



Minutes of the 6th (Sixth) Alumni Meet (General Body Meeting) of the Utkal Statistics Alumni Association (USAA) held on 02.02.2020 (Sunday).

The 6th (Sixth) Alumni Meet of the Utkal Statistics Alumni Association (USAA) was held under the Chairmanship of Dr Gopabandhu Mishra, President of the Association, in the PG Council Hall of the Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar on 02.02.2020 (Sunday). Registration of participants started sharp at 09:30 am and each participant was given a set of reference materials i.e. (i) a copy of the programme for the day, (ii) a copy of the Annual Activity Report of USAA for the year 2018-19, and (iii) a pad, pen etc.

The meet was organised in 5 (five) sessions i.e. (i) Inaugural Session, (ii) Introduction of Members, (iii) Election to the position of General Secretary, USAA, (iv) Interactive Session and (iv) Cultural Programme with a Lunch Break in the middle.

I. INAUGURAL SESSION: (11:00 am to 11:30 am)

At the outset Ms Tanushree Rout a 2nd year student welcomed Sri Subrat Mahapatra, IFS, presently holding the position of DDG, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change presently stationed at Bhubaneswar as the Chief Guest of the day, Sri Lokanath Sarangi, a Senior Alumni Member as the Guest of Honour, the President Dr Gopabandhu Mishra, the Working President Dr Kunja Behari Panda, and the Secretary Dr Swarnalata Mishra to the Dias and flower bouquets were presented to hon'ble members on the Dias by Ms Kajol Sahoo, a 2nd year student and Ms Asmita Mishra, a 1st year student after they had taken their seats.

Dr Kunja Behari Panda, the Working President gave a very brief welcome address about the dignitaries on the Dias as well as all the alumni members and requested the President and all other members to light the inaugural lamp. Accordingly, hon'ble President lighted the lamp amidst the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and all other members present on the occasion. After lighting of lamp and the dignitaries occupying their seats, the Utkal University Theme Song was played in a pin drop silence atmosphere. After the University Theme Song, an opening song was staged played by a group of 1st and 2nd year students.

Prof Kunja Behari Panda introduced the dignitaries on the Dias and welcomed them to the august occasion. In introducing the dignitaries on the Dias, Dr Panda requested the President to please conduct the meeting and solicited valued contributions from among the alumni members so as to give new dimensions to the Alumni Body.

Initiating the meeting, the President expressed that our Alumni Meet to be meaningful, apart from meeting our old friends, we should share our experience, expertise and give constructive suggestions to carry on the activities of USAA in a meaningful manner which will help enriching the subject as well as our students will benefit.

- (i) On the request of the President, Dr Swarnalata Mishra, General Secretary read out the Annual Report of the Association for the year ending 2018-19 for information of esteemed members. She gave a detailed account of various activities done by the USAA during last year, the present position and the steps to be taken ahead which was reflected in the Annual Activity Report 2018-19 that had been circulated among the members in the meeting.

In giving the receipt and expenditure position of USAA during the year 2018-19, she stated that the opening balance at the beginning of the year was Rs.152,387.70 (cash: Rs.30,372.00, Bank: Rs.22,115.70 and FD: Rs.100,000.00). The receipt during the year was Rs.119,272.94 that included member registration fees, contribution, donation, Olympiad fees and bank interest. As against a total receipt of Rs.271,660.64, the expenditure during the year was of

the order of Rs.105,845.00 of which Rs.54,995.00 was spent for the Fifth Alumni Meet, Rs.36,100.00 for Statistics Olympiad and the rest of Rs.14750.00 for other office expenses. The closing balance at the end of the year was Rs.165,815.64 that included Rs.49,427.00 (in cash), Rs.16,388.64 (in bank) and Rs.100,000.00 (fixed deposit). The account for the year 2018-19 has since been audited.

With this, she solicited considered opinion and valued suggestions of esteemed members for better functioning of USAA in future.

