

Minutes of 41st Meeting of the Academic Council

Date: 24/5/2025 (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 41st MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 24th May, 2025. (Hybrid mode)

The members of Academic Council met on 24th May, 2025 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:

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| 1. Col.Prof. P. Nagabhushan, Vice-Chancellor | : Chairman |
| 2. Prof.P.Sreenivasa Kumar
Professor, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras | : External Member |
| 3. Dr. Subbarangaiah. K (virtual Participation)
Director and Professor at Veda IIT
VLSI Physical Design, Hyd | : External Member |
| 4. Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra (virtual participation)
Director, NITTTR, Kolkata | : External Member |
| 5. Dr. Shanthi Swaroop (virtual participation)
Director of Engineering, MathWorks, Hyderabad | : External Member |
| 6. Dr. Bala Subramanian Raman
Professor, dept. of CSE, IIT, Roorkee | : External Member |
| 7. Prof. D. Vijayaramu , Dean AAA, FA | : Member |
| 8. Prof. P. Bangariah, CoE | : Permanent Invitee |
| 9. Prof. M. Ramakrishna, Dean - IQAC | : Member |
| 10. Prof. K.V. Krishna Kishore
Dean, SCIT, Dean - Admissions and Recruitment | : Member |
| 11. Prof. B. Seeta Ramanjeneyulu, Dean AFD | : Member |
| 12. Prof. G. Srinivasa Rao, Dean P&C | : Member |
| 13. Prof. D. Venkatesulu, Dean R&D, Addl. Dean ACSE | : Member |
| 14. Prof. Sk. Jakeer Hussain
Dean, Infrastructure, Planning and Monitoring | : Member |
| 15. Dr. D. Vijay Krishna, Dean - T&P | : Member |
| 16. Prof. M.S.S. Rukmini, Dean - Student Affairs
Alumni Linkages, Gender Sensitization and Discipline | : Member |
| 17. Prof. Y. Ravi Shekhar,
Dean, Technology and Development | : Member |
| 18. Prof. N. Usha Rani, Dean, SEE&CE | : Member |
| 19. Prof. A. Sharada, Dean, IS | : Member |
| 20. Prof. T. Pitchaiah, Advisor to Dept. of BME | : Member |
| 21. Dr. P. Sambaiah, HoD, Dept. of ECE | : Member |
| 22. Dr. T.C. Vekateswarlu, HoD, Biotechnology | : Member |
| 23. Prof. N. Srinivasu, Dean, SASH | : Member |
| 24. Dr. M. Subba Rao, Director Off-Campus, Hyd | : Member |
| 25. Dr. S.V. Phani Kumar, HoD, CSE | : Member |
| 26. Dr. D. Radha Rani, HoD, ACSE | : Member |
| 27. Dr. Ch. Jitendra, HoD, Dept. of Pharmacy | : Member |
| 28. Dr. P. Sundara Kumar, HoD, Civil Engineering | : Member |
| 29. Dr. P.V.S. Shoban, HoD, EEE | : Member |
| 30. Dr. K. Sujatha, HoD, IT | : Member |
| 31. Dr. Sarita Sathpathy, HoD, MBA | : Member |

