Minutes of 39ᵗʰ Meeting of the Academic Council
Date: 30/11/2024 (Saturday) at 10.00 AM.

Venue: Chancellor's Board Room, VFSTR

Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and Research
Vadlamudi, Guntur
Andhra Pradesh- 522213

MINUTES OF THE 39th MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON
30th November, 2024. (Physical and Virtual)

The members of Academic Council met on 30th November, 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. Nagabhushan, Vice-Chancellor	:	Chairman
2.	Dr. Subbarangaiah. K (virtual participation) Director and Professor at Veda IIT VLSI Physical Design, Hyd	:	External Member
3.	Dr. Shanti Swaroop (virtual participation) Director of Engieering, Math Works, Hyderabad	:	External Member
4.	Er. D. Rama Krishna MD, Efftronics, Vijayawada	:	External Member
5.	Prof. P. Sreenivasa Kumar (virtual participation) Prof, Dept. of CSE, IIT, Madras	:	External Member
6.	Dr. Balasubramaian Raman Professor, Dept. of CSE, IIT, Roorkee	:	External Member
7.	Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra (virtual participation) Director, NITTTR, Kolkata	:	External Member
8.	Dr. P.M.V. Rao Dean, AAA	:	Permanent Invitee
9.	Dr. D. Vijayaramu, Dean, PCF	:	Member
10.	Dr. M. Rama Krishna Dean - IQAC, Dean School of Core Engg	:	Member
11.	Dr. K.V. Krishna Kishore Dean, SCI, Dean - Admissions and Recruitment HoD, Dept. of CSE	:	Member
12.	Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao, Dean, R&D	:	Member
13.	Prof. D. Venkatesulu, Addl. Dean ACSE	:	Member
14.	Dr. Sk. Jakeer Hussain Dean, Infrastructure, Planning and Monitoring	:	Member
15.	Dr. D. Vijay Krishna, Dean - T&P Dean School of Law and Management	:	Member
16.	Dr. N.Usha Rani, Dean, SEECE	:	Member
17.	Dr. M.S.S. Rukmini, Dean - Student Affairs Alumni Linkages, Gender Sensitization and Discipline	:	Member
18.	Dr. T. Ramesh Babu, Dean, SAFT and Director AHS	:	Member
19.	Prof. K. Kalpana, Dean, SL&M	:	Member
20.	Prof. A. Sharada, Dean, IS	:	Member
21.	Prof. M. Ramesh Naidu, HoD, Dept. of Chem. Engg.	:	Member
22.	Dr. T. Pitchaiah, HoD, Dept. of ECE	:	Member
23.	Dr. T.C. Vekateswarlu, HoD, Biotechnology	:	Member
24.	Dr. Sitaramanjeneya Reddy, HoD, BME	:	Member
25.	Dr. T.Ch. Anil Kumar, HoD, Dept. of Mech. Engg.	:	Member
26.	Dr. N. Srinivasu, Dean, SASH	:	Member
27.	Dr. S.V. Phani Kumar, HoD, CSE	:	Member
28.	Dr. D. Radha Rani, HoD, ACSE	:	Member
29.	Dr. Ch. Jitendra, HoD, Dept. of Pharmacy	:	Member

