

SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL (Deemed University)

Symbiosis Law School, Pune

NAAC 5.4.1- The Alumni Association/Chapters (registered and functional) contributes significantly to the development of the institution through financial and other support services during the last five years.

File Name: 5.4.1_SLSP_15-16_ Alumni Association.pdf

Sr. No	Details of Documents	No of Pages
1.	Alumni cell report	9
2.	Alumni meet report	4





॥ वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् ॥

SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE
CARE | COURAGE | COMPETENCE | COLLABORATION

ALUMNI COMMITTEE

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

2015-16

ANNUAL REPORT



॥ वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् ॥
SLS, PUNE

Alumni Committee and Cell Report 2015-2016

1. Objective/purpose of the Committee and Cell

The Alumni Committee of Symbiosis Law School, Pune is a dedicated faculty guided student body with a mandate to engage the Alumni of the college with the institution and to facilitate networking between the alumni. In furtherance of the mandate the committee organizes events at which the alumni can meet and interact both in the city of Pune and in other cities. The committee also regularly engages with the Alumni through emails and on social media platforms to ensure that the alumni feel that they are a part of the Symbiosis family. The committee has, in the last three years taken all efforts to integrate as many of the college's alumni as possible into the network and to ensure that all the students who have graduated in the last few years are also integrate into the network.

2. Present Structure & Functioning of the Committee and Cell (an internal demarcation and committee position based report along with reasons for the same)

The work of the Alumni committee can roughly be divided into two parts, the first being the networking wing which ensures that the college is in contact with as many of its alumni as possible and the second being the publications wing (Newsletter, New Bulletins and Yearbook) which ensures that the required information is available in proper form to communicate with the alumni at any given time.

The members of the committee are divided between these two groups at the beginning of the year and while all members contribute where they can for major events and the roles of some members may change during the course of the year this structure assigns primary responsibility and ensures that no task is left forgotten.

The members of the committee and cell for the year 2015-16 are follows with their specific roles:

S.NO.	Name	Position	Primary Role
1.	Bhavani Kumar	Head	General
2.	Diya Philipose	Co-Head	General and Publications
3.	Rupali Sarda	Co-Head	General and Networking

4.	Melisha Charles	Core Committee	Publications
5.	Prashansa Gokhale	Core Committee	Publications
6.	Sugandha Chowdhry	Core Committee	Networking
7.	Mayank Grover	Executive Member	Networking
8.	Rohit Singh	Executive Member	Publications
9.	Parvathy Nair	Executive Member	Publications
10.	Saurav Agarwala	Executive Member	Networking
11.	Shubham Bharti	Executive Member	Networking
12.	Snigdha Gautam	Executive Member	Publications
13.	Madangi Ramakrishnan	Executive Member	Publications
14.	Tanya Singh	Executive Member	Publications
15.	Krystle Maria John	Executive Member	Networking
16.	Aashima Bhatia	Executive Member	Networking
17.	Alamelu Venkatesh	Executive Member	Networking
18.	Disha Verma	Executive Member	Publications
19.	Saumya Srivastava	Executive Member	Networking
20.	Ishwar Pratap Singh	Executive Member	Networking
21.	Aditi Warriier	Invitee	Publications

Cell Members:

1.	Aprajita Singh	Member	Networking
2.	Gayathri Dabir	Member	Networking
	Paarth Chanchalani	Member	Publications
	Someny Singhal	Member	Publications
	Kanthi Visalakshi	Member	Networking
	Rithvik Mathur	Member	Publications
	Neha Reddy	Member	Networking
	Yukti Makan	Member	Publications
	Prasad Joshi	Member	Networking
	Sameer Madhavan	Member	Networking
	Pavani Gupta	Member	Networking
	Aswathi Vakkayil	Member	Publications



॥वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्॥

SLS, PUNE

(Handwritten signature)

	Vidith Mehra	I year (LLB)	Publications
--	--------------	--------------	--------------

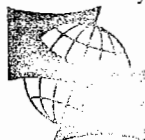
It can be noted that where possible the members have been equally divided between the two groups and between the two co-heads Diya was responsible for publication, having worked on publications in the previous year and Rupali for networking, as again it had been her primary contribution in the previous year. Among the other members the allotments were made on the basis of their preference (For example some members may not be comfortable talking on the phone but may be very good at written communication) and also the work that they have done in the past. New members are not allotted until a week after their induction to ensure that they can make a choice after having understood the entire process. Some members enter the committee for a specific purpose and they are allotted to the group that fulfils that objective the best, for example the alumni committee has started ensuring that there is always one member in the committee who is also a part of the placement cell, this member is always allotted to the networking team as that is where this connection with the placement cell would be of most use (current placement cell members-Asahima Bhatia and Alamelu Venkatesh).