32.	Dr. K. Santhi Sri, HoD, Dept. of CA	: Member
33.	Dr. N. Seshagiri Rao, HoD, Mathematics and Statistics	: Member
34.	Dr. Koya Prabhakar Rao, HoD, Chemistry	: Member
35.	Dr. K.V.Madhuri, HoD, Physics	
36.	Dr. G. Mohanacharyulu, HoD, English	: Member
37.	Dr. Partha Sarothi Rakshit, Director, Law	: Member
38.	Dr. J. Nitchal Kiran, Prof of Physics	: Member
39.	Dr. M. Nirupama Bhat, Prof. Dept of ACSE	: Member
40.	Dr. Shaik Anwar, Assoc. Prof of Chemistry	: Member
41.	Dr. B. Nageswara Rao, Prof of Mech. Engg.	: Member
42.	Dr. P. Ashok Kumar, HoD, Dept. of Chem. Engg.	: Member
43.	Dr. Amit Kumar Singh, HoD, Dept. of BME	: Member
44.	Dr. A. Ranganadha Reddy, HoD, Dept. of BI	: Member
45.	Dr. Ch. Govardhan Rao, HoD, Dept. of TT	: Member
46.	Dr. M. Sarada, Prof of ECE	: Member
47.	Dr. B. Srinivasa Rao, Professor, MBA	: Member
48.	Dr. D. John Babu, Professor, BT	: Member
49.	Dr. M. Sreenivsulu, Prof. Dept. of Physics	: Member
50.	Dr. A. Siva Sankar, Prof, ES	: Member
51.	Dr. K. Mercy Rosalina, Prof, Dept. of EEE	: Member
52.	Dr. G. Suresh, Dept. of Mech. Engg. (representing HoD Mech. Engg.)	: Member
53.	Dr. A. Goswami, Assoc Prof of Chemistry	: Member
54.	Dr. P. Shiva Prasad, Assoc.Prof of CSE	: Member
55.	Dr. P. Subba Rao, Asso. Prof. of IT	: Member
56.	Dr. N. Ananda Rao, Asst. Prof, Dept of ECE	: Member
57.	Dr. G. Nageswarara Rao, Assoc. Prof of English	: Member
58.	Dr. P. Joshua Reginald, Asst. Prof of ECE	: Member
59.	Dr. Ch. Siva Koteswara Rao, Asst. Prof of IT	: Member
60.	Dr. K. Maria Das, Asst. Professor of Chemistry	: Member
61.	Dr. Siva Sankar Mandal Baidya (representing HoD Dept. of SS&H)	: Special Invitee
62.	Prof. PMV Rao, Registrar, VFSTR	: Ex-Officio Member Secretary

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

1.	Er.Dr. D. Rama Krishna, MD, Effotronics	: External Member
2.	Prof. T. Ramesh Babu, Dean, SAFT and Director AHS	: Member
3.	Dr. N. Narayana Rao, HoD, Dept. of Mech. Engg.	: Member
4.	Dr. Adam Stephen, HoD, Social Sciences and Humanities	: Member
5.	Dr. N. Satyasree, Prof. Dept. of Chemistry	: Member
6.	Dr. S. Deva Kumar, Asst. Prof. of CSE	: Member
7.	Prof. K. Kalpana, Dean, SL&M	: Member

Minutes of the 41st Meeting of the Academic Council

Date: 24/5/2025 [Saturday] at 10:00 AM

Item	
	<p>Welcoming the members of Academic Council by the Chair.</p> <p>The meeting commenced with the welcome remarks by the Chair, Col. Prof. P. Nagabhushan who greeted the members of the 41st Academic Council meeting. The Chair stated that he was happy with the presence of two council members (external) in person. He welcomed Prof. PMV Rao, the new Ex-officio Secretary of the Academic Council.</p> <p>Prof. PMV Rao stated that he has great regards for the Academic Council and had never missed any one single Academic Council Meeting when he had been attending the council meetings as Permanent Invitee. He stated that he gained a lot of knowledge as the members shared their experiences in the discussions which happened in the interest of students. He advised that the internal members should learn from the deliberations of the external members.</p> <p>A motion of gratitude was moved by the Chair to thank the services of the former Registrar, Cmde Dr. M.S. Raghunathan and the other five erstwhile internal members for their contributions. The Chair highly appreciated the yeomen services of Cmde Dr. M.S. Raghunathan with whose efforts several administrative systems in VFSTR were streamlined. The Chair also remembered the untimely and sad demise of Late Dr. Seetha Ramanjeneya Reddy, former HoD, Department of Biomedical Engineering whose acumen in academics and administration were highly imitable to his successors.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Prof. P. Bangaraiah who assumed the post of Controller of Exams, VFSTR and joined the Academic Council as the internal member. The other new members who joined the council in the place of the former members were welcomed by Prof. PMV Rao.</p>
I	<p>Confirmation of the Minutes of 40th Academic Council meeting held on 22nd February, 2025. Minutes of Meeting enclosed.</p>
	<p>The minutes of the 40th Academic Council Meeting held on 22nd February, 2025 were placed before the council for approval. The salient features of the 40th AC Meeting were presented before the members by Prof. PMV Rao.</p> <p>After deliberation, the council approved the minutes of the 40th Academic Council meeting.</p>
II	<p>Action taken on the decisions of 40th AC meeting held on 22-02-25. The Registrar read out the action points while the members responded to the same.</p>
	<p>1. The duration of the course as per the proposed R25 Regulations should provide appropriate vacation for the students to cope with homesickness – ATR presented by Dean AAA.</p> <p>Dean AAA stated that under R25 Regulations, although the pre-semester course is integral part of the I year course work, students will have the opportunity to experience two breaks in the academic calendar that amount to six weeks of holidays. In the subsequent academic years, students can avail breaks amounting to ten weeks.</p> <p>2. One retired IAS officer should be included in the Board of Studies related to the formulation and approval of new program proposed by Department of Social Sciences. A paper on one vernacular language should be included to invite the students pan India – ATR presented by Dr. Siva Sankar Mandal Baidya, Department of Social Sciences.</p> <p>One IPS officer was included in the Board of Studies of the above-said context. Telugu and Hindi papers were included to cater to the regional students across India.</p>