30.	Dr. M. Kartikeyan, HoD, Civil Engineering	:	Member
31.	Dr. PVS Shoban, HoD, EEE	:	Member
32.	Prof. Sarita Sathpathy, HoD, MBA	:	Member
33.	Dr. N. Veeranjaneyulu, Prof., HoD, Dept. of IT, Director, CDOE	:	Member
34.	Prof. N. Seshagiri Rao, HoD, Mathematics and Statistics	:	Member
35.	Prof. Koya Prabhakar Rao, HoD, Chemistry	:	Member
36.	Dr. K.V.Madhuri, HoD, Physics		
37.	Dr. Sushanta Kumar Sathpathy, Director, Polytechnic Education	:	Special Invitee
38.	Dr. Adam Stephen, HoD, Social Sciences and Humanities	:	Member
39.	Dr. Kaki Venkat Rao, Prof of Mech. Engg	:	Member
40.	Dr. J. Nitchal Kiran, Prof of Physics	:	Member
41.	Dr. Shaik Anwar, Officiating Prof of Chemistry	:	Member
42.	Dr. B. Nageswara Rao, Prof of Mech. Engg	:	Member
43.	Dr. G. Mohanacharyulu, Prof of English	:	Member
44.	Prof. B. Srinivasa Rao, Professor, MBA	:	Member
45.	Prof. D. John Babu, Professor, BT	:	Member
46.	Prof. A. Siva Sankar, Prof, Civil Engineering	:	Member
47.	Dr. A. Goswami, Assoc Prof of Chemistry	:	Member
48.	Dr. K. Santi Sree, Assoc. Prof of IT	:	Member
49.	Dr. N. Ananda Rao, Officiating Assoc. Prof, Dept of ECE	:	Member
50.	Dr. G. Nageswarara Rao, Assoc. Prof of English	:	Member
51.	Dr. P. Joshua Reginald, Officiating Assoc. Prof of ECE	:	Member
52.	Mr. S. Deva Kumar, Officiating Assoc Prof. of CSE	:	Member
53.	Dr. Ch. Siva Koteswara Rao, Asst. Prof of IT	:	Member
54.	Dr. P. Siva Prasad, Assoc. Prof of CSE	:	Member
55.	Dr. K. Maria Das, Asst. Professor of Chemistry	:	Member
56.	Dr. N. Satya Sree, Prof. of Chemistry	:	Member
57.	Dr. U.V. Manoj Kumar, Assistant Prof of Mathematics	:	Special Invitee
58.	Dr. D. Rajya Lakshmi, Asst Prof., Dept. of SS& H	:	Special Invitee
59.	Dr. Bonam Vijaya Bhaskara Rao Asst. Prof, Dept of Social Sciences & Humanities	:	Special Invitee
60.	Dr. Sivasankar Mandal Baidya Asst. Prof, Dept of Social Sciences & Humanities	:	Special Invitee
61.	Cmde. Dr. M. S. Raghunathan Registrar	:	Ex-Officio Secretary

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

62.	Dr. Y. Ravi Shekhar, Dean, Technology and Development	:	Member
63.	Dr. M. Sarada, Prof of ECE	:	Member
64.	Dr. P. Ashok Kumar, Prof of Chemical Engg.	:	Member

Minutes of the 39ᵗʰ Meeting of the Academic Council
Date: 30/11/2024 [Saturday] at 10:00 AM

Item	
	Welcoming the members of Academic Council by the Chair. The meeting commenced with welcome remarks of the Chair, Col. Prof. P. Nagabhushan who greeted the members of the 39ᵗʰ Academic Council meeting. He thanked Er. D. Ramakrishna for being physically present in the council meeting. The Chair welcomed Dr. R. Balasubrmanian, Professor, Dept. of CSE, IIT Roorkee and remembered his thirty-five-year association with him. The Chair mentioned that Dr. Subramanian, hailing from Tamilnadu, had received his Ph.D. from IIT Madras and was highly decorated for his efforts in his field. The Chair also welcomed the other external members who were attending virtually – Prof. K. Subbarangaiah, Dr. M. Shanti Swaroop and Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra and Prof. Sreenivasa Kumar. The Chair sought for their physical attendance in the coming AC meeting. He then handed over the meeting to the Registrar for further proceedings. The Registrar welcomed all the external and internal members of the 39ᵗʰ ACM including the students present to observe the proceedings of the 39ᵗʰ ACM. The Registrar advised the student attendees to carefully observe the proceedings of ACM and reserve their questions and comments which should be raised, with the permission of the Chair, at the conclusion of the meeting prior to vote of thanks. The Registrar presented the salient features of the 38ᵗʰ ACM viz., white paper from the Dept. of Chemical Engineering containing the prospects and placements of the department; syllabus for the Department of ECE drafted under the aegis of Er. Dr. Ramakrishna for its circulation in the department and white paper from the Department of Mechanical Engineering.
I	**Confirmation of the Minutes of 38ᵗʰ Academic Council meeting held on 28ᵗʰ September, 2024. Minutes of Meeting enclosed.** The minutes of the 38ᵗʰ Academic Council Meeting held on 28ᵗʰ September, 2024 were placed before the council for approval. After deliberation, the council approved the minutes of the 38ᵗʰ Academic Council meeting.
II	Action taken on the decisions of 38ᵗʰ AC meeting held on 28-09-24. The Registrar read out the action points while the members responded to the same.
	Action point 1. **A workshop should be planned for developing strategies for improving Mathematics and English in students – presented by Dean, AAA.** - HoD, Mathematics and Statistics stated that special remedial classes were conducted for the students of I B.Tech. for 22 hours (in 22 days) to improve the students' performance. - Dr. Shanti Swaroop pointed that the scores of the students with Math background raises concern when they were compared with lenience with those of students hailing from science background. He advised that remedial classes should equally benefit the students of both streams. Teaching activity should give way to active working out by the involvement of students. - The Chair opined that there should be one TRA deployed for every 15 students. There should be a pre-semester course in Math and English with the sessions planned to be highly interactive. - Er. D. Ramakrishna opined that Model Based System Engineering (MBSE) should be included for the overall understanding of the system for which the Chair added that at IIT Gandhinagar, MBSE was introduced at the entry level. He

