

Minutes of 36th Meeting of the Academic Council

Date: 20/04/2024 (Saturday) at 10.00 a.m.

Venue: Chancellor's Board Room, VFSTR

**Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and
Research**

Vadlamudi, Guntur

Andhra Pradesh- 522213

MINUTES OF THE 36th MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 20th April, 2024. (Physical and Virtual)

The members of Academic Council met on 20th April, 2024 at 10:00 AM in the Chancellor's Board Room, A-Block. Prof. P. Naga Bhushan, Vice-Chancellor of VFSTR chaired the meeting. The following members were present:

1. Prof. P. Nagabhusan, Vice-Chancellor, VFSTR : Chairman
2. Prof. Sreenivasa Kumar (virtual participation)
Professor, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras : External Member
3. Dr. M. Shanti Swarup (virtual participation)
Director of Engineering, Math Works, Hyderabad : External Member
4. Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra, (virtual participation)
Director, NITTTTR, Kolkata : External Member
5. Dr. K Subbarangaiah, (virtual participation)
Director & Professor, Veda IIT : External Member
6. Prof. P.M.V. Rao
Dean, AAA : Permanent Invitee
7. Prof. D. Vijayaramu
Dean, Promotion, Collaborations &
Faculty Affairs : Member
8. Prof. K.V. Krishna Kishore
Dean, SCI, Dean - Admissions and Recruitment
HoD, Dept. of CSE : Member
9. Prof. G. Srinivasa Rao,
Dean, R&D : Member
10. Dr. M.S.S. Rukmini; Dean - Student Affairs : Member
11. Dr. Sk. Jakeer Hussain
Dean, Infrastructure, Planning and Monitoring : Member
12. Dr. Vijay Krishna, Dean - T&P
Dean School of Law and Management : Member
13. Prof. N.Usha Rani, Dean, SEECE : Member
14. Prof. Y. Ravi Shekhar, Dean, Technology and Development : Member
15. Prof. N Srinivas, Dean, SAS&H : Member
16. Prof. T. Ramesh Babu, Dean, SAFT and Director AHS : Member
17. Prof. A. Sharada, Dean, International Students : Member
18. Prof. D. Venkatesulu, HoD, Dept. of ACSE and
Joint Dean SCI : Member

19. Prof. N. Veeranjaneeyulu, HoD, Dept. of IT, Director, CDOE : Member
20. Dr.N Narayana Rao, HoD, AE : Member
21. Prof. T.C. Vekateswarlu, HoD, Bio Technology : Member
22. Dr. M. Kartikeyan, HoD, Civil Engineering : Member
23. Prof. T. Pitchaiah, HoD, ECE : Member
24. Dr. PVS Shoban, HoD, EEE : Member
25. Mr.T.Ch .Anil Kumar
HoD, Mech.Engg. : Member
26. Prof. Sarita Sathpathy, HoD, MBA : Member
27. Dr.Ch.Jithendra,
HoD, Pharamceutical Sciences : Member
28. Prof. G .Sitaramanjeaya Reddy, HoD, BME : Member
29. Prof. P.L.N.Varma, Professor,
Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics : Member
30. Prof. M. Sreenivasulu, HoD, Physics : Member
31. Prof. G. Mohanacharyulu, HoD, English : Member
32. Prof. Koya Prabhakar Rao, HoD, Chemistry : Member
33. Prof. K. Kalpana, Interim Director, LAW : Member
34. Dr.D Adam Stephen, HoD SS&H : Member
35. Prof. K Venkat Rao, Prof of Mech. Engg. : Member
36. Prof. V. Radha Krishna Murthy, Prof of Mathematics : Member
37. Prof. J. Nitchal Kiran, Prof of Physics : Member
38. Prof. P. Ashok Kumar, Prof of Chemical Engg. : Member
39. Prof. B. Nageswara Rao, Prof of Mech. Engg : Member
40. Prof. M. Sarada, Prof of ECE : Member
41. Prof.N.Satya Sree, Prof. of Chemistry : Member
42. Prof.B.Srinivasa Rao, Prof. of MBA : Member
43. Prof.A Siva Sankar, Prof. of Civil Engg. : Member

44. Prof.D John Babu, Prof.of Bio-Technology : Member
45. Dr. S.V Phani Kumar, Assoc.Prof. of Chemistry : Member
46. Dr. Ananda Goswami, Assoc Prof of Chemistry : Member
47. Dr.Shaik Anwar, Assoc.Prof. of Chemistry : Member
48. Dr. P. Joshua Reginald, Asst. Prof of ECE : Member
49. Dr. Ch. Siva Koteswara Rao, Asst. Prof of IT : Member
50. Cmde. Dr. MS Raghunathan, Registrar, VFSTR : Ex-Offcio Secretary
51. Dr Susanta Kumar Satpathy : Special Invitee
Professor & Director - Polytechnic Education
52. Dr.N.S.Sampath Kumar, Joint Dean, AAA ; Special Invitee