- (ii) **Distribution of Prize:** On the request of Dr Kunja Behari Panda, Dr Gopabandhu Mishra, President USAA distributed cash prize as well as certificates amidst the dignitaries to the rank holders in (a) MA / M Sc examination in Statistics (2019) from Utkal University, and (b) the Statistics Olympiad 2019. Accordingly, prizes and certificates were given to the rank holders on the occasion as under.

SI / Rank	Award / Rank	Name & Address of Awardees	Amount (in Rs)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
A	Topper in Statistics from Utkal University: 2019		
1	1	Mr Satayu Shantidutta Panda, S/o Dharanidhar Panda for securing the first position in M A / M Sc Examination in Statistics, 2019 from Utkal University.	10,000/-
		Total (A)	10,000/-
B	Statistics Olympiad Examination: 2019		
2	1	Mr Udaya Parida of Marshaghai (Junior) College, Kendrapada for securing the First Position.	5,000/-
3	2	Mr Pratyush Kumar Barik of Newton Higher Secondary School of Science, Sambalpur for Securing the Second Position.	3,000/-
4	3	Ms Biswa Arpita Sahu of Newton Higher Secondary School of Science, Sambalpur for Securing the Third Position.	2,000/-
		Total (B)	10,000/-
		Grand Total (A+B)	20,000/-

- (iii) The Chief Guest Sri Subrat Mahapatra who is basically a M Sc degree holder in Statistics in his address to the gathering expressed his concern for the subject. He opined that with the growth of software technology, there was a big shift in the employment market. Software companies preferred recruiting IT and engineering personnel for their business for which students good in science and humanities streams preferred to do a degree in IT or engineering branches with the sole objective of getting a job irrespective of their taste for the subject. This lead higher education in Science and Humanities streams to suffer the most and more specifically the subject like Statistics. However, he appreciated the role of USAA in launching the Statistics Olympiad in the State that will motivate youngsters to appreciate the subject and come forward to do career in Statistics. At the same time there is limited scope for statistics education at under-graduate level for our students as this subject is available in limited under-graduate colleges. It is, therefore, essential for opening this subject in good number of under graduate colleges if at all we need students at post graduate level with Statistics back ground.

The P G Department of Statistics as well as the Utkal Statistics Alumni Association should make joint intervention for opening the subject at under graduate levels.

- (iv) The Guest of Honour, Sri Lokanath Sarangi, a senior alumni member expressed his deep concern for enhancing the ability and capability of young statisticians if at all they want to prove their worth in future. Apart from guiding our students to do some courses in advanced, specialised and applied branches of Statistics, we should take care to expose them on various practical applications of the subject so that they can broad base their horizon and build their up confidence. This is not at all beyond our reach. Our Alumni Body is a store house of expertise and experts. A number of our senior alumni members have had worked in diverse applied branches like Planning, Agriculture, Forestry, Biology, Health, Medicine, Industry, Business, Banking, Life Insurance, software, Natural and Social Science etc and the many and had held quite high positions. There is no science that does not make use of Statistics for its growth and development. We should, therefore, continue establishing interpersonal relationship with our senior alumni members on a regular basis and invite them to share their practical experience with our young Statisticians. This will not only enhance the technical knowhow of our students but also strengthen the bond of alumni members. With this, he wished the meet to be a grand success.
- (v) In his inaugural speech, Dr Gopabandhu Mishra, President, USAA extended a hearty and warm welcomed to all the Alumni Members present on the day. He expressed that USAA has done some tangible work during preceding years. At the same time, lot many things could be done further more. In appreciating the views expressed by the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour, he opined that USAA in collaboration with the Department of Statistics will take steps to conduct Statistics Olympiad in more and more centres in coming years. Besides, steps will be taken to open the subject in under graduate colleges in the State. As many of our senior Alumni Members apart from having vast and varied experience and expertise in different fields do posses good rapport with decision making machineries. He opined that they should utilise their good offices at appropriate levels for expansion of the subject in the State. With these few words, the President urged for meaningful discussion in the meeting and to come out with useful suggestions at the end of the day.
- (vi) Dr Prafulla Kumar Swain, Faculty, P G Department of Statistics appreciated the views and the concern expressed by Sri Subrat Mahapatr, the Chief Guest. He extended his heartfelt thanks to Sri Mahapatra who had joined the meet despite his otherwise engagements and busy schedule. He extended his thanks to Sri Lokanath Sarangi, our Guest of Honour of the day. Sri Sarangi despite his old age and ill health is all along working for the cause of USAA. Dr Swain expressed his deep appreciation to the role played by Dr Gopabandhu Mishra, the President of USAA. His timely advice to the Alumni Body as well as his contribution to the conduct of Statistics Olympiad is commending. He extended his thanks to Dr Mishra the President. The role played by Dr Swarnalata Mishra, General Secretary who was not only dedicated but very punctual to have discharged her responsibilities for USAA. He extended profuse thanks Dr Mishra. Dr Kunja Behari Panda, our Head of the Department is the king pin of this alumni meet. Not only he had conducted the Statistics Olympiad smoothly, he has made all arrangements of this alumni meet. His contribution for this meet is unique. Dr Swain extended his heartfelt thanks to Dr Panda. Many of our Alumni members, our students and the faculty members had been working day and night for this meet starting from planning, arrangement of different activities including invitation of Guests as well as invitation of Alumni Members, arrangement of venue, food and the many. Dr Swain extended his thanks to one