3. Mentorship and Student Skill Development

The one skill set that all members of the Alumni Committee develop is networking skills. They all learn how to speak politely over the phone and how to speak to people they have just met for the first time. At the end of the year most of the members would have made a friend from among the alumni from having spoken to them so often and meet them once or twice during the year. A lot of Alumni who visit the college regularly often enquire after some of the committee members they used to meet before.

Some members like Saurav Agrawala was reluctant to speak to anyone on the telephone at the beginning of the year and by the time of the Alumni meet he was making some of the most crucial calls and event training others to make them. The members of the committee are encouraged to accept responsibility at an early stage, for example two of the second year students Saurav and Shubham took it upon themselves to organize the calling schedule for networking on themselves. They has previously trained for this task in their first year from the third year students who had worked on networking at that time. Aswathi, too was reluctant to have telephonic conversations, but over the time this has changed.

4. Targets set and achieved for the academic year (include even targets not achieved with reasons)



ASh

॥ वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् ॥

SLS, PUNE

In the month of August 2015 the committee drew up a calendar of new initiatives that it hoped to complete in the year 2015-16 and a rough timeline for each. The activities can be put into four broad heads:

- 1) Chapter Reunions
- 2) Industry Interaction
- 3) Continued Legal Education (CLE)
- 4) News Bulletins.

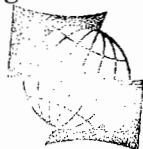
This was in addition to the existing function of the committee and cell, namely:

- 1) Teachers' Day
- 2) Convocation
- 3) Yearbook
- 4) Annual Alumni Meet
- 5) Annual Alumni Newsletter

- 1) The status/highlights of the above activities are as follows:

Teachers' Day 2015: The alumni committee organised Teachers' Day in co-ordination with the Co-Curricular committee. The in addition to organizing gifts, food and a cultural programme with games the committee conducted a teaching by students programme where some students volunteered to teach all the morning classes for the day. The committee recruited the volunteers and ensured that they were directed to the proper class and that they were aware of the syllabus that had to be taught. Apart from the two Co-heads, Sugandha was instrumental in co-ordinating the teaching programme. Also very active were, Tanya Singh and Madangi Ramakrishnan.

Chapter reunions: The first of the Chapter reunions was organised in the city of Mumbai on the 10th of October. This was the biggest experiment by the committee this semester. The reunion was organised at Bombay Barbeque in Khar. The turnout was better than expected, with around 50 people attending. The drawback was that the venue was too small and a better system needed to be set in place for billing. We will be looking to rectify these drawbacks in the next



reunion to be organized in Bangalore. A lot of credit for the event must go to the networking team, effectively headed by Saurav Agarwala. They simultaneously e-mailed and called all the alumni living and working in Mumbai and also organized the Alumni database which had until now concentrated on adding to the database and had not consolidated. The first year members, Disha, Saumya and Ishwar worked more for networking than any of the others in the committee. Another person who stood out at this event was Alamelu Venkatesh, she was in charge for co-ordinating with the restaurant and also proved to be very skilled at general networking during the reunion.

The original plan was to organise the Bangalore reunion in December and the Delhi reunion in April. The timing of the NAAC inspection made it difficult to have the Bangalore reunion in December and this will have to be pushed anywhere between the months of April-June depending on the academic calendar. The Delhi reunion will then move to next December. The most important of the chapter reunions will be Delhi as, after Bombay, Delhi has the highest concentration of Alumni and they have largely been left out of Alumni involvement activities due to distance. This is not a reunion to experiment with and after Bombay the committee still needs one more experiment and it would be better if that were in Bangalore.

At the end of the year it appears that the committee will be able to organize one reunion every semester and will not be able to do more, which means that there will be approximately one reunion in a city every two years.

Convocation: In 2014 the committee has organised a high tea at the Viman Nagar campus. This year due to the timing of the convocation committee restricted its role in printing and selling sweatshirts at Lavale.

Yearbook: The committee has received an excellent response to the yearbook questioners from the final year batch. The PR committee has been assisting in the preparation of a template for the year book. It will be ready in time for the farewell on the 28th of March.

Industry Interaction and CLE: When these two proposals were put before the Director she has a lot of suggestions to offer. For the Industry interaction we proposed to invite persons from different sectors of the legal industry to talk about the work they do so that current students could make informed carrier decisions. The Director suggested that this must work as a part of a larger brain-mapping exercise in which the potential of each student for different jobs will be recorded in the first year and resources provided accordingly. The committee was told to co-



ordinate with the Placement Cell for this project. Alamelu has undertaken some research on the project but no concrete proposal has been tabled as yet.

