Pathak of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering as the Conference Chair.
- Unfortunately, the fate of the next IPRoMM could not be decided. In the previous GBM in February 2011 Prof. B. V. A. Rao had staked the claim on behalf of VIT. However, since then there has been no communication from VIT on this matter and no decision could be taken as there was no participation from VIT in the GBM. It is now imperative to find a venue for this event.
- It has been suggested that the name of NaCoMM be changed suitably to reflect its international status. However, the brand value of “NaCoMM” is to be retained as well. Several possibilities were discussed. As mentioned above, a final decision would be taken in the next few months after collecting opinions from the members.
- Prof. G. Saravana Kumar of the Department of Engineering Design, IIT Madras has been selected as the Treasurer of AMM. The previous Treasurer, Prof. Shankar Krishnapillai of the Department of Mechanical Engineering has relinquished his post in August 2011.
- AMM Office Bearers for the term 2012-2016 were to be identified in this GBM. There were no fresh applicants/nominations for any of the posts. Prof. Ghosal of IISc suggested that the current team should continue, which was accepted by all present.
- The issue of introducing a code of conduct for AMM members was discussed in great detail. The matter has acquired urgency and seriousness as it was found during NaCoMM 2011 that some AMM members have resorted to plagiarism in their submissions to the conference. In each such case, an email was sent by the Conference Chair, highlighting the concern and seeking a formal explanation. However, in some cases no response was received. In the days of global awakening about the issues of academic ethics, AMM cannot tolerate such behaviour from its members, more so as most of its members are teachers across the country, and thus supposed to be role models for their students. The following were accepted upon in the meeting:
 - AMM would prepare a code of conduct for its members. All new members would have to agree to it formally while joining. However, the code would apply to existing members as well from the time of its introduction. AMM would hold the right to terminate the membership,

and/or ban from AMM activities for a period of time, and/or report to the competent authorities of the member's organisation at its discretion if a member fails to adhere to the code of conduct.

- It has been decided that the authors of the plagiarised papers in NaCoMM 2011 would be kept out of all AMM activities for a period of two years, ending with NaCoMM 2013.

- The issue of formalising student membership of AMM was discussed, and it was decided that the AMM Secretary would work with Prof. Saha, the Vice-President, to come up with a new framework for the same.
- On behalf of AMM, Prof. Ghosal wished to put on record a note of appreciation for the NaCoMM 2011 Organising Committee for a well-conducted conference.

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Secretary, AMM