Minutes of the 1st Executive Council Meeting

Date: 26/08/2023 (Saturday) at 09.30 a.m.

Venue: Chairman's Board Room, A-Block, VFSTR

Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and Research

Vadlamudi, Guntur

Andhra Pradesh - 522213

MINUTES OF THE 1st EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH AUGUST, 2023.

(Physical and Virtual Mode)

The members of Executive Council met on 26th August, 2023 at 09:30 AM in the Chairman's Board Room, A-Block. Prof. P. Nagabhushan, Vice-Chancellor of VFSTR chaired the meeting. The following members were present:

1. Prof. P. Nagabhushan

   Vice-Chancellor, VFSTR, Guntur, A.P. : Chairman

2. Prof. H. Devaraj

   Former Vice-Chairman, UGC, New Delhi : Member

3. Dr. Y. Sarat

   Director, United Health Systems Pvt.Ltd, Hyderabad : Member

4. Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasada Reddy, Vice-Chancellor,

   Andhra University, Vizag (Virtual Mode) : Member

5. Mr. L. Srikrishna Devarayulu

   Vice-Chairman, Lavu Educational Society, Guntur : Member

6. Dr. M. Ramakrishna

   Dean, IQAC and Dean, SoCE : Member

7. Dr. GSR Satyanarayana

   Asst. Prof. Dept. of ECE : Member

8. Dr. K.V. Krishna Kishore

   Dean, IT & LIS, I/c Dean – Admission and

   HoD, Dept. of Computing and Informatics

   Dean School of Computing and Informatics : Member

9. Prof. L. Suvarna Raju

   HoD, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering : Special Invitee

10. Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao,

    Dean, R&D : Member

11. Prof. P.M.V. Rao, Dean AAA : Special Invitee

12. Prof. Y. Ravishekar

    Dean, T&D : Special Invitee

13. Prof. M.S.S. Rukmini

    Dean-Students Affairs : Special Invitee

14. Dr. D. Vijay Krishna, Dean – T&P and

    Dean School of Law and Management : Special Invitee

15. Prof. Shaik Jakeer Hussain,

    Dean - Infrastructure, Planning & Monitoring : Special Invitee

16. Prof. T. Ramesh Babu,

    Dean, School of Agri, Food Science and Tech. : Special Invitee

17.	Dr. N. Srinivasu		
	Dean School of Applied Sciences and Humanities	:	Special Invitee
18.	Dr. N. Usha Rani		
	Dean School of Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engg.	:	Special Invitee
19.	Prof. T. Pitchaiah		
	HoD, Dept. of ECE	:	Special Invitee
20.	Prof. T.C. Venkateswarlu, HoD, Dept of BT	:	Special Invitee
21.	Dr. Praveen Kumar, Director of Law	:	Special Invitee
22.	Dr. M. Subba Rao, Assoc. Dean, PCF	:	Representing Dean,PCF
23.	Dr. Jithendra. Ch, HoD, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences	:	Special Invitee
24.	Cmde. Dr. M.S. Raghunanthan, Registrar	:	Secretary

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

1. Prof. Lalit M Patnaik

   Adjunct Professor & NASI Sr. Scientist

   Consciousness Studies Program

   National Institute of Advanced Studies

   IISC, Benguluru (former Vice-Chancellor, DIAT)   :   Member

2. Prof. B.V.R. Chowdary

   Sr. Executive Director, President's Office

   NTU, Singapore   :   Member

3. Dr. E.S. Chakravarthy

   Vice-President and Global RMG Head, TCS, Benguluru   :   Member

4. Dr. D. Vijayaramu

   Dean-Promotion, Collaborations and Faculty Affairs   :   Member

Minutes of the 1st Executive Council Meeting

Date: 26/08/2023 [Saturday] at 09:30 a.m.

Item	
	Welcoming the members of the Executive Council by the Registrar. The Chair greeted the members of the Executive Council and welcomed Prof. H. Devaraj to the meeting. The Chair apprised the members about the change of the nomenclature of the Board of Management to Executive Council. After informing the members about the other important engagements of Prof. Lalit M. Patnaik and Prof. BVR Chowdary, for which they couldn't make it to the meeting, the Chair handed over the meeting to the Registrar. The Registrar welcomed the members to the meeting and presented the noteworthy developments in VFSTRU after the 44th Board of Management meeting. He mentioned about the good admissions in VFSTRU for the academic year 2023-24. He brought the news of NBA review visit to five departments viz., CSE, ECE, EEE, Mechanical Engineering and Biotechnology. He informed the members that UGC has extended the deemed to be university status of VFSTRU w.e.f. the year 2021 onwards. The Registrar apprised the members about the three academicians, namely Prof. Subbarangaiah, Director and Head of Veda IIT, Hyderabad; Prof. Bala Subramanian Raman, Professor, Dept. of CSE, IIT Roorkee and Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra, Director, NITTTR, Calcutta, who were brought on board of the Academic Council. The Registrar further informed the members that the Department of Computer Science and Engineering has been shifted to Nagarjuna Bhavan which is now fully operational with all amenities. The Registrar also informed about the conduct of twenty-one faculty recruitment drives that resulted in the appointment of 230 faculty members in various departments. Prof. Devaraj responded to the Registrar's submission and alerted that care should be taken regarding attrition. He proposed to pass a resolution in the meeting that the Executive Council should contemplate and advise the management of VFSTRU on the plans to check attrition particularly at the Assistant Professor stage. Prof. PVGD. Prasada Reddy stated that UGC and Govt. of A.P. have extended the age of superannuation of employees to 65 years to facilitate research and mentoring. He advised the Executive Council to adopt the above-mentioned measure for the staff of VFSTRU. The Chair responded to this point stating that, the policy on extension of service to 65 years for teaching staff has been rolled out in VFSTRU after the 44th Board of Management meeting and coming up for ratification in the first Executive Council Meeting. The Chair stated that after 65, the age can be even further extended to 70 contingent on the significance of the faculty's contribution and exigencies of VFSTRU. When Prof. Devaraj enquired about Professors of Practice, the Chair responded that such measures were already implemented.
1	**Confirmation of the Minutes of the 44th Board of Management meeting held on 15th April, 2023.**
01/01	The Registrar read out the salient features of the previous BoM meeting. After deliberation, the minutes of 44th Board of Management meeting were approved.
2	**Confirmation of minutes of the 33rd and 34th Academic Council meeting held on 17th June, 2023 and 22nd July, 2023 respectively.**
01/02	The minutes of the 33rd Academic Council meeting were placed before the BoM members for deliberation and approval. After deliberation, the minutes of the 33rd and 34th Academic Council meeting were approved.