Leave of Absence: The following members have taken the leave of absence

53. Dr. M. Ramakrishna, Dean - IQAC : Member
Director IQAC & Dean, School of Core Engineering
54. Prof. M. Ramesh Naidu, HoD, Dept. of Chem. Engg. : Member
55. Dr. S. Deva Kumar, Asst. Prof. of CSE : Member
56. Dr. K. Santi Sree, Assoc. Prof of IT : Member
57. Dr. P. Shiva Prasad, Assoc. Prof. of CSE : Member
58. Dr. N. Ananda Rao, Asst. Prof, Dept of ECE : Member
59. Dr. G. Nageswarara Rao, Assoc. Prof of S&H : Member
60. Dr.R.Balasubramanian : External Member
Prof.Dept.of CSE Engg, IIT Roorkee
61. Er.D. Ramakrishna, : External Member
MD, Efftronics, Vijaywada

Minutes of the 36th Meeting of the Academic Council

Date: 20/04/2024 [Saturday] at 10:00 a.m.

Item	
	<p>Welcoming the members of Academic Council by the Registrar. The meeting commenced with welcome remarks of the Chair, Prof. P. Nagabhushan who directed the Registrar to formally initiate the proceedings of the meeting. The Registrar welcomed the members of the 36th Academic Council Meeting and commenced the deliberations.</p>
I	<p>Confirmation of the Minutes of 35th Academic Council meeting held on 16th December, 2023. Minutes of Meeting enclosed.</p>
36/01	<p>The Registrar read out the following salient features of the previous Academic Council meeting held on 16th December, 2023:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval for the commencement of B.Tech. Textile Technology from the academic year 2024-25. 2. Approval for the increase of intake strength of B.Tech. from the academic year 2024-25. <p>After deliberation, the Council approved the minutes of 35th Academic Council meeting.</p>
II	<p>Action taken on the decisions of previous AC meeting (35th) held on 16-12-23. The concerned executives presented the actions taken and the members were satisfied with the actions taken.</p>
36/02	<p>Action point 1. Er.D. Ramakrishna, External Member should be the member of BoS to be conducted in future for discussing the electives and minor courses in 5G Technology. Action taken report: Dean T&D stated that a full-fledged IoT lab would be established by the coming week. The Dean stated that he attended a meeting of all south zone institutes at IIT Madras and inputs were taken. Six members of the ECE department were trained by Department of Telecommunications, Government of India. The Dean T&D stated that a when everything is ready, a special BoS will be conducted before June 2024 and Er. D. Ramakrishna will be invited to the BoS for discussing the electives and minor courses in 5G Technology.</p> <p>Action point 2. In-house workshop should be conducted to motivate the B.Tech. students to join M.Tech. (IoT). Action taken report: HoD, ECE responded that workshop on IoT and Digital Technologies titled “Digital Technologies for Industry 4.0/5.0 Automation” was conducted during 23rd and 24th March, 2024 with Dr. K. Murali Krishna as the resource person. Prior to the conduct of this workshop, two workshops on IoT applications were conducted the first one being “Product Design (Application Specific System) Case Studies on IoT Applications” (held on 15th and 16th September 2023). The second workshop was titled “Real Time Application Specific Minimum System Design on IoT Applications” (held on 10th and 11th November 2023) for which Dr. Y. Srinivasa Rao, (Vice-Principal, Dean R&D of Sardar Patel Institute of Technology and Director, Go Green Technologies Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai) had attended as the resource person. The HoD further informed that IoT as department elective will be offered for the final year program.</p>