		also stated that with sufficient research, students can become active learners. The syllabus for Math should include algebra and exponential logarithm functions. • Prof. Srinivasa Kumar advised that proficiency in English could be improved by 'Conversation Lab' and through interactive teaching learning process. **Action point 2.** **HoD Mathematics should present the results of Math assessment to the Chairman. – presented by HoD, Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics** • HoD, Mathematics and Statistics stated that a remedial program for 22 days was conducted with all necessary steps to upskill both biology and non-biology students. Additional classes were conducted for students with biology background for one hour per day on basic concepts followed by practice. He stated that the results of the assessment were submitted to the Hon. Chairman. • The Chair also directed the association of the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Physics with the Department of ECE. This feature should be the part of next R25. • Dr. Shanti Swaroop commented that concerning the upskilling in Mathematics, Khan Academy was doing a good work which could be emulated. Prof. Srinivasa Kumar advised that more problem-solving sessions should be conducted while Prof. Subbarangaiah advised that more practice sessions to be included. Prof. Subbarangaiah advised that active learning and student-teacher interaction would be more useful. Malpractice during assessment should be checked and due caution in implemention should be exercised. Rooter Linus' 'Algebra with Application' should be consulted for Boolean Algebra. In the next ten months, the draft of action plan should be ready. In this respect, the Chair opined that SFR should be ideally placed at 1:10.
III	**Agenda Items for Discussion and Approval**	
	1. **Commencement of three- year diploma courses in AIML, EEE and Mechanical Engineering (with an intake strength of 30) from the AY 2025-26 – presented by Director, Polytechnic Education** The Director of Polytechnic Education presented this agenda point in which he described the introduction of Polytechnic in the AY 2022-23. He proposed for the introduction of three new courses in Polytechnic in the streams of AIML, EEE and Mechanical Engineering from the AY 2025-26. He pointed at the ample scope of employment for the students of these courses in industry. The Director presented the proceedings of external BoS and explained the justification of this program. The credit distribution for these three streams of Polytechnic, course structure and the curriculum design were presented. The duration of the program was three years of six semesters. The minimum credits required for the award of certificate is 124. The minimum qualification for admission into this course was 60% in SSC. All the courses shall commonly have Digital Electronics, basics of computer like C++ and OOPS. There shall be internship at the end of III year. He also presented the syllabus of AIML (breadth-wise) and department electives and stated that there shall be more scope for practice. The course structure of DEEE in I, II and III years was presented. Details of internship and the list of department electives were presented. There shall be equal emphasis on practical learning along with theory. The course structure of Polytechnic in Mechanical Engineering and the list of department electives were presented. There shall be a component of management in all semesters. The Director put the scope of entrepreneurship in this stream open to discussions and suggestions from the members of the council. The evaluation criteria were discussed. He proposed for the grant of Rs. 5000 for the students opting for	

internal internship. He stated the instance of two students of his department securing paid internship of Rs. 8000 from industries in Hyderabad. He presented the progress of current students. Er. D. Ramakrishna mentioned that the syllabus of the course should be employment oriented for which the Director stated that APTED was consulted for the design of the syllabus and the members of BoS were themselves from Polytechnic background. Maths course in ML was made compulsory and there shall be 50% theory and 40% scope for practical learning. He further stated that the polytechnic institutions in AP, Rajasthan and Punjab were consulted for the prospects of employment of the students and received positive feedback. The Dean T&P promised campus placement for the students of CSE, EEE and ME who can be absorbed as Junior Trainee Engineer, Safety Engineer and Supervisor.

Dr. Shanti Swaroop called the presentation as thorough and questioned the strength of the Polytechnic for which the Director stated the strength in 2022 (56 students in CSE and 09 students in ECE), 2023 (58 students in CSE and 05 students in ECE) and 29 students in both CSE and ECE in 2024 and assured to improve the strength. Dr. Shanti Swaroop stated that Polytechnic should be more practical oriented and advised the Director to build a core team. Dr. Srinivasa Kumar advised to give good emphasis on practice and differentiation should be maintained to sustain the exclusiveness of Polytechnic. Tool oriented training should be given importance.

The following suggestions were made regarding the syllabus by the external members:

(1) P&S should be given importance (2) Advanced Calculus should be catered for CSE (3) Number Theory should be included (3) Cyber Security, Cloud Computing and DBMS should also be given place in the syllabus.

