

Minutes of the 100th EC meeting of SSV held on December 20,2022

The 100th meeting of the Executive Council of the Society for Scientific Values was held at 3 pm on 20th December, 2022 at National Physical Laboratory (NPL) Conference room in hybrid mode. The following members attended the meeting in person and online:

Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta (Director, NPL), Special guest

1. Dr. R.K.Kotnala (President)
2. Prof. Vikram Kumar (Vice President)
3. Dr. Santa Chawla (Secretary)
4. Dr. Ved Varun (Joint Secretary)
5. Dr. Hari Kishan (Treasurer)
6. Prof. Dinesh Abrol (EC Member)
7. Dr. J.C. Sharma (EC Member)
8. Dr. B.D. Malhotra (EC Member, online)
9. Dr. Ashish Agarwal (EC Member)
10. Dr. Jyoti Shah (EC Member)
11. Mr. N.K.Wadhwa (Special Invitee)

Director, NPL Prof. V. G. Achanta graced the meeting on request of President, SSV Dr. R.K.Kotnala who introduced the concept and activities of the Society to Director, NPL and introduced the members to him. Prof. Vikram Kumar remembered Prof K. L. Chopra who remained President of SSV for almost two decades and his contributions to society. Silence was observed in the memory of the departed soul.

The agenda of the meeting was followed. Members approved the minutes of the 99th EC meeting. Secretary SSV, Dr. Santa Chawla talked about the last activities of SSV mainly the News & Views March 2021 issue that compiled the main documents of guidelines of Academic Ethics by various national and International Academic bodies and the scientific misconduct case of NCBS. Dr. Santa Chawla talked about the importance of reinventing the role and activities of SSV which remained the watchdog for Scientific Ethics in the country for last few decades, in the current scenario when most of the academic bodies have formulated their guidelines for scientific and academic ethics, rules to implement and internal mechanism to address cases of misconduct. Dr. Santa Chawla also suggested the need for educating the younger generation about ethical values in academics by SSV and invited young members to contribute. Dr. R.K.Kotnala suggested delivering lectures on ethics in schools, Prof. Vikram Kumar opined that as ethics has been already included in the curriculum, the effort may not be so rewarding.

Prof. V. G. Achanta expressed his interest to join SSV and having recent issue of News & Views as well as earlier issues in addition to a write up about the history of SSV, its Presidents and contribution of SSV to the country for archiving in NPL. Dr. Santa Chawla proposed to place such information on the SSV website. Prof. V. G. Achanta proposed NPL can support this, and SSV may use services of **Dr Abhishek Sharma of KRC** for further support. Prof. V. G. Achanta suggested that SSV should write to various organizations so that the head of the individual institute's ethical committee or member representative could become member of SSV as Institutional members and SSV could play the role of an apex body. As SSV does not have the provision of taking Institutional members at present, Prof. Vikram Kumar suggested that SSV by-laws must be changed to make such provision. For outreach of SSV, Prof. Abrol suggested to have a one day orientation program for interns for

introducing them to ethical values. Dr. Santa Chawla suggested that Paintal memorial lecture, which used to be an annual event of SSV, should be held alongside the one day meeting. Director, NPL extended support for local hospitality as the legacy started from NPL and proposed **Prof. Vikram Kumar as convener** for the same. Members suggested that GBM of SSV should also be held during the one day meeting in online mode for absentee members. The importance of highlighting SSV's contribution to Indian Science in the 75th year of India's independence was raised. Two months preparation time was suggested for the meeting so that the meet could be held in March, 2023 with identification of resource persons. It was decided that the next date for the EC election of SSV may be fixed in the GBM.

Action: Prof. Vikram Kumar

Treasurer SSV, Dr Hari Kishan, presented the current financial status of SSV. He mentioned liabilities of the society and discussed the pending payment to CA for the last five years, filing income tax returns on behalf of the society and assets of the society. It was decided that SSV should clear all the pending dues. Dr. R.K.Kotnala agreed and said that the present CA should be replaced by other CA and Mr. Wadhwa suggested that the CA who works for NPL FSF may be engaged.

SSV web site formed a major part of discussions. It was suggested to come up with upgraded website in a new format which would contain more information, be interactive and have a provision to monitor footfall and the website should act as a resource site. The maintenance of the website was briefly discussed and it was suggested that **Dr. Jyoti Shah and Mr N. K. Wadhwa** would take responsibility for the same. Dr. R.K.Kotnala agreed for the website change.

Action: Dr. Jyoti Shah and Mr N. K. Wadhwa for website

Dr. R.K.Kotnala, Dr. Santa Chawla, Dr. Ved Varun for the website contents and write up.

Prof. Abrol suggested that members should be enrolled from various academic organizations to increase reach of SSV in the country and that SSV should initiate some awards of recognition to encourage an ethical system. He also raised the issue of possible inclusion of lectures on scientific controversies as no institution has been doing that.

Dr. Ved Varun suggested that through SSV activities the watchdog role of SSV should be made so visible that people become members. The importance of having the presence of SSV in social media like twitter, Instagram etc. to make it visible to the world was also discussed.

Action: Dr Jyoti Shah, Dr. Ved Varun

The meeting attended by most members after a gap of about two years due to pandemic, was quite fruitful. The member appreciated discussions on the issues relevant to SSV and was of the opinion that SSV EC meeting should be held more frequently.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair and the members.

Dr. R.K.Kotnala, President SSV

Dr. Santa Chawla, Secretary SSV