

August 03, 2003

All Heads/CCCC members,

As you are aware, CC maintains a mailing list of faculty in each department. There are lists like eefc, mefc, etc., and you can send them mails to all faculty of your department through this.

There have been several requests to us about the membership of these lists. The specific problems are:

1. A faculty member with joint appointment in two departments is included in one list and not the other (since our account management software only can handle one association of an individual).
2. Some departments want retired faculty to be on the list, while others don't. Right now, retired faculty members are on the list.
3. Some departments want short-term faculty appointees to be on the list, some don't. Right now, they are on the list.
4. Sometimes we have been approached by faculty members who are on long leave to remove them from the mailing list. Unfortunately, we can't do this right now.

The only reasonable way to take care of all requests is to maintain these lists manually, and not generate them automatically.

We have created a mailing list for faculty of each department on our list server, and informed the CCCC coordinator of the department of the list-owner's passwords. This was about 2 months ago. The idea was that each department could manage the membership and policy of its own faculty list in whatever way they like. This would even stop spamming on these lists, since lists on our list server are restrictive from the point of view of posting. You can control not just the membership, but also who all can post to it (like you may want only faculty members on the list to post, or you allow a few others to post, or you may allow everyone to post, or you may have some default and say other postings have to be approved). You also get archives, and many such benefits.

To post to these lists, you need to send an email to
<list-name>@lists.iitk.ac.in, instead of <list-name>@iitk.ac.in

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I encourage all of you to start using list-server based lists, and start maintaining your own lists, particularly if you do not like the default constitution of these lists.

Thanks,

-dheeraj

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