III	Agenda Items for Discussion and Approval
	<p>1. Assessment results released after 40th Academic Council Meeting – presented by CoE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CoE presented that in MBA II year (140 students passed out of 141 students), B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture I year (83 students passed out of 106 students) and B. Pharmacy I year (30 students passed out of 56 students), marking the pass percentage as 99.29, 78.30 and 53.57 respectively. These results were presented in comparison with the results of previous years 2022-23 and 2023-24. • Assessment result of MBA II year I semester (Regular January 2025) was presented marking the pass percentage as 99.29 after comparing them with those of 2022-23 (90.29%) and 2023-24 (98.32%). The CoE presented the results of the three years including and excluding students of R Grade. • Likewise, the assessment results of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture I year I semester of Regular March 2025; B.Pharmacy I year I semester (R18) Regular February 2025; Assessment results of B.Tech., BBA, MBA, MCA, M.Tech, and B. Pharmacy programs for the academic year 2024-25 I semester of VFSTR Hyderabad Off Campus in comparison with that of VFSTR Main campus were also presented by the CoE. • Post-presentation, Dr. M. Shanthi Swaroop expressed that the downshift noted the sign of integrity in evaluation but expressed his concern over the steep fall in the result of B. Pharmacy. • The HoD Pharmacy responded stating that majority of Pharmacy students were from the state of Bihar and 15% were from Sudan. These students have abysmally poor knowledge of English language to deal with the academics but, necessary steps were initiated to solve this problem. • He stated that out of 36 students from Bihar, only one student had his higher secondary education in regular mode while the rest had their previous education in private tuitions. This causes the lack of concentration and also leads to adverse attendance conditions. From the data he collected from the students reveal that 36% of them studied in tuitions and 50% had attendance less than 75% in theory. 50% were being absent to weekly tests • The HoD clarified that the study loan extended by the Government of Bihar is exclusively reserved for the students hailing from government schools. He also informed that many students were having poor standards in basic knowledge. Also, many Bihari students had a gap of two to three years after their plus two. • The Sudanese students have Arabic as their language and poor English language was to be rectified starting from teaching alphabets. However, this intervention is yielding good results. The HoD stated that these students can clear their coursework by their fourth year after being sufficiently empowered by the efforts. • Dr. Shanthi Swaroop expressed his satisfaction over the study conducted by the HoD on the analysis and advised to take up remedial actions like involving the English department for language teaching support. The students should be involved in the club activities and other activities to empower them. • Prof. P. Sreenivasa Kumar advised to compel the students to take one-year certification in English language before they joined VFSTR for which the HoD responded that there were no facilities for such programs at their native place. The Chair intervened and advised that VFSTR should take up the responsibility and the HoD responded that he shall consult the Department of English. • Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra advised that a course should be conducted by VFSTR in this respect. As the HoD informed about the retentive capacity needed for pharmacy students. Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra advised that they should be given the support of

yoga by the yoga trainer as well as referring to Ayurvedic doctor for enhancing their memory.

