



VIGNAN'S

Foundation for Science, Technology & Research

(Deemed to be University)

-Estd. u/s 3 of UGC Act 1956

F.No.VFSTR/Reg/A1/02/2020_03

Date: 03.05.2021

**MINUTES OF 38TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD
ON 24th April, 2021 BY VIRTUAL MODE**

Proceedings :

The meeting commenced with the Chair extending a warm welcome to all the internal and external members to the meeting. Chancellor also specially welcomed external members. Vice-Chancellor, and Board of Management specially appreciated the dedicated efforts and commitment of the faculty and all technical and other non-teaching staff for their contributions to the progress of VFSTR during last one year of COVID pandemic.

One-minute silence was observed as a tribute to Mr. B. Peraiah Sr. Asst., Registrar Office of VFSTR who passed away in the early hours of that day.

Initial comments were invited from the external members of BoM. The external members responded as follows: -

Prof. K. Ramamurthy Naidu shared his association with Mr. B. Peraiah. He requested the external members to contribute for the growth of the VFSTR.

Prof. H. Devaraj stated that external members were the well-wishers who make constructive criticism. He wished that VFSTR should have good brand image.

Prof. BVR Chowdari affirmed that external members were part of the VFSTR's family and shall help the growth of VFSTR.

Prof. T.S. Rao advised that faculty should work for getting projects to VFSTR and make VFSTR rich in research.

Dr. MYS Prasad stated that students should not lose the opportunity of studying and training. He appreciated the faculty for their professionalism. He thanked the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their guidance with which VFSTR was able to place 900 students. He appreciated the external members as guides for VFSTR.

The Registrar gave his remarks stating that BCI gave its approval for Law and UGC gave its approval for B.Sc (Hons) in Agriculture. He stated that Rs.1.69 crores was granted by DST in March 2021 for an extension project. Intake approval from AICTE has been sought for the year 2021-22. Data regarding VFSTR forwarded for NIRF ranking. And application forwarded for ODL and OL programs in MBA to UGC.

In this context, Prof. H. Devaraj advised to apply for E YUVA program under OL mode.

I. Agenda Items for the Meeting:

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of 37th BoM held virtually on 21-11-2021:

The Minutes of 37th BoM held virtually on 21-11-2021 was placed before the BoM. The Minutes were confirmed by the BoM members after discussions.

2. Actions taken on the decisions of the previous BoM held on 21-11-21:

Dean R&D stated that efforts to increase full-time scholars were on. He further stated that of the 400 part-time scholars pursuing their doctorate degree in VFSTR, 94 were from industry. The Dean stated that from 2021 onwards, VFSTR shall restrict the admission in part-time research.

Prof. H. Devaraj vehemently advised not to take part-time scholars and Chancellor also supported. Prof. T.S Rao advised to associate with the Pharma companies to attract the scholars from industry. Prof. BVR Chowdari advised that the scholarship given to Ph.D. scholars should be increased to attract good full-time scholars. He also advised that quality has to be maintained.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of 27th Academic Council Meeting held in hybrid mode (physical as well as virtual) on 20-03-2021:

The Minutes of 27th Academic Council Meeting held in hybrid mode (physical as well as virtual) on 20-03-2021 was placed before the BoM for approval. The Registrar read out the salient points of the minutes. The Board approved the minutes after discussions.

II. Agenda Items for Approval:

1. Commencement of 4 Year B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture Programme from the Academic Year 2021-22

Prof. T. Ramesh Babu, Director, Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences presented that agriculture is the livelihood for majority of population in India and our country is the top producer of milk, spices, pulses, tea and jute. It is necessary to develop skilled human resources in this domain. Future will be definitely bright to pursue a career in agriculture.

The Director stated that the course comprises 183 credits and the course is designed in context of changing scenario. There is an equal distribution of all courses in all semesters. In the final year, the students will have a program called Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana (READY) and Rural Awareness Works Experience (RAWEX).

He further presented on evaluation system, grading, details of Board of Studies, recruitment of faculty, land requirement, equipment and fee structure. The Director stated that 1000-1600 students were leaving Andhra Pradesh for studying courses in agriculture. He stated that the students will secure jobs in government, private and banking sectors.

