



AAFL PROGRESS REPORT

21 May 2022

The Alumni Association of the Faculty of Law (AAFL) was established in March 1998, 24 years ago. Its establishment was a concept of late Justice Mark Fernando, and a number of exemplary members of the Alumni were involved in founding it. Since then the Association has had many exemplary alumni as its office bearers. Except for few years of intermittent interruptions, the Association was functioning well in various manners to materialize its objectives, primarily aimed at the betterment of the undergraduates, the Faculty staff and at building the fellowship among its members.

After being dormant for some time, the current office bearers of the Association came to office in April 2021, in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, in spite of the unfavorable conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Association was able to conduct many programmes for the betterment of the Faculty, it's staff, undergraduates and the members of the Association.

The challenging tasks of the present ExCo included the proper establishment of the functioning of the Association. The proposals suggested at the inception of our term varied from primary matters such as having an official logo, official email, official Website, social media profile, and holding regular ExCo meetings to more advanced matters such as conducting career guidance programmes, academic webinars, launching a AAFL newsletter, a scholarship or a needy-student assistance programme. The ExCo had to prioritize matters out of these.

In order to place the matters in order, we started with scraps. As a preliminary step, we decided to invite students of the Faculty to participate in a logo-design competition to design a Logo for

the Association. Among the received Logo designs, one was selected by the ExCo as the Logo of the Association and offered the best logo designer and other participants with letters of appreciation letter and a small award.

As another preliminary step to popularize the work of AAFL among the undergraduates and encourage their engagement, the ExC also held a introductory webinar for the students of the Faculty, which received a part good response, hundreds of students attending the webinar.

ExCo took steps to improve the membership of the Association and all the members of the Executive Committee worked for the same. As a result of that we could add close to 40 new members for the Association. The total number of the membership of the Association is now close to 150. Much work is needed to be done to get more Alumni to join the Association.

We have conducted a successful Webinar Series organized by the Association's career guidance committee, assisted by the Faculty's Career Guidance Unit, and more than a two dozen legal luminaries who have excelled in the profession participated and shared their experience with the students, providing them a glimpse of future career prospects. The Committee including Justice Marsoof, Mrs. Alagaratnam and Dr. Sumanadasa did a very good job.

ExCo could assist the undergraduates in providing some financial assistance to most needy students. Even though we did not by hen have a proper system for same, we could manage this over the assistant of the members of the ExCo.

From the inception, the ExCo has been very much concerned about helping the neediest students of the Faculty in their educational prospects. I am proud and very much delighted to inform you today that, in realizing this essential task, in January this year we were able establish the "AAFL Education Trust". The objectives of the AAFL Education Trust include: advancing the knowledge and education of the less privileged undergraduates of the FoL, and providing scholarships, equipment, facilities, accommodation and/or general economic support to such students. At a time the Faculty of Law is celebrating its 75th Anniversary of its establishment, there is no doubt, it will be written in the history of the Faculty and of the Alumni Association, that the establishment of this Trust is a historically landmark event. During the past week the Trustees got together and had

its first meeting to place everything in order. The coming ExCo will have to do lot of activities to raise funds for the Trust.

The Website of the Alumni Association (alumni.lawuoc.lk) is under construction and will be accessible to you very soon. It will provide the students and the Alumni access to the necessary information as to how they can benefit from what is made available to them by our Association. Its events are also announced in its social media accounts, especially on its Facebook page.

The ExCo has proposed few Constitutional Amendments to the Constitution of the Association and same was sent to you with the Notices of the AGM. We propose these amendments today and I hope these amendments are necessary.

It was a challenging time and we were prevented by the pandemic in conducting activities physically, especially much needed internship programmes. The students were also engaged in online learning and we were advised that they were occupied with academic activities remotely, forcing us to postpone some activities till the policy established.

I greatly appreciate the assistance given to me by all in the Executive Committee, and the Dean of the FoL, in making our efforts a success.

A.A.M.Illiyas, PC.

President AAFL.