

AACEG Elections for the term 2020-2022 were scheduled as below and related works had been carried out:

- On-line Election for 4 posts: From 5 PM (IST) on 15th Dec'20 to 5 PM (IST) on 17th Dec'20
- Off-line Election for 29 Posts: From 10 AM to 4 PM on 19th Dec'20

For on-line voting for the 4 posts, members were given facility to check their membership status and if not found, to include their email, by providing documentary evidence in the dedicated website developed for elections, <https://aacegelection.com>. A few Alumni checked their membership status which was linked to Form6 and verified their email. At 5 pm on 15th Dec'20, the election website was opened for e-polling and registered members started voting. Even though there were some hiccups regarding registering their email, members were able to successfully vote.

Regarding offline election, many contestants and members requested and suggested postponement of conducting the Election in view of prevailing pandemic conditions. Added to this, there was a sudden spurt of Covid cases reported at IIT Madras. While on-line voting was in progress from 5 PM (IST) of 15th Dec'20, a note on the detailed procedure (Covid Safety protocols) that was planned by AACEG in view of pandemic condition was released on 16th Dec'20. AACEG had also made arrangements like development of suitable Software, LAN computer systems, procurement of PPE, etc., to conduct the physical Poll on 19th Dec'20 at Alumni Centre as AACEG Office bearers & the Election Committee wanted to be sure that they are compliant with all statutory regulations regarding mass gathering of 500+ AACEG member-voters.

On Dec 17, 2020, AACEG Office Bearers and the Election Committee Convener visited the Registrar of Societies office to cross-check if on-line election is permitted, though our bye-laws mention only physical voting for election of the 29 members. The Registrar of Societies indicated that on-line Election is allowed under current pandemic condition provided it is conducted before 31st Dec'20 as per the internal circulation dated 2nd Nov'20 from GoTN to RoS. Otherwise, beyond this date only physical elections can be held.

There was also a notification from GoTN that there will be relaxations regarding gatherings taking place. However, one need to get permission from the Commissioner of Police (in view of the Covid related restrictions). On checking, we came to know, if we present our request, it will take not less than 10 days for them to scrutinize our application and approve the request.

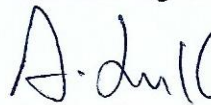
On Dec 17th 2020, the Secretary convened an Emergency EC meeting at a short notice at 3 PM to take a decision on cancelling the Election in view of the above constraints and only proceeding with the AGM on-line, as scheduled on 19th Dec'20. Understanding the gravity of present situation and constraints, the EC members approved the scrapping of Elections totally and it was further decided to go ahead with only the AGM in video conferencing mode. As no one was sure when the pandemic situation will improve and when elections can be held, it was decided to go for fresh elections when GoTN releases a suitable notification on improvement of pandemic conditions.

Accordingly, Online Election was also terminated at 4 PM on 17th Dec'20 as both on-line and off-line Elections need to be conducted around the same time so that that term of the members will be in effect from the same date onwards. The same was communicated to the Members by the Secretary through a communication on the election website (aacegelection.com) and it was also indicated to inform all the members through all the social media groups as well.

During the AGM conducted on 19th Dec'20 on virtual mode, the above facts were brought to the attention of all general body members present. It was agreed in the AGM that the present team of EC members would continue for 6 months till June 30th 2021 and a special EGM will be conducted before 30th April 2021 to decide on the date for conducting Elections. It was also decided all other related matters would be taken up for discussion / approval in the EGM.

This note is being sent to the members to clarify the decision made to cancel the Elections.

Thanks & Regards,


A. Siva Kumar
Secretary, AACEG



M. T. Ganesh Babu
Election Committee Convener, AACEG