Prof. H. Devaraj enquired on the nature of skills imparted through this course in VFSTR. He also enquired on the details of content drawn from SWAYAM.

Prof. BVR Chowdari enquired on details of strategies with which KLU and Loyola College were filling their seats. He also questioned on labs and infrastructure. He advised to recruit faculty with full-time Ph.D. and to take attention of the human resources. He advised to incorporate Artificial Intelligence into the syllabus.

Prof. Devaraj advised to reduce the strength of intake.

Prof. Ramamurthy Naidu while thanking the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their efforts in getting the sanction for B.Sc (Ag) programme, expressed his doubt on the admission of 320 students into the course. He advised to recruit passionate people as faculty. He also advised to take Dr. Alapati Satyanarayana of ANGRAU as mentor.

The Director answered that the timeline is discussed with the management of VFSTR and faculty will be trained in NAM (Hyderabad). He also responded that quotations were called for the supply of equipment and efforts are on to recruit quality faculty with Ph.D degree preferably, younger people.

The Board approved the commencement of B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture from the next A.Y 2021-22.

2. Commencement of Law Programs viz. B.A. LLB (Hons.) and B.B.A. LLB (Hons.) (Five years integrated programmes) from the Academic Year 2020-21:

Mr. Ashish Kumar, Asst. Prof. VIL under this agenda point, presented on the following:

- a. Strengths of VIL
- b. Course credit structure
- c. Clinical courses offered

Prof. Devaraj enquired how the Law course in VFSTR is different from other institutes. He advised to appoint a good Director. Mr. Ashish Kumar responded that there shall be basic computer skills in Course - 1 and Artificial Intelligence in Course - 2.

The Registrar stated that he is in touch with all the premier Law institutions and a suitable Director will be appointed soon.

The Board approved the commencement of Law Programs viz. B.A. LLB (Hons.) and B.B.A. LLB (Hons.).

3. Self-Learning Material and E-Learning for Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online Learning (OL) respectively including Programme Project Report for both UG and PG Programs:

Dr. Srinivasa Rao of MBA department presented on institutional and program level eligibility. He stated that 60% of learning material can be developed in-house.

The Registrar stated that VFSTR has enough internet bandwidth (1 GB internet) which make these programs successful. He stated that there shall be enough flexibility to discuss and chat case studies on OL mode as well as in ODL mode.

4. Finalization of Intake Capacity for UG and PG Programmes for the Academic Year 2021-22:

Dean, Admissions presented on the intake capacity for UG and PG programs for academic year 2021-22. He also presented on the admission into full-time and part-time Ph.D. He also presented on fee structure and scholarships of UG, PG and Ph.D. courses.

The Registrar mentioned that, IT related content is being incorporated in all domain of Engineering programmes as a part of strategy to increase admissions and placements.

III. Agenda Items for Ratification:

1. Results of Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) held on 06-03-21:

The Registrar responded to this agenda point and stated that a total of 36 faculty applied for CAS and four faculty members were promoted to Professor by a specially constituted committee.

2. Recruitment of Faculty Since the Last BoM Held on 21-11-2020:

The Registrar informed that, four recruitment drives were conducted since the last BoM in which 37 candidates got selected to whom offer letters were given.

3. List of Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff Joined and Relieved Since the Last BoM Held on 21-11-2020:

The Registrar informed that, total 20 teaching staff (Professors - 02, Associate Professors - 06, Assistant Professors - 11 and Aptitude Trainers - 01) joined along with 19 non-teaching staff.

He also informed that 29 Assistant Professors and 10 non-teaching staff were relieved since 21-11-2020.

4. Appointment of Prof. T. Ramesh Babu as Director, Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences:

The Registrar informed that, Prof. T. Ramesh Babu, former Dean of Post Graduate Studies and Dean of Agriculture, ANGRAU was appointed as Director, Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences.

All the external members congratulated Prof. T. Ramesh Babu on his appointment.