III	Agenda Items,for Discussion and Approval
36/03	<p>1. Commencement of Pharm.D (Doctoral) program [with maximum intake strength of 30 students] and M. Pharmacy (PG) program [with a maximum intake strength of 15 students by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences from the AY 2024-25. (presented by Dr. K. Satish Kumar representing HoD Pharmaceutical Sciences)</p> <p>Dr. K. Satish Kumar from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, VFSTRU stated that his department has taken an initiative to commence two new programs (a) Doctor of Pharmacy [Pharm.D] with an intake of 30 students and (b) Master of Pharmacy [Pharmaceutics Specialization] with an intake of 15 students. The two programs were approved by the 7th BoS meeting held on 8-2-24. Doctor of Pharmacy, being a 6-year clinical oriented program can be successfully run with the active MoUs of VFSTRU with Aditya Multispeciality Hospital, Lalitha Super speciality Hospital and Ramesh Hospitals (all in Guntur).</p> <p>The HoD stated that with the growing demand from the foreign students and students from other states of India, the proposal to commence PG program in Pharmacy was put forth. The PG students from the course can be dovetailed for research with no additional provision of infrastructure for research activities of Ph.D. program. He informed the members that Pharm.D was an yearly program which trains for pharmacology and pharmacy practice. There is a high demand for this program with 100% of seats being filled in the all the neighbouring pharmacy colleges (seventy percent seats through counselling and thirty percent seats filled under management quota).</p> <p>The various job avenues for the students finishing this course was presented along with five-year curriculum, requisite infrastructure and fee structure.</p> <p>Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra questioned the terminology of “clerkship” and received the clarification that it was the equivalent to that of “apprenticeship” in non-Pharma courses. Prof. Mishra questioned on the absence of T and P ratio in the curriculum for which the Dr. K. Satish Kumar stated that in some contexts it was 50+50 while some follow the ratio like 40+60 as T and P distribution respectively.</p> <p>Prof. Sreenivasa Kumar enquired on the reason for implementing yearly based curriculum instead of semester system, Dr. K. Satish Kumar responded that this yearly academic plan was prescribed by Pharmacy Council of India.</p> <p>The Chair questioned on the possibility of changing the academic plan into semester wise plan for which Dr. K. Satish Kumar responded that they can try to modify the same. Responding to the query on qualification, Dr. Satish Kumar mentioned that students who passed plus two from both M.P.C. and Bi.P.C. streams were eligible for admission into this program. Dean Admissions intervened to clarify that 90% of seats would be filled under Category A and 10% of seats would be filled under Category B. The qualifying exams like EAPCET and VSAT shall be considered however, seats will be allotted even to those who do not qualify the entrance test as well.</p> <p>The Chair questioned on the drop out rate in these courses and in case of drop out from this course would there be any exit benefit for the students as like awarding them B.Pharmacy or D.Pharmacy degrees. The External members expressed their agreement with the Chair in this respect.</p>

Prof. Subbarangaiah sought clarification whether D.Pharmacy was equivalent to M.Pharmacy, and Dr. Satish Kumar responded in affirmative. He stated that the curriculum was designed to suit the industrial needs. He stated that for executing these two programs, 36 faculty were needed comprising 08 professors, 07 Associate Professors and 21 Assistant Professors and then presented the proposal to recruit 10 faculty. The Chair questioned the plan of increasing the faculty strength from 09 faculty to 36 faculty and advised for a more cautious planning in this respect.

Prof. Mishra sought more details on the curriculum presented for which Dr. Satish Kumar stated that it was an outcome-based curriculum. The Chair sought for clarification on the possible flexibility to modify the syllabus for VFSTRU being a deemed to be university.

Dr. Shanti Swaroop enquired on the state of market demand for these courses i.e. the current demand to absorb the students as scientists and regular staff. He appreciated the MoUs with hospitals but stated that scaling the faculty to the mentioned level shall be a challenging affair.

Decision: The Academic Council decided that the decision on the commencement of the above-said courses should be deferred to the next ACM after a more comprehensive preparation and presentation by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

2. Examination Results of AY 2023-24, I Semester. (Presented by Dean AAA)

Dean AAA presented the 1st semester results of I, II, III and IV B.Tech. for the academic year 2023-24 which were 92.21%, 89.82%, 91.98% and 96.34% respectively. The Dean stated that the results of the academic year 2023-24 was higher when compared to the previous years as five percent in the first year; 7% in the second year; 2% in the third year. The Dean rationalised the increment in the pass percentage by stating that the faculty and students have adjusted to the R22 curriculum and the success of LTP system.

Dr. Shanti Swaroop questioned if the results were median scores or average for which the Dean mentioned that were aggregate or total pass percentage. He further clarified that the results were referred to, verified and approved by Evaluation Standards Committee.

The Dean also presented the results of BBA, BCA, B.Sc., B.A. L.L.B., BBA L.L.B., MBA, MCA, M.Sc. (Chemistry), M.Sc. (Organic Chemistry), Polytechnic Diploma and M.Tech.

Prof. Subbarangaiah enquired on the drop in the results of Polytechnic course for which Dean AAA answered that the students were not able to cope with Maths subject and as a remedy, additional remedial classes were conducted. Prof. Subbarangaiah stated that feedback from the diploma students should be obtained. Dr. Shanti Swaroop stated that results were good and consistent. The Chair directed the Dean to find out the real causes behind the drop of the results and initiate remedial measures.