- In this context, Dean AAA stated that the BoS recommended that course work could be deferred to a later time after empowering the students linguistically. The HoD responded that this unpreparedness of students can be dealt by pre-semester planning.
- The discussion then followed into the queries and responses on lack of diversification in the classroom which ensues motivation and the HoD responded that it was due to the staggered entry of students from Bihar and Sudan. The Chair pointed at a different type of entrance test for the students which is not memory based which was seconded by the Prof. K. Subbarangaiah, Dr. Shanthi Swaroop and Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra. The Chair also advised that horizontal entry should be initiated for Pharmacy course – students' absenteeism should not be normalised and attendance defaulters should be referred to psychologist for remedy.
- The Chancellor stated that the situation should be studied holistically. The students from Bihar though are poor in English they are very industrious. To encourage more diversity twenty to thirty percent of the seats in Pharmacy should be reserved for the local students. For two-three months they should be trained in communication, mathematics and IT skills and where ever needed, flexibility is to be adopted.
- Considering the results of Off-campus, Dr. Shanthi Swaroop sought for inferential understanding for which the Chancellor responded that the student strength at Off-campus was limited leading to good teacher to student ratio and hence the good results.

After this deliberation, the agenda point was approved by the council.

2. Curriculum of M.Tech. Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (AI&DS) from the academic year 2025-26 – presented by HoD, ACSE.

HoD, ACSE presented the agenda point under these heads:

- a. Profile of the department
- b. Research areas
- c. Research wise publication
- d. Research highlights
- e. AI&DS labs
- f. Placements (70% placements)
- g. Approval from AICTE
- h. Eligibility criteria
- i. Board of Studies
- j. Distribution of credits (minimum 68 credits)
- k. Course structure (for I, II, III and IV semesters)
- l. Program electives
- m. Scholarship and stipend opportunities

After the presentation by the HoD, the Chancellor sought for the objective of the program while Dr. Shanthi Swaroop commented on the depth of the curriculum, area of action, hands on experience and the connect with other departments. He stated that syllabus should be broader and deeper as the expectations from M.Tech. in AI would be very high and also the program should be cross disciplinary.

Prof. P. Sreenivasa Kumar stated that the basic structure of the program to be reconsidered and should go for advanced DS which was seconded by Prof. Bala Subramanian. The latter desired to see the curriculum to know how the curriculum of M.Tech. AI was distinct from that of B.Tech. AI. The Chancellor also advised the school Deans to implement the model of HCL which is offering training to the 10+2 students to dovetail them into company as employees.