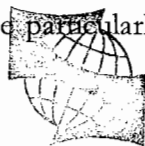
One activity that was conducted in coordination with the Placement Cell was a session with Mr. Manavendra Mishra, Senior Associate at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, in which he briefed students about the type of work undertaken by corporate law firms and advised the students to make a carrier choice based on what interests them and not the ranking of the firm. The session was very well received and the 4th year students who attended expressed that it aided them in deciding what internships to undertake in the future. They also expressed that they wished such sessions were conducted in the earlier years as well.

With respect to the proposal to conduct a CLE it was suggested to us that we first conduct a survey on what area the Alumni would like a CLE and based on that gather resource persons. We have not conducted a formal survey as yet, but while putting this question before Alumni at the Mumbai reunion and during the Surana moot, most alumni were reluctant to travel to Pune for a CLE session. When a survey was conducted during the Annual Alumni Meet, the Alumni practicing in the city of Pune were appreciative of the Lawyers training programme and suggested more along the same lines but we received little other responses.

News Bulletins/Lex Et distribution: This is a project that took some time to launch. The committee proposed to send out a brief news update/bulletin every time an event was conducted in college. We sent the first of the bulletins out to all the Alumni in the month of January after Law Day. The bulletin consisted of a Law Day report and an invitation to the Annual Alumni Meet and Symbhav. Now that the template is ready and the committee has an idea of what content needs to be sent out, a bulletin can be sent once every 3 months with the highlights from various events conducted and invitations to upcoming events.

Annual Alumni Meet and Newsletter: The Annual Alumni Meet was conducted on the 20th of March 2016 on the final day of the Symbiosis International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition (SICTA). The Chief Guest for the Meet was Hon. Justice Mohan Peiris, who was one of the Judges for the final round of the moot. The Alumni Newsletter was launched at the Meet. (A detailed report of the Meet has been attached).

NAAC: An unaccounted task for the committee and cell was the NAAC inspection. This was in two parts, the mock NAAC in October and the final peer team inspection in November and December. The Mock was soon after the Bombay reunion and right before the semester, but a few members of the committee particularly Sugandha and Saurav were able to help to gather



वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

SLS, PUNE

Alumni and Industry persons for the mock. For the final inspection the committee was in full force, helping with the interactions and getting the college ready for the inspection. Particular reference must be made for Prashansa, who was instrumental in organizing the interactions.

5. Comparative Growth Analysis

The last three years have been ones of rapid growth for the committee and cell. The strength of the committee has increased as has its roles and responsibilities. The committee and cell which used to earlier undertake only one Annual Meet and a Newsletter and network only by way of phone calls and e mails has now started chapter reunions, periodic news bulletins and networking through personal visits and social media. In the last three years the number of Alumni who are willing to assist the college and who regularly participate in college activities has seen a tremendous increase with the assistance of our Alumni Convener, Mr.Sampath Bulusu. This has greatly helped in assisting with placements (Sahrdul Amarchand, Airtel and United Phosphorus are some examples), guest lectures and Moot Court Activities.

The committee is experimenting with a lot of new ideas at the moment. The committee still has to undertake a few more before it can decide what will work best for the institution's networking.

6. Faculty Engagement

The Alumni Committee and cell has always recognized the importance of faculty involvement with Alumni networking. The Faculty, more than anyone else is the closes we get to constants in the college. It is for this that for all events and activities the committee consults with not only the alumni faculty-in-charge but also with all faculty who are alumni of the college and the members of faculty who have been with the college for many years, this has helped with connecting to the alumni from their batches and gather more information about the activities and achievement of the alumni who sometimes keep their old teachers informed.

This year, in addition to the Alumni faculty-in-charge Prof. Gireesh Abhyankar, Prof. Munnazzar Ahmed and Prof. Chaitra Benavar, the committee relied greatly on Prof. Swapnil Bangali who not only came with us for the Mumbai reunion but also assisted with networking during the Annual Alumni Meet.

7. Vision for the Future



The biggest change that the Alumni Committee and Cell will see next year will be with regards to the new alumni digital platform from Coherendz Technologies. This software company has a product dedicated to alumni networking and it sets up a website and integrates with all social media platforms like Linked in, Facebook and twitter to ensure the growth of our database. The database will also be categorised based on location and work profile of the alumni and all those registered on this platform will be able to access the database.

The set-up of the platform will take approximately two months after which the committee can concentrate on increasing the number of alumni interaction activities as the job of database building and maintenance becomes much easier.