Actions taken on the decisions of the 44th BoM meeting held on 15.04.2023

Action Point	Action point addressed to	Action Taken
1. The portal of Web of Science should be accessible to all the faculty of Vignan's Institutions.	Dean, T&D	VFSTRU subscribes online portal (which includes Web of Science journals of IEEE and Springer. This portal is exclusively dedicated to VFSTRU as the online journal providers lock the IP address of the university which makes it accessible to university network alone.
2. Deans have to present the status of the research in their respective schools in the first Executive Council.	School Deans	A. **School of Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engineering** The presentations on the status of research in different schools commenced with the Prof. N. Usharani, Dean, SEECE. The Dean presented under the following heads: 1. About SEECE 2. Research clusters 3. Research infrastructure 4. Research outcome 5. Project proposal 6. Industrial grants 7. Research scholars 8. Honors and Minors 9. Seed grants 10. Industry oriented courses 11. Knowledge upgradation 12. Research initiatives 13. Academic initiative leading to research 14. School Research Board 15. Research publications 16. Summary of the Dept. of ECE The Dean stated that the school is working on AIML with special focus on Agriculture data and Medical data. She informed the members that seed grant worth of fifteen lacs was secured by her school. She further informed that Machine learning based automation was the thrust area of her school. She also informed the members that experts from industry were teaching in her department and 12 faculty members were working on Python. Responding to the Dean's presentation, Prof. H. Devaraj advised to generate prototype and secure grant. He also advised the Dean to appoint professor for 6G and improve H-Index. The Dean also presented on the research status of the Departments of EEE and BME.

		2. School of Computing and Information: Dean, SCI Prof. Krishna Kishore presented on the research in his school under the following heads: 1. Research area wise faculty 2. Scholars and publication status 3. Research area wise scholars' strength. 4. Doctoral degree awarded 5. Scholars who submitted their thesis 6. Publication status 7. SCI publication in CSE and IT 8. Road map 9. Strategic plan for the coming three and five years. 10. Thrust area (Machine Learning) After the presentation, Prof. Devaraj enquired about Professor of Practice for which the Dean responded that there were Professors of Practice who were from Benguluru on visiting basis. The Dean informed that the H-Index of the school was 28. The Registrar informed the members that obtaining faculty in Computer Science has become difficult inspite of conducting interviews in Coimbatore, Chennai, Cochin and Bhubaneshwar. He stated that VFSTRU is keen on recruiting post-graduates from IITs, NITs and IEITs. **3.School of Agriculture and Food Technology** HoD Applied Engineering, Dr. Narayana presented on the research in this school under the following heads: 1. Research activity 2. Staff research projects 3.Staff research publications 4. Visiting professors and Professors of practice 5. Ph.D program The research in the department of Applied Engineering is presented under the following heads: 1. Projects 2. Research publications The research in the department of FT is presented under the following heads: 1. External funded projects 2. Research publications **4. School of Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Sciences** The research in this school was presented under the following heads: 1. Overview of SBTPS 2. Ph.D awards 3. Student strength 4. Research program

		The research in the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences was presented under the following heads:
		1. Overview of the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

The research in the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences was presented under the following heads:
1. Overview of the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
2. Ph.D programs
3. Action plan for 3 years.

The Chair directed that external candidates i.e. scholars from industry should spend everyday at least one and half hour on critical thinking and weekends on research. The Chair also stated that VFSTRU shall benefit from external candidates. Feedback from external candidates should be taken. When Prof. Devaraj enquired about the placement of BI students, the HoD BT responded that they were placed in TCS. Prof. Devaraj enquired about funding from DBT for which HoD BT and Dean R&D responded that the department had submitted 14 projects.

When the HoD BT mentioned the commencement of M.Tech. Biotechnology, Prof. Devaraj advised to reconsider the same. HoD BT presented the introduction of new courses like Pharm D and Pharmaceutical Engineering and Prof. Devaraj questioned on the availability of faculty. HoD, Pharmacy responded that the department has adequate and qualified faculty to run the above-said programs.

5. School of Core Engineering
The research in this school was presented by Dean, SOCI under following heads:
1. About SOCI
2. Thrust areas
3. Programs
4. Current student intake
5. Current status of SFR and cadre ratio
6. Current status of research funding (school wise)
7.Current status of publication