Decision: The examination results of academic year 2023-24, first semester was approved by the Academic Council.

3. Approval in principle for Integrated M.Tech. by Research and Ph.D. programs in ACSE. (presented by HoD, ACSE)

HoD, ACSE presented to commence Ph.D. program in AI&ML, Cyber Security, Data Science, Computer Science & Business Systems and IoT. The HoD also sought for the approval to commence M.Tech. by Research by presenting under the following heads:

- (a) Profile of the department
- (b) Faculty
- (c) Qualification of the Faculty
- (d) Research Scholars
- (e) Research areas
- (f) Research infrastructure
- (g) Publications by faculty
- (h) Publications by students
- (i) Faculty contribution in research
- (j) Seed grant projects
- (k) Program wise students' strength

The HoD stated that this program shall be beneficial for students in the future.

Dr. Shanti Swaroop stated that there should be more emphasis on modern aspects of the course. Prof. Sreenivasa Kumar queried on the projected intake, duration of the course which is less and whether any support received in the form of fellowship. He also queried on the possibility of faculty of this school guiding the students from other schools. The Chair responded that the course was inter disciplinary and students from other schools also can be guided by the faculty of ACSE.

Prof. Sreenivasa Kumar directed that course duration should be extended for which the Chair stated that the minimum duration would be two years and the maximum duration shall be four years. The Chair also stated that research fellowships were available and the students of this program would be employed as Teaching Assistants for their financial benefit. The Chair answered to the query of exit benefit saying that if the student secures 64 credits he shall be awarded M.Tech. degree. The Chair mentioned about the intake as three to four students per guide. Prof. Subbarangaiah stated that the number of students allotted to guide should depend on the qualification of the faculty. The Chair clarified that personnel from industry would be exempted from attendance however, they would be expected to research on exploratory topics. The Chair guided the Dean R&D to provide all the required information to the External Members. The Chair also stated that six courses shall have six credits in each course. Till now there were no registrations into this program.

Prof. Subbarangaiah advised to popularise this course.

Decision: The proposal to commence Integrated M.Tech. by Research and Ph.D programs in the Department of ACSE was approved in principle by the Academic Council.

IV	Agenda Items for Information
36/04	<p>1. Status of Research Activities (presented by Dean R&D)</p> <p>Dean R&D informed the new policy to stimulate the culture of quality research in VFSTRU. A committee was constituted comprising Prof. L.M. Patnaik (Member, Executive Council), Prof. Sreenivasa Kumar (Member, Academic Council) and Prof. Balasubramanian Rama (Member, Academic Council) to recommend the measures to be taken to encourage research activity in the university. As per the recommendations of the committee, Career Development Fund (CDF) and Contingency Fund (CF) were instituted. The Dean discussed the provision of Career Development Fund (CDF) i.e. an amount of Rs. 3,00,000 shall be granted once to each researching faculty in a period of three years. This fund shall support the faculty for the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To participate in conferences/workshops at national and international levels. (b) To attend Faculty Development Programs (FDPs). (c) To meet the charges for open access publication (for Q1 journals only) (d) To meet professional membership fee. (e) To meet patent filing fee. <p>The Dean also discussed the Contingency Grant (CG) which were meant to be incurred on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To procure basic research needs like chemicals, consumables, fabrication and meet the testing and analyses related expenses of research work. (b) To procure stationery items. (c) Travel expenses related to field work, including the hiring of vehicles and paying labour charges. <p>The Dean discussed the research progress in the university in the following heads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Research focus areas (b) H-Index (c) Publications (d) Funded research projects (e) Patents (f) Projects submitted 2024 (g) Citations (2021-24) <p>The external members expressed their satisfaction on the ongoing research activity in the university. Prof. Sreenivasa Kumar sought the department and faculty wise publications to be presented separately. Prof. Mishra advised the Dean to focus on product development that brings benefit to the local people. Responding to the advice of Prof. Mishra, Dean R&D stated that seed grant (amounting to Rs. 5,00,000) would be granted to the aspiring faculty and under this plan, his office received 18 proposals till date. He also mentioned the DST funded Incubation Centre in the university which is yet to be established.</p> <p>When Dr. Shanti Swaroop queried on the five-year road map for research in VFSTRU, the Dean responded that in the coming five years, ten Centres of Excellence should be established in the areas including AI&ML and Robotics.</p>

Prof. Subbarangaiah appreciated the research activity and advised to focus on government grants. He also advised to increase the CDF above Rs. 3,00,000.