There are some activities that had been planned for the year 2015-16 which the committee and cell was not able to execute this year that have to be integrated into the alumni committee's activities. The most important of these will be to have at least one industry interaction session in collaboration with one of the cell of the college every month. The committee and cell also need to increase on its social media presence which is not as active as can be expected. All major college activities have to be announced on the alumni Facebook page as it is the easiest way to keep the alumni informed.

One major problem faced by the committee this year was that the bulk e mail sent from the alumni id often landed in the spam folder of the recipient. This problem will be taken care of by Coherendz as the platform included 40,000 e mail credits.

The committee and cell will have to continue with the Chapter Meets and organize a minimum of one reunion every semester. In addition the format of the Annual Meet will also have to change, to make it a weekend, rather than a one day plan. The committee will also have to consider hosting the Annual Meet between the months of August-November. (details in the attached alumni committee report).



REPORT- ALUMNI MEET 2016

The Annual Alumni Meet for the year 2016 was organized on the 20th of March 2016. The Meet was organized alongside the Symbiosis International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition (SICTA).

SELECTION OF DATE

The idea behind conducting the meet along with SICTA was twofold, the first being that the attendees of the meet will be able to attend two events on their visit to Pune and the second is that since most of the preliminary round judges and Semi-final judges for SICTA are alumni, it will be a good opportunity for them to meet the other alumni and they might also help augment the attendance at the meet.

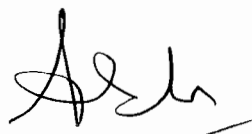
NETWORKING EFFORTS

The Alumni Committee informed the existing database of Alumni of the meet in **the month of January** and then continued to periodically call and e-mail them to remind them of the meet. The one new initiative by the committee for the publicity of the meet was to pay for a **boost of a post on Facebook**. We were informed by some of the Alumni that this was very effective in ensuring that everyone was aware of the meet. In the month of March, some members of the committee **visited the District Court of Pune** to invite all our alumni practicing there personally. Adv. Rahul Gundecha was of great assistance during these visits as he helped link us to many alumni.

When we started with our networking efforts we noticed that there were several groups of alumni with whom we had connected with this academic year, the two largest groups being the people we connected with during the preparation for NAAC and the alumni we meet at the Mumbai Reunion. The students who had interacted with these alumni the most called and invited them for the meet.

RESPONSE AT THE MEET

In the first week of March we had more than 60 confirmations by both telephone and e-mail but these numbers gradually reduced as people informed us that they will not be able to attend as their commitments at work increased due to the dates being close to the end of the financial year.



The meet saw the attendance of more than 40 alumni, primarily those residing in Mumbai and Pune. The programme consisted of an address by the Director and Dr. Abhjeet Deshpande, Officiating Registrar and Director, Board of University Development, Symbiosis International University followed by an address by the Chief Guest for the event, Hon. Mohan Peiris, Former Chief Justice & Attorney General, Sri Lanka. The Annual Alumni Newsletter was released by all the dignitaries and an announcement was made regarding the launch of an Alumni Networking digital platform which will help increase the alumni database and also allow the alumni to access the entire database online. The meet ended with a photo screening of the photographs collected by the committee of the older batches.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The response for the Annual Meet confirms that the months from February-April are not ideally suited to host the Annual Meet. When the committee organised the Mumbai reunion in the month of October, it was better received. The response from the Alumni during the meet and during the networking conducted for the meet was also that the months of August-October would be better suited for the Annual Meet.

With regards to the events conducted during the meet, the feedback was positive, but the suggestion put forth by the Director that a meet could be held at a holiday location close to Pune was more favoured by the Alumni than a continuation of the current format. Another suggestion by the Alumni was that, if the Meet had to be held in Pune that it be organized in two parts, the first being a tour of old parts of the city with some of the current students and faculty followed by an informal gathering and the second part being the formal lunch on Sunday. The idea behind this is that the college host the Alumni for the weekend and not just one afternoon. A majority of the Alumni also said that they would prefer it if the meets were conducted in different cities and not just in Pune.