The Director mentioned that separate faculty need not be recruited as faculty from B.Tech. would suffice.

The Chair stated that there is no exit option in this course with120 credits in three years. The Chair advised to keep the credit distribution properly.

The agenda point was approved after deliberation by the Academic Council.

2. **Special Convocation for Vignan online students of July 2022 batch scheduled on 7th December 2024 – presented by Convenor, 2nd Convocation of VFSTR online education.**

Director, CDOE, 2nd Convocation for Vignan online students of July 2022 batch, Prof. N. Veranjeneyulu presented that student enrolment into online courses started on 15th November 2022 and till date, 5594 students enrolled for six programs. The 1st Convocation took place on 24th August 2024. Thirty-two degrees were awarded in the 1st Convocation. The 2nd Convocation was scheduled on 7th December 2024 in which 659 students of MBA and 190 students of MCA students will be awarded their degrees. The result analysis of the July 2022 batch students was done and total pass percentage was 84.44.

When Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra pointed at the big jump in the enrolment, and sought rationalization of the same, the Hon. Chancellor stated that it was the result of maintaining the quality in the program catered to any number of students enrolled in the online program. The Chancellor further stated that the online students enjoyed the benefit of being taught by VFSTR appointed faculty and digital content. Prof. N. Veerajeneyulu stated that the system of mentorship is the testimony for the maintenance of quality and assurance to the students. The query was further answered by informing the council that Government of India had launched *e vidya* program for promoting online education and VFSTR is the part of that program. Prof. Veerajeneyulu answered that the eligibility criteria for admission was the score in graduation and the Hon.Chancellor clarified that no university conducts entrance for online education.

		Prof. Srinivasa Kumar enquired the career advancement of the passed-out students, Dr. Kalpana responded that 09 graduates from VFSTR applied for promotion and they received their promotion and it was yet to take feedback. The Convenor invited all the members of the council to the Convocation on 7th December 2024 in which 814 students will be receiving the degrees and Sri Krishna Deva Rao, Vice-Chancellor of NALSAR University will be the Chief Guest. **The agenda point was approved after deliberation by the Academic Council.**
IV		**Agenda Items for Ratification**

1. **Commencement of B.Sc. (Hons) Data Science from the AY 2024-25 – presented by Dean ACSE**

   Dean ACSE presented the commencement of Dual B.Sc. + M.Sc. Data Science program with multiple entry and exit options. The BoS comprised both internal and external members. The Dean presented the distribution of 160 credits of the program and the course structure of the 04-year program with 08 semesters. Er. D. Ramakrishna stated that the data story should be appropriately presented to the customers and the importance of domain, computing power and decision making should not be ignored. Program electives should answer all the questions and should be organised in rational order and groups.

   Responding to the query of the Hon. Chancellor about the precedence of B.Sc. over B.Tech., the Dean answered that B.Sc. in Data Science shall be a respite to those aspirants who couldn't secure a seat in the B.Tech. course.

   Dr. Shanti Swaroop stated that the program shall attract the diploma holders and advised to limit the credits to 40. Questioning the tag of 'Honors' he sought clarification concerning whether it has the prospects of academic rigor involved or smart classrooms.

   The Hon. Chancellor queried about the precedence and status of Data Science course offered by IIT Madras for which Prof. Srinivasa Kumar responded that DS mingled with AI was offered and an entrance exam (for screening) would be held after one month of instruction. He stated that the program was faring well.

   In course of discussion that ensued, the Chair announced that there should be a minor course in Data Science for all the faculty of VFSTR. He stated that Data Science course should be inter-disciplinary in its composition.

   Er. D. Ramakrishna stated that time-series data is generated in huge quantum and all data should have a pattern. He stated that people experts in this area will be absorbed by industry. He also stated that designating the student as Software Engineer in the fourth semester itself was too early.

   The agenda point was ratified after deliberation by the Academic Council.

2. **Integrated B.Sc. - M.Sc. program in psychology from the AY 2025-26 – presented by Dr. Sivasankar Mandal Baidya and Dr. Bonam Vijaya Bhaskara Rao of Social Sciences and Humanities.**

   Dr. Sivasankar Baidya presented this agenda point under the following heads:

   A. Suggestions received from the 38th Academic Council
   B. Plan of action
   C. Plan of action for admissions
   D. Pursuing internships and placement avenues
   E. Visit to various institutions
   F. Acceptance of internship from organisations
   G. Job opportunities for psychology degree holders
   H. Potential stake holders for the success of the program

I. Endorsement of the syllabus by external experts.

Hon. Chancellor queried on the precedence and sustainability of the course for which Dr. B. Vijaya Bhaskara Rao quoted the examples of 60 admissions in SRM University, and the presence of this course in VIT, Guntur Womens' College, and GITAM University (with 60 admissions in B.Sc. Psychology, MA (Psychology) and M.Sc. (Psychology) in Hyderabad and Vizag campuses.