IV. Agenda Items for Information:

1. Status of Research Activities:

The Dean, R&D presented on the details of projects sanctioned from 2013-2021. Dr. MYS Prasad stated that two projects, worth of 440 lakhs were sanctioned. He stated that VFSTR shall develop eight technologies as part of these projects. The Dean presented on:

- a. Ph.D. scholars admitted from 2013-21.
- b. Research papers publications from 2015-2020.
- c. Citations of publications from 2015-2020.
- d. H-Index of VFSTR from 2015-2020.
- e. Research activities from 2015-21.

Prof. H. Devaraj stated that VFSTR should become iconic for good vertical research in one specialized area. Prof. BVR. Chowdari also advised to work dedicatedly for augmenting research in the campus.

2. Research Projects Sanctioned by DST in March 2021:

Dean, IT and Lib Services presented on the DST Project - STI Hub for income generation and livelihood improvement of scheduled castes community of Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. He stated that total sanctioned amount was 1,60,73,660 for a period of three years.

3. Results of Odd Semester of Academic Year 2020-21:

The following results were tabled in the meeting for the odd semester of academic year 2020-21:

BBA II year - 80% pass

BBA III Year - 85% pass

MBA II Year - 80% pass

Pre-Ph.D - 88% pass

4. Preparedness for NAAC cycle of Accreditation:

The Dean, IQAC presented on the submission of IIQA for NAAC (5th November 2020); opening of SSR portal (28th December, 2020); submission of SSR for NAAC Cycle II (10th February 2020); receipt of DVV clarification from NAAC (22nd February 2021) and submission of response for DVV (8th March 2021).

5. Submission of performance and Academic Outcome to UGC for extension of Deemed to be University Status:

Dean IQAC presented that information related to performance and Academic outcome were uploaded into the Deemed University portal of UGC for extension of Deemed to be University status for VFSTR.

6. Submission of Data for NIRF-2021:

Dean, IQAC presented that, VFSTR participated in NIRF in four categories (Engineering, Management, Overall and Research) of NIRF - 2021 ranking process and submitted on 19th February, 2021.

7. Status of OL and ODL Approval by UGC:

Director CDOE presented that the virtual interaction of Technical Expert Committee (DEB - UGC) for OL academic programme was also successfully completed on 13th April 2021.

Compliance Report was submitted on 16th April, 2021 for Open and Distance Learning mode.

8. Revised VFSTR Manual - 2020:

The Registrar presented the revised manual - 2020 with certain amendments which were necessitated due to changes that have taken place in the last three years in all institutional governance.

The following action points were brought up during the discussion of the meeting:

Sl.No	Action Point	Concerned Person
01.	Steps taken to attract scholars from industry.	Dean, R&D
02.	Steps taken so that VFSTR should become iconic for good vertical research in one area	Dean, R&D

There being no further points for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

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Action taken report of 38th Board of Management Meeting held on 24.04.2021

S.No.	Action Point	Concerned Person	Brief note on Actions taken
1	Steps taken to attract scholars from industry.	Dean - R&D	<p>At present, 105 industry sponsored scholars are pursuing their Ph.D in VFSTR university. It is 20% of entire existing scholars of the university. However, to attract more number of Scholars from industry, the following actions have been initiated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. MOUs with Industries2. Possibility organizing Ph.D course work at their convenience3. Involving the Industry research scholars with potential research support in submitting projects & patents4. Providing information on innovative research trends in the areas concerned through journals and publications subscribed by our library initiating direct on line links.5. Involving industry people in international/national conferences and seminars to strengthen their research area.6. Offering 5 years integrated research programs (Direct Ph.D. proposed i.e B.Tech -Ph.D.)
2	Steps taken so that VFSTR should become iconic for good vertical research in one area	Dean - R&D	<p>As it is a budding university, lot of research work is going on in the areas of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Molecular Phylogeny2. Food Processing3. Image Processing Techniques4. 5G Technologies5. Electric Mobility6. Composite Materials7. Nano material for catalytic applications etc <p>BoM suggestions are highly considered and will step forward to build the university iconic for vertical research in one emerging area in near future.</p>