



A Proposal for a Newsletter

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Introduction:

After the inception of the *AAUPOC*, during the last past year, some discussions were held on publishing a *Newsletter* for the benefit of the members-at-large. Such a document would provide members with news on the completed annual activities and achievements of their association, projected programs for the future, activities of the Alumni around the world and those of the members and their families. In addition, this document could provide a platform to exhibit talents of the members and their families through stories, poems and articles related to their memories of the university, their motherland or in general, through expressions of human emotions which could inspire, bring philosophical insight, joy, humour or nostalgia to the reader. Undoubtedly, the success of the publication will depend on the enthusiastic and willing contributions from the membership.

Objectives:

1. To design a publication to report the activities/events by the AAUPOC in the middle of each year (six months into the AAUPOC year after the AGM). Such a publication is expected to capture the events/activities of the second half of the previous AAUPOC year and the first half of the on-going year. Also, it could assist to de-clutter the AAUPOC website, which has a link to publish each of them individually.
2. Inform the membership on new projected programs for the future, to encourage their participation and solicit their suggestions.
3. To provide a forum for the members and their families to contribute to the *Newsletter* of their association while exhibiting their individual talents.
4. If successful (based on the willing contributions from the membership), to provide a platform to generate revenue (through sponsorship of readers and their contacts) to meet the mandate of the association.

Overview/Background:

Based on the links that appear on the AAUPOC Website, the following were noted with respect to a *Newsletter* for each (linked) Chapter of the University of Peradeniya:

- *Peradeniya and Colombo Chapters*: Long standing publications
- *Victoria Chapter*: Publications from 2008 to 2013
- *The Western Australia, New South Wales, New Zealand Chapters*: Not published a *Newsletter* as of 2014, however, the *Western Australia Chapter* has a page for creative writing, and *New South Wales Chapter* has a page for articles.
- *Canberra Chapter*: Carries a page named as *Nostalgia* to publish articles (creative or factual)

Technical Approach:

Preparations:

1. Propose to the 2015 Executive Committee (EC) (at a meeting) to publish a *Newsletter* (NL) annually which could eventually convert to a biannual publication based on the extent of contributions from the membership towards the first publication (President).
2. Upon agreement of the EC, write to the membership to seek consensus to participate in publishing the NL by providing articles (factual information or creative writing), news items etc., and solicit general interest on the proposed NL (President).
3. Based on the final decision, design the template (Editor).
4. Prepare the Table of Contents in consultation with the Executive Committee (EC) members (Editor).
5. For the title of the NL, request suggestions from the membership (a competitive process leading to a winning title; prize is yet to be decided)(President in consultation with the EC)

Implementation:

1. For the first edition, assign EC members to write (President).
2. Suggestions will be requested from the general membership and their families to contribute articles (of their choice), and news items related to the Peradeniya University (President and the EC members).
3. The submitted items will be screened for their quality and acceptable content (Editor).
4. The documents could be written in either Sinhala, English or in Tamil. Edit each article for the language or request assistance for editing, if the language in an article is not familiar (Editor).
5. Format the NL(Editor)
6. Circulate among the EC members for consensus with a specific time line for comments/suggestions to improve (constructive criticism) (Secretary).
7. Post the NL on Website (Editor).
8. Inform the membership with the link (Secretary).