Dr. Shanti Swaroop enquired on the future speculation of the department becoming viable. Prof. Subbarangaiah stated that work – life balance should lead to work -life comfort which finally leads to work -life enrichment.

The agenda point was ratified after deliberation by the Academic Council.

3. **Introduction of B. Sc. Actuarial Science from the AY 2024-25 – presented by Dr. UV Manoj Kumar, Coordinator, B.Sc.**

The above agenda point was presented under the following heads:
A. Need of the program
B. Curriculum design
C. Components of Actuarial Science
D. BoS Experts
E. Course structure
F. Credits distribution

When Dr. Shanti Swaroop asked about the availability of faculty, Dr. UV Manoj stated that expertise and resources were available. Dr. Shanti Swaroop stated that considering the positive indications in view of students from Zimbabwe and Togo, the program can be viable and notwithstanding, a risk analysis should be conducted.

4. **Adoption of ICAR curriculum for B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture program as per NEP 2020 from the AY 2024-25 – presented by Dean, SAFT.**

The Dean SAFT presented the agenda point under the following heads:
A. Entry-Exit options
B. New credit distribution
C. *Deeksharambh* (Introduction cum foundation program)
D. Skill Enhancement Course (SEC)
E. Elective courses
F. Common courses (AEC/VAC/MDC)
G. Uniform evaluation and grading system
H. BoS recommendations
I. Credit distribution

Dr. Shanti Swaroop enquired on the availability of faculty, the Dean responded that thirty-one faculty were available.

The agenda point was ratified after deliberation by the Academic Council.

V.	**Agenda Items for Information**

1. **Conduct of International Conference titled 'Non-linear Analysis and Scientific Computing' from 26-09-25 to 28-09-25. – presented by HoD, Mathematics and Statistics.**

The HoD, Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics presented on ICNASC -24 by mentioning the highlights of the conference.

2. **Conduct of Vignan *Mahotsav* -25 from 06-02-25 to 08-02-25 – presented by Dean SA**

Dean SA presented this point by mentioning the various preparations, novel inclusions and the progress of the work related to the event. |

Epilogue: • In the closing remarks, Hon. Chancellor stated that his ultimate agenda is the welfare of the students which is the underlying factor of all the deliberations of the meeting. • Dr. Shanti Swaroop advised that all the other departments like Physics and Chemistry should follow the trail laid by the Department of Mathematics. • Er. D. Ramakrishna advised that every department should adopt IoT as a subject. • Prof. Subbarangaiah stated that a debate on current education system should be conducted.	

Having discussed all the points, the meeting was adjourned. The external members were facilitated by Hon. Chancellor and the Chair.

The following action points were pronounced during the 39th Academic Council meeting.

Action Point	Action point addressed to
1. A team, comprising Dr. KV Krishna Kishore, Dr. D. Venkatesulu and Dr. B. Jyostna, should be constituted for formulating a training program on mathematical concepts for the next academic year	The members mentioned in the action point
2. A pre-semester course for 45 days for students along with faculty orientation on engineering applications for the next six months.	Dean, AAA and School Deans
3. A reform in math syllabus which should include algebra, exponential logarithm functions, trigonometry, probability and statistics, differential equations and basics of Number theory.	HoD, Mathematics
4. Hands-on experience should be provided to the students of one section in problem solving and identify the lacunae. The identified lacunae should be remedied after extrapolating it a greater number of students from other sections. The lacunae should be researched, faculty should be trained and used to deal with future batches. Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra's support should be sought in this respect.	HoD, Mathematics
5. The Department of English should present the draft of the new syllabus in the next ACM. There should be foundation fresher assessment in English.	HoD, EoFL
6. Director, Polytechnic should consult Er.D.Ramakrishna and Dr. Subbarangaiah and seek inputs related to the courses and incorporate the same in syllabus.	Director, Polytechnic Education
7. During the Mahotsav -25, under the title, 'Open House Visit', all the labs, libraries and other strategic installations of the university like CoEs should be kept open for the visitors leading to the branding of the university.	All HoDs / Dean S.A. Deans & / School Deans & HoDs
8. In the next ACM, a presentation on research concerning quality, area, funded projects and solving the problems of industry should be presented.	Dean Research and Development

REGISTRAR

VICE-CHANCELLOR