

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

**Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Faculty meeting held in the Seminar Room (I floor) at  
11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 1999.**

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The following were present:

Prof. Jayant B. Udgaonkar (Chairman)  
Prof. K. VijayRaghavan  
Prof. O. Siddiqi  
Prof. M.K. Mathew  
Prof. Gaiti Hasan  
Prof. Sudhir Krishna  
Prof. M.M. Panicker  
Dr. Sumantra Chattarji  
Dr. Manjari Mazumdar  
Dr. R. Sowdhamini  
Shri T. M. Sahadevan

Prof. Veronica Rodrigues, Dr. Upinder Bhalla, Dr. Satyajit Mayor and  
Dr. Apurva Sarin could not attend the meeting.

The meeting was preceded by presentation of work by Dr. Sumantra Chattarji.

**Agenda Item No.1**

**Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

**Agenda Item No.2**

**Selection of students.**

Dr. Sowdhamini had prepared a questionnaire to assess each candidate's ability with a suggestion that this questionnaire be filled in by each member of the Selection Committee for each candidate. The questionnaire is attached as an Annexure. There was considerable discussion on this. It was decided that all interviewers be given a copy of this questionnaire so that they have a framework for grading, though the questionnaire need not be used for each candidate.

Both Profs. Siddiqi and VijayRaghavan felt that the candidates who apply to us would be very similar since our selection is a part of the Department of Biological Sciences. Prof. VijayRaghavan suggested that other methods must be adopted to obtain good applications like targeting specific groups in IITs and other places. He felt that we would not be targeting Engineers, Chemists and Medical graduates unless they are exposed to us in some way. He suggested:

- a) Taking such students in our training programme to get people with wider interests.
- b) A rolling admission procedure so that one can apply and join at any time (through grants to start with).

Prof. Siddiqi felt that we must depend on good teachers who can send their ~~good~~<sup>best</sup> students to us, as is the practice in United States. Since most of the PIs have grants, such people can initially be tried on extramural grants for a short period before they face an open interview.

Prof. Sudhir Krishna pointed out that the labs have become large and input to the students has been reduced, as there are too many students in each lab. If there are good post-docs in each lab, this problem can be overcome to a large extent. Both Profs. VijayRaghavan and Siddiqi agreed that this is a problem and ~~we~~<sup>that</sup> must look into this matter.

The meeting concluded at 1:30 p.m.

Jayant Udgaonkar

Gaiti Hasan

Manjari Mazumdar

M. K. Mathew

O. Siddiqi

R. Sowdhamini

Sudhir Krishna

Sumantra Chattarji

K. VijayRaghavan

T. M. Sahadevan