	<p>The Dean ACSE intervened and stated that the purpose of the course is to provide AI staff to the various domains of the industry. He stated that IIT Guwahati was offering M.Tech. in DS and the proposed program also received the approval of AICTE.</p> <p>Prof. Subbarangaiah proposed to include seminars in the course and the Chair responded that it was integral of the LTP structure. He enquired if the M.Tech. students could go to industry and the Chair answered that they have internship program with industry. The Chair also mentioned that VFSTR shall provide a stipend of Rs. 15,000 to the students of this course.</p> <p>The Chancellor stated that the program should emphasise on presentation skills also. The program should also impart training to the students to become faculty in the related domain. He also desired an orientation program to put all the students – who would enter this program from varied academic backgrounds - on equal footing in knowledge. He also advised the Dean ACSE to take inputs from Prof. Bala Subramanian and revise the contents for better.</p> <p>After deliberation, the decision to commence M.Tech. (AI & DS) was approved by the council.</p>
IV	<p>Agenda Items for Ratification</p> <p>1. Consideration of admission of vocational intermediate (commercial garment technology) students into B.Tech. Textile Technology from the AY 2025-26 – presented by HoD, Textile Technology</p> <p>The HoD, TT presented the B.Tech. in Textile Technology discussing the placement prospects and the need of the hour. He proposed that students of vocational intermediate (Commercial Garment Technology) should be permitted to join B.Tech.</p> <p>When Dr. Shanthi Swaroop sought clarity in this respect, Dean AAA mentioned that vocational intermediate students unlike regular intermediate students do not pursue M.P.C. subjects but study their vocational course. These students possess strong basic knowledge in Textile Technology courses also. However, steps would be taken by the VFSTR to bring the students from the either streams on equal footing.</p> <p>The proposal, after deliberation was ratified by the council.</p> <p>2. Commencement of Ph.D. in Psychology – presented by Dr. Siva Sankar Mandal Baidya, Dept. of Psychology</p> <p>Dr. Siva Sankar Mandal Baidya presented the agenda point under the following heads:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Background of the department Faculty profile Rationale behind the commencement of the program <p>The Chair stated that, from the department the proposal to commence bachelors' program in psychology was approved by the earlier Academic Council Meetings and the Ph.D. program would commence with at least four scholars in the areas of Educational Psychology, Industrial Psychology and Abnormal Psychology. The doctoral program would be in general psychology rather than in clinical psychology. Dr. Siva Sankar Mandal Baidya stated that the sufficient number of doctorates in the department can support the program. He also stated that the department would enter into MoUs with schools.</p> <p>The Chancellor enquired on the absorption of the doctorates produced by the program, which there by ascertains the focus area, Prof. Mishra stated that would depend on the area in which the research happened which in turn would be depend on the prerogative of the guide.</p> <p>The proposal, after deliberation was ratified by the council.</p>
V.	<p>Agenda Items for Information</p>

1. Research progression in VFSTR – presented by Dean R&D.

Dean R&D presented the agenda under the following heads

- a. Research scholars in VFSTR
- b. Research publications
- c. Top 10 research publications
- d. Citations 2021-25 (Scopus and WoS)
- e. H-Index
- f. Projects funded by government agencies
- g. Govt. funded projects (F.Y. 2024-25)
- h. Govt. funded projects (completed and ongoing – department level)
- i. Government funded projects – (completed) institution level
- j. Projects submitted
- k. Status of projects submitted (A.Y. 2024-25)
- l. Consultancy – Antenna design and development – 2024-25 (ongoing)
- m. Seed grant projects (Rs. 1,83, 88, 210 – 2022-25)
- n. Faculty international travel (2024-25)
- o. CDF utilization – F.Y. 2024-25
- p. CDF utilization – F.Y. 2025-26
- q. New lab facilities established (A.Y. 2024-25)
- r. VFSTR Research Centres established ((A.Y. 2024-25)

After the presentation, Dr. Shanthi Swaroop sought plans for aspirational goals for which the Chair responded that the same will be presented in the forthcoming AC Meeting. Dr. Shanthi Swaroop sought for more visibility of interdisciplinary research. He also advised to do analyses to ascertain the drawbacks of rejected research proposals and find ways to improve them.

The former expressed his satisfaction on the progress of the research.

Prof. P. Sreenivasa Kumar enquired on the total CDF which was only Rs. 21 lacs and mentioned that international exposure shall result in developing knowledge as well as contacts. He advised the HoDs to identify potential faculty members and encourage them to attend good conferences by appropriating the CDF grant.

The Chair invited closing remarks from the external members. The Chancellor stated that good research can be achieved in collaboration across different disciplines and not in isolation. He thanked all the members of the council for their support and advice.

The Chair thanked the external and internal members of the Academic Council Meeting and the external members present were felicitated. Having discussed all the points, the meeting was adjourned.

The following action points were pronounced during the 41st Academic Council meeting.

Action Point	Action point addressed to
1. HoD Pharmacy should consult experts in Pharmacy education field to find solutions to the problems. Dean AAA should plan a separate model to deal with the Department of Pharmacy.	HoD, Dept. of Pharmacy
2. The plans for aspirational goals in research should be presented in the forthcoming AC Meeting.	Dean R&D


Registrar

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Vice-Chancellor

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