2. Minor Revision of R22 Curriculum (presented by Dean AAA)

Dean AAA stated that as per the changing requirements and owing to the directives of UGC/AICTE/ABET/NEP it was decided to introduce certain courses at various levels. Gender Sensitization, Indian Knowledge System (branch specific), Universal Human Values were proposed to be introduced as Audit courses. Courses like Cyber Security, Professional Ethics and Design Thinking should be introduced as main courses.

The Dean also discussed the decision to make all courses of B.Tech. first year common to all branches to cope with the administrative related problems like delayed admissions etc. Provision of more credits to computational and basic sciences was also discussed by the Dean. The Dean presented the credit distribution for various categories and courses. The Dean stated that additional course in Maths would be introduced along with the existing M1, M2 and P&S. Chemistry and Physics shall be taught commonly to all the branches. The Dean presented the course structure for I year M.P.C. and I year Bi.P.C. students. The Dean also presented on course analysis and award of Class/Division. In this context, Prof. Mishra stated that IKS should be department specific. Prof. Subbarangaiah advised to integrate the teaching of Indian Constitution and the election conducting process.

3. Review and updation of Qualification Criteria for Admission into B.Tech. (Agriculture Engineering) Program. (presented by Dr. Ashok Kumar Hadole, representing HoD, AE)

On receipt of lot of enquires from Bi.P.C. students aspiring to join B.Tech. AE, a review and updation of qualification criteria for admission into B.Tech. AE was sought from the members by Dr. AK Hadole representing HoD, AE. He proposed to extend the admission of Bi.P.C. students into the B.Tech. AE course which is now exclusively for M.P.C. students. The present syllabus of the first year AE students was compared with that of the recommended syllabus which is modified to the needs of Bi.P.C. students. He proposed a bridge course in Mathematics which shall help the Bi.P.C. to come on par with students of M.P.C.

Responding to this when Prof. Sreenivasa Kumar expressed the doubt if this bridge course in Mathematics can equip the students appropriately, HoD, Mathematics stated that basic maths will be taught which shall lead to a qualifying credit course. He further stated that in case of any shortfall even after the bridge course, additional make up classes shall be conducted and suitable changes will be made based on experience after this new plan. Dr. Shanti Swaroop advised that maths course for this branch should reflect the agriculture related aspects for which the HoD responded that mathematical models related to agriculture aspects shall be taught.


Dr. Subbarangaiah proposed to enquire into the possibility of award of marks in the certificates for the social quotient and responsibility in students and should be introduced.

There are no agenda points for ratification.

Having discussed all the points, the meeting was adjourned.

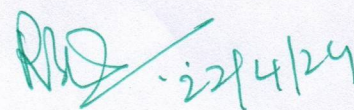
The following action points were pronounced during the 36th Academic Council meeting: -

S.No.	Action Point	Action point addressed to
1.	Considering the commencement of Pharma D and M. Pharmacy from the next academic year, the HoD should comprehensively prepare the details of drop out rate in this course, nomenclature and details of policy of exit benefits for the students of Pharma D. Case of enriching the PCI prescribed syllabus in alignment with NEP 2020 should also be researched. After a thorough preparation, the proposal should answer all the queries made and should be circulated to all the external members well before the next ACM and then be presented in the next ACM seeking approval.	HoD, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
2.	Every school should make presentation in the ACM (one school in every ACM) on the status of research in their respective departments. The Deans of the respective departments should play a lead role in these presentations.	All HoDs and all Deans
3.	The content of the bridge course proposed, for students of Bi.P.C. joining Agriculture Engineering, should be reviewed	HoD, Department of Mathematics
4.	The expression "Audit Course" shall be henceforth called as "Binary Credit Course".	Dean AAA
5.	Department wise presentations on the health of the department should be made by HoDs (one department in every ACM). Students should also be invited in future to observe the proceedings of ACM and speak on aspects concerning them in the ACM.	All HoDs and Dean SA
6.	A presentation on the department wise and faculty wise publications should be made.	All HoDs
7.	The real causes behind the drop of the results in polytechnic, should be found out and remedial measures should be initiated.	Dean, AAA

 22-4-24

REGISTRAR

VIGNAN'S FOUNDATION
FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
(Deemed to be University)
VADLAMUDI - 522 213
GUNTUR (DISTRICT), A.P, INDIA.

 22/4/24

VICE-CHANCELLOR

VIGNAN'S FOUNDATION
FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
(Deemed to be University)
VADLAMUDI - 522 213
GUNTUR (DISTRICT), A.P, INDIA.