Based on the feedback from the Alumni, the decisions that have to be taken for future Alumni activities are as follows:

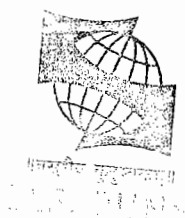
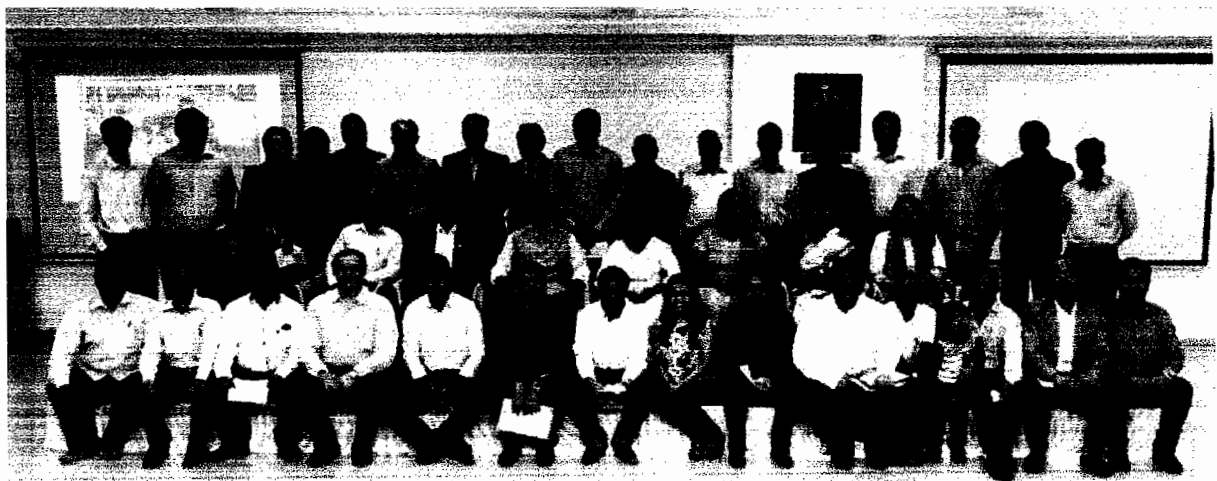
- 1) Should the Annual Meet be conducted in Pune or at a different city?
- 2) Should the Annual Meet be in Pune with chapter meets in different cities?
- 3) How many Alumni Meets should be conducted in a year?
- 4) If there continues to be a Meet in Pune, what should the format be? kk

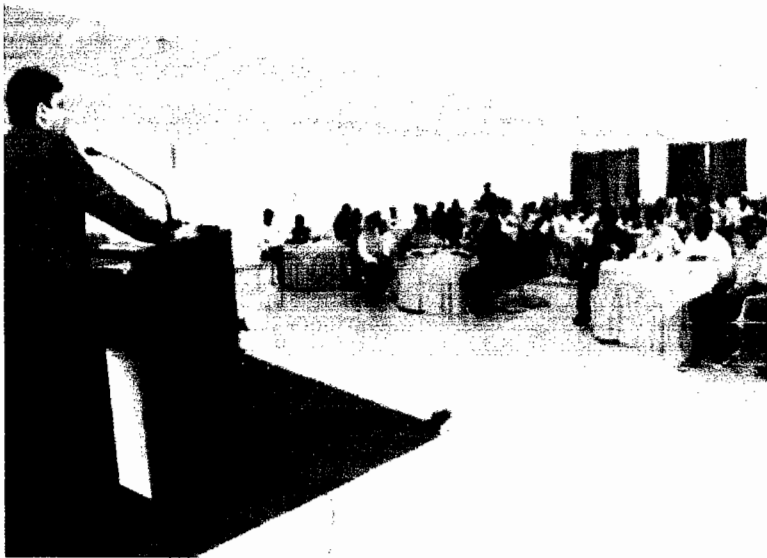


When we put these question to Adab Singh Kappor, a graduate of the 2009 batch and the President of the first Students' Council. he recommended that the college should continue to host only one nationwide meet and not dilute the attendance at this meet by organizing chapter meets at different cities, however he also acknowledged that if people still do not take the effort to come to Pune the college loses out on networking potential gained by having chapter meets. Based on the response received this academic year for the Mumbai reunion and the Annual Meet in Pune, the recommendation of the committee is that the college continues to host city based chapter meets and one meet in Pune, but at a different time of the year.

If we host one Chapter meet a semester and the cities we host it at are Mumbai, New Delhi and Bangalore then there will be approximately one reunion every two years in these three cities. This might reduce the attendance at the Annual Meet. While it is true that the Mumbai Reunion may have reduced the enthusiasm of some of the Alumni to come to Pune, the attendance at the Mumbai reunion was approximately 50 alumni, of whom many like Vinayak Burman and Rohit Kumar were well placed professionally. It would be a risk to not continue holding chapter reunions with the hope that the attendance at the Annual Meet will increase. Rather if the Annual Meet is at a time that is convenient the Alumni whom we integrated into the network during the reunions might be more inclined to come for the meet.

This was drawn after analysing the feedback received from the Alumni.





ASh