and all those involved in the process of arranging this meet. With this, the inaugural session was concluded over a cup of tea.

II. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS: (11:30 am to 01:00 pm)

More than 150 Alumni Members attended this meet. They were very happy to have attended this meet and were eager to see their old friends, teachers and to interact with them as well as with other Alumni Members across batches within the same premises where they had spent their time as students and received their post graduation degree in the past. Since individual introduction of all members was considered time consuming, Members who attended this meet for the first time came to the Dais, gave their introduction and interacted with the audience. As observed, more than 50 Alumni Members across the batches had attended this meeting anew. While this session was devoted to self introduction, interaction among the members was taken up in the afternoon session.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS: (12:00 noon to 01:30 pm)

The position of General Secretary, USAA was lying vacant due to resignation of Sri Prachetas Priyotosh (1988) from the Executive Committee. It was, therefore, felt imperative to hold a fresh election to the position of General Secretary, USAA. This being the General Body Meeting, the President appointed Sri Lokanath Sarangi (1968) present in the meeting to act as the Returning Officer and requested him to conduct the election.

Having been appointed as the Returning Officer, Sri Lokanath Sarangi (1968) conducted a fresh election to the position of General Secretary, USAA and submitted his report to the President.

Based on the election result submitted by the Returning Officer, the President USAA declared Sri Anadi Charan Das (1983) as the General Secretary, USAA. Dr Gopabandhu Mishra, President welcomed Sri Das the newly elected General Secretary and cast his hope and confidence on him in carrying forward the achievements of USAA to a new height.

Since the Bank accounts of the Association is being operated jointly by the Treasurer and any one of the President, the Vice-President and the General Secretary, USAA, appropriate follow up action need be taken on the basis of this fresh election.

LUNCH BREAK: (01:30 Pm to 02:30 pm)

IV. INTERACTIVE SESSION: (02:30 pm to 04:30 pm)

During this session, all the alumni members present occasion were given opportunity to express their feeling and opinion about the activities of USAA as also offer their suggestions for better functioning. A good number of members spoke on this session. Among the many, Dr Jitendriya Sarangi (1960), Dr A K P C swain (1961), Sri Rabindra Kumar Mohanty (1969), Sri Dipak Kumar Mitra (1970), Sri Ananda Kumar Palit (1972), Sri Surendra Kumar Parida (1974), Sri Jaya Krishna Patnaik (1975), Dr Lokanath Sahoo (1976), Sri Chandra Sekhar Bhargav (1978), Sri Prafulla Kumar Jena (1978) Sri Siba Narayan Mahapatra (1978), Sri Anjan Kumar Jena (1980), Sri Ramesh Chandra Sarangi (1981), Sri Manoj Kumar Sahoo (1982), Ms Pratima Mishra (1982), Sri Bhabagrahi Sahoo (1983), Sri Purna Chandra Guru (1984), Sri Bijaya Govinda Dasmahapatra (1984), Dr Kailash Chandra Pani (1986), Dr Bijaya Bhusan Nanda (1986) and Sri Debajit Kar (1990).

Few points that emerged during their deliberations were of the following nature:-

- ❖ Alumni Members professing teaching in under graduate colleges should motivate students to opt for Statistics as one of their subjects.
- ❖ Alumni Members teaching in colleges should work out modalities as to how vacant posts of lecturers in Statistics can be filled up and the subject Statistics can be opened at under

graduate colleges. However, our alumni members can take care to pursue the proposal at appropriate levels.

- ❖ Statistics Olympiad should be conducted in more number of Centres so that more and more students will get the opportunity to sit for the examination and the subject will get popularity.
- ❖ The Department of Statistics may organising experience sharing programmes by inviting old alumni members having their experience in the areas of applications of Statistics so that our students can get the exposure and build their confidence.
- ❖ USAA with the help of selected Alumni Members placed in good positions in reputed companies as in the Government may provide support to the placement cell of the Department so that students will benefit.
- ❖ Information on USAA Website need be updated timely and the USAA database be strengthened with a view to enhancing participation in General Body Meetings.
- ❖ Some of our alumni members are leaving us for heavenly abode. Though it cannot be helped as it is a natural process, a proposal came to express our condolence in their honour in the General Body Meeting. It was appreciated. At the same time members present were requested to please keep the USAA informed any such event that comes to their notice.

V. CULTURAL PROGRAMM: (04:30 pm to 06:00 pm)

Similar to last year, the first year and second year students of the PG Department of Statistics as well as few old alumni members had arranged exciting cultural programmes.

- ❖ In the beginning, Ms Prajna Prasamita Mohanty (2018) sang an exciting classical song which was quite lively and most entertaining.
- ❖ Sri Ashis Kumar Behera a 2nd year student followed by Ms Jhilan Sur a 1st year student of the Department performed contemporary musical songs individually that amused the audience. Their performances were worth enjoying and commendable.
- ❖ Ms Prajna Smita Mallick, a 1st year student performed an Odishi Dance which was most entertaining and quite amusing
- ❖ Ms Barbi Dhar of the 1st year performed a classical Dance to the most satisfaction of the audience.
- ❖ A number of Group Dances were staged jointly by both 2nd and 1st year students subsequently that made the Cultural Session most lively and entertaining.

Vote of Thanks:

Dr Kunja Behari Panda, Head of the Department and the Working President of the Alumni Body expressed his deep satisfaction over the grand success of this Sixth Alumni Meet. This has been possible due to participation of Alumni Members in greater number, their meaningful interaction and constructive suggestions. Dr Panda extended his gratitude and thanks to one and all the Alumni Members present on the occasion as well as those who have conveyed their good wishes in absentia.

Dr Panda further indicated that a set of dedicated Alumni Members and our students voluntarily came forward and distributed different activities of the meet among themselves starting from invitation of participants, arrangement and practice of cultural programmes, drafting and printing of reference materials, registration of participants, anchoring, collection of funds, arrangement of food and snacks and the many. The cooperation of non-teaching staff of the Department is worth

mentioning. Had they not come forward voluntarily in a dedicated manner, the meet would not have been as successful as we have seen today. He extended profuse thanks to one and all of them.

With this, the Alumni Meet was concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Bhubaneswar:

Dated: 02.02.2020



(Gopabandhu Mishra)

PRESIDENT