

**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**  
**Tata Institute of Fundamental Research**

**Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Faculty meeting held in the Seminar Room (S11) at  
11 : 30 a.m. on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2000**

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The following were present :

Prof. Jayant B. Udgaonkar (Chairman)  
Prof. O. Siddiqi  
Dr. Upinder S. Bhalla  
Dr. Sumantra Chattarji  
Prof. Gaiti Hasan  
Prof. Sudhir Krishna  
Prof. M.K. Mathew  
Dr Satyajit Mayor  
Prof. M.M. Panicker  
Dr. Apurva Sarin  
Dr. R. Sowdhamini  
Dr. G.V. Shivashankar  
Prof. K. VijayRaghavan  
Prof. Veronica Rodrigues  
Ms. N.N. Shantha

Prof. Madan Rao and Dr. Manjari Mazumdar could not attend the meeting since they were out of town.

The meeting was preceded by presentation of work by Prof. Veronica Rodrigues.

**Agenda Item No. 1.**

**Confirmation of the minutes of the twelfth and thirteenth meeting**

The minutes of the twelfth and thirteenth meeting were confirmed.

**Agenda Item No. 2.**

**Technical Assistant in laboratories**

Prof. Jayant Udgaonkar briefed the members about the need for technical personnel that had been expressed by several faculty members. Currently, only very few technical trainee positions were available, the number being limited by the budget, and priority is being given to new faculty members and facilities.

Prof. Sudhir Krishna suggested that we should explore the possibility of requesting industrial companies to sponsor candidates. NCBS can train and issue a Certificate to the trainees.

Prof. VijayRaghavan said that we should first identify companies who could be requested to sponsor candidates. It was suggested that individual faculty members could contact companies, suggest what areas it was possible for NCBS to train technical people over a 2-3 year period, and determine whether the companies would be interested in

sponsoring technical training at NCBS. Once the feasibility is established, a formal program could be started.

Dr. Shivashankar suggested that it would be better to take fresh B.Sc. graduates as trainees, and give practical training for a period of one year. He also said it will be good to identify international companies and help the trainees get placement.

### Agenda Item No. 3.

#### Admissions 2001

Prof. Mathew briefed the members that this year that NCBS had conducted separate screening and interviews for the Ph.D., Int. Ph.D. and Physics in Biology programmes, which had taken a lot of time and effort.

It was proposed that from next year onwards, all the admission processes would be combined. NCBS would participate in the external written test which would be conducted in December/January, and organized by the Natural Sciences Faculty at TIFR. This test would have to be taken by all applicants to Ph.D. and Int. Ph.D. Programmes, except those who take the JEST test. NCBS or DBS faculty members would have to participate at all the centers. If the new procedure proves even more exhausting than the current routine of separate sets of interviews, we could go back to the old system for next year.

For the next round of admissions, since Ph.D. and Int. Ph.D. interviews will be combined, all faculty members are requested to be present in Bangalore at the time of the interviews. Dates for these interviews will be announced several months in advance, and will be in the end of May or June 2001.

Posters have to be designed advertising our programme and the recruitment process, and this has to be sent to colleges and Universities before mid September. Dr. Sumantra Chattarji was assigned the responsibility of designing the poster, and producing it with the assistance of Dr. G.V. Shivashankar.

The meeting concluded at 1.45 p.m.

Jayant B. Udgaonkar

O. Siddiqi

Upinder S. Bhalla

Sumantra Chattarji

Gaiti Hasan

Sudhir Krishna

M.K. Mathew

Satyajit Mayor

M.M. Panicker

Apurva Sarin

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G.V. Shivashankar

K. VijayRaghavan

Veronica Rodrigues

N.N. Shantha