

GBM-2015

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BODY MEETING

KOSCON 2015 – 34th Annual conference of Karnataka Ophthalmic Society

20th November 2015, S D M College of Medical Sciences, DHARWAD

Dr. Umesh Megur, President KOS, welcomed the gathering. The president thanked the Local Organising Committee and Scientific Committee Convenor, Dr. Krishnaprasad K, for efficient organization of the conference and the academic programs

Agenda of the meeting was read out by Dr. Sirish Nelivigi, Hon. Secretary, KOS. The minutes of the previous GBM was not read out as it was available on KOS website and the GBM had been delayed.

One minute silence was observed as a mark of respect for the departed members of KOS, in the previous year 2014-15. Secretary Dr. Sirish requested members present to allow the secretary report to be read out later, as the pen drive which contained the presentation of secretary report was not working, and he was making alternate arrangements. The General Body agreed to the Secretary's request.

Scientific Committee report was read out by Scientific Committee convenor, Dr. Krishna Prasad K. The points which were presented were:

- This year, five halls for academic activities and one hall for wet lab were arranged. 450 abstracts were received for the annual conference presentations, and a substantial number of abstracts had to be rejected, as adequate time was not there to accommodate all submissions. Dr. Krishna Prasad requested those members whose abstracts were not accommodated to not be disheartened, and hoped for similar such response in future state conferences also.**
- 30 academic programs, such as CMEs and Workshops were conducted in the year, and five more were scheduled to be done.**
- Certificates were distributed to the different institutions which conducted scientific activities.**
- Dr. Krishna Prasad thanked all members for helping him to fulfil the responsibility of being Scientific Committee convenor.**

Scientific committee report was accepted by GB, proposed by Dr. M. M. Joshi and seconded by Dr. M. S. Ravindra.

Journal Editor Report was read by Editor, Dr. Chaitra Jayadev. The following points were conveyed:

- The new version of the official scientific journal of Karnataka Ophthalmic Society, titled "Journal of Vision Sciences" was brought out this year. The**

journal was made online and peer-reviewed.

- The website of JVS was displayed, including statistics and Income/Expenditure statement.
- The editor requested for submission of more articles, and particularly called on those members who have presented papers in the present conference to submit those papers for publication in JVS.
- Dr. Chaitra acknowledged all the authors, referees, editorial team and KOS office-bearers for support received and thanked all members for their co-operation.

The journal editor's report was accepted by GB, proposed by Dr. Madhav Honnatti and seconded by Dr. G. V. Divakar.

Treasurer's report was read by Treasurer, Dr. Ajay K. The treasurer informed that the audited account statements for the year 2014-15 were mailed on kosoffice email group to all group members four days before the conference started. This was done so that the account statements reached more members and also to reduce paper usage. A few copies of the account statements were available at the GBM for those who desired the hard copy. Points brought out were:

- The capital fund was now in robust health with high number of new life members joining the society and good amount of interest on FDs and Savings Bank account coming in the past year.
- The income excluding life membership fees was more than expenditure, due to bank interest and good amount of sponsorship money coming in.
- Income tax amount for financial year 2015-16 had already been transferred to KOS auditor, Mr. Mallaiah's bank account.
- There had been issues outstanding with regard to income-tax payments, and there had been a notice from Income Tax department for payment of arrears of Rs. 2,11,500. These issues had been tackled and the payment of arrears also had been done.
- One more issue regarding Income Tax payment for financial year 2013-14 remained pending, but the requisite work on this issue was almost done and will be reaching closure soon.

After the treasurer's report, a question was asked to President by Dr. Madhav Honnatti, as to why money due to KOS from previous conference organisers at Mysore had not been remitted to KOS. The President replied that the organisers of annual conference at Mysore last year, had issues regarding service tax to be paid on the whole amount of receipts, unlike in the previous years, and this meant that a lot of tax had to be paid. The Mysore Ophthalmic Trust wanted to pay the tax, and then transfer 20% of the remaining money to KOS, and had therefore asked for some time.

There was much discussion about this matter, with some members mentioning that at least Rs. 2,50,000 should be the minimum contribution from LOC

towards KOS, and some members suggesting that fixing a minimum contribution like that would make it difficult for organisers from smaller cities to pay. Dr. Sirish Nelivigi then suggested that a joint account between LOC and KOS can be opened for annual conference. After expenses and tax payment, 40% of remaining funds can be transferred to KOS account. Dr. M. S. Ravindra suggested that KOS must trust the LOC and allow them to retain the conference account, as the LOC may otherwise feel that this is like "policing" them. Dr. Sirish said that this idea was not meant to "police" the LOC but to improve mutual understanding and to increase transparency.

Dr. Madhav Honnatti suggested that a formula for payment can be done, like 20% of total trade money, less expense of constructing stalls, minus tax, as payment towards KOS from LOC of annual conferences. Finally, President Dr. Megur said that let the Managing committee of coming year talk to LOC of next year, to decide on the percent of contribution from next year LOC. The President said that senior members of KOS, including himself, will follow up the matter of previous year's dues with Mysore Ophthalmic Trust and ensure that the dues are cleared.

Chairman of Local Organising Committee of KOSCON 2015, Dr. Ravi Nadgir then asked the office-bearers as to why was the abstract book printed so late and posted just three days before the conference. He requested the General Body to ponder over whether the abstract book required to be printed at all, as now, with hard copy of souvenir and electronic form of abstract book available and with conference app available to all KOS members at conference venue itself, there was no need for a printed abstract book, which would incur unnecessary extra expenditure. The general body agreed with Dr. Nadgir on the issue of this extra expenditure and it was decided that from next year, abstract book will be only in electronic form and that there is no need to print hard copy and post to all members. Dr. Nadgir then said that LOC will find it difficult to pay for abstract book printing for the current conference, as the cost was high, and asked for KOS to pay half the printing and posting charges, and that LOC will pay the other half. After much discussion and deliberation, Dr. M. S. Ravindra proposed that LOC should pay full charges for Abstract book printing and posting, as all revenue/advertisements for Abstract book had been collected by LOC, and 50% of the charge can be discounted from final contribution of LOC towards KOS. This proposal was seconded by Dr. A. S. Guruprasad, and the General Body accepted the suggestion.

Dr. Krishna Prasad K asked about expenses of travel and accommodation for guest speakers, invited from outside Karnataka state. The President said that the scientific committee and LOC of next conference can mutually discuss and decide on this issue.

This brought an end to discussions about financial issues. The Treasurer's report was accepted by the GB, proposed by Dr. M. M. Joshi and seconded by Dr.

Madhav Honnatti.

Secretary, Dr. Sirish Nelivigi, then presented his report. Points were as follows:

- **Firstly, Dr. Sirish thanked President Dr. Megur for all support and guidance given.**
- **Lot of new developments occurred this year. The KOS website was updated regularly about upcoming academic programs, and chat site was started.**
- **2 copies of Chakshu were brought out as e-Chakshu, electronic newsletter of KOS, as decided by GB at previous conference. Dr. Sirish thanked Treasurer Dr. Ajay K, for doing immense work as editor of e-Chakshu.**
- **Journal of Vision Sciences was brought out and was very well received. The secretary mentioned that this achievement was done almost single-handedly by Dr. Chaitra Jayadev and thanked Dr. Chaitra and her team for all the work done in bringing to fruit the dream of a new updated scientific journal of KOS.**
- **Dr. Sirish mentioned that more articles have to be contributed by members for both JVS and e-Chakshu.**
- **KOS membership has increased from 1945 to 2150, a 10.5% increase in total membership, and that this was a very impressive number.**
- **The number of members now part of kosoffice email group also increased to more than 1280, which was a substantial increment to the previous number.**
- **Membership details were also updated to a great extent, as forms for updating were distributed along with JVS, to all members.**
- **Skill Updation Program for members from peripheral towns of the state was introduced; this project was the brainchild of President Dr. Umesh Megur.**
- **Glaucoma Society of India directly organised 4 programs on Glaucoma, in tier 2 cities of Karnataka, in tandem with KOS, for the first time.**
- **Also for the first time, a memorandum of understanding was signed between LOC KOSCON 2015 (Hubli Dharwad Ophthalmic Association) and KOS, for organisation of annual conference.**
- **Work on consent forms for procedures and operations was done by Joint secretary, Dr. Rajesh K. V., and were nearly ready for uploading onto KOS website**
- **An app for KOSCON 2015 was introduced this year, again a first time in the history of KOS. Dr. Sirish mentioned that this was an achievement by the LOC of KOSCON 2015, and thanked them for the same.**

The secretary's report was accepted by the GB; Proposed by Dr. G. V. Divakar and accepted by Dr. Elankumaran. Dr. Sirish brought up a few points for discussion:

- **Can State Bank of India account be closed? GB had no objection to the same. Webmaster Dr. Sai Giridhar Kamat expressed his reservations on this issue.**
- **Can KOSCON name be maintained for all future annual KOS conferences? GB was accepting of this suggestion**
- **Telengana Ophthalmic Society has proposed OASIS, Ophthalmic Association**

of South Indian Societies. Should KOS be part of OASIS? The GB was agreeable to KOS being part of OASIS, in principle, but Dr. M. S. Ravindra said that let the next MC take the call on specific wording of MOU with OASIS, especially regarding financial contribution.

Venue of the 2016 conference had been confirmed as Udupi, instead of Goa, Udupi District Ophthalmic Association had requested for this. The General Body accepted the proposal. There was only one offer for hosting of 2017 conference. This was by Bangalore Ophthalmic Society. The offer was accepted and Bangalore was confirmed as venue of KOSCON 2017. President of BOS, Dr. M. S. Ravindra said that BOS planned to conduct KOSCON 2017 along with annual conference of BOS, which was usually called BOS SUMMIT and the MC of BOS will come out with a way to combine these titles.

Finally, election of new office-bearers was taken up. There was only one nomination received; that of Dr. Santhan Gopal K. S. for President elect. Since there was no other nomination, Dr. Santhan Gopal was declared as unanimously elected as President elect, KOS 2015-16. Dr. M. S. Ravindra proposed that let the present managing committee continue as they had done a good job and this was accepted by the GB. Dr. Sirish Nelivigi then proposed the name of Dr. Sai Giridhar Kamath for Vice-president, and this was seconded by Dr. Umesh Megur and the GB accepted unanimously Dr. Kamath as Vice-President, KOS 2015-16. Dr. Ajay K, current Treasurer and Dr. Rajesh K. V., current Joint Secretary, then said that they would like to inter-change their current roles. Dr. Ajay will become Joint secretary, for 2015-16 and Dr. Rajesh K V will become Treasurer for 2015-16, KOS. This was accepted by the GB, proposed by Dr. Sai Giridhar Kamath and seconded by Dr. Sirish Nelivigi.

In summary, the office-bearers of KOS for the year 2015-16 were as follows:

President: Dr. Guruprasad A. S.

President elect: Dr. Santhan Gopal K. S.

Vice President: Dr. Sai Giridhar Kamath

Hon. Secretary: Dr. Sirish Nelivigi

Hon. Joint Secretary: Dr. Ajay K

Hon. Treasurer: Dr. Rajesh K. V.

Scientific Committee Convenor: Dr. Krishna Prasad K

Editor, Journal: Dr. Chaitra Jayadev

Webmaster: Dr. Sai Giridhar Kamath

Vote of Thanks was given by Joint Secretary, Dr. Rajesh K. V.

DR. SIRISH NELIVIGI,
HON.
SECRETARY

DR. UMESH MEGUR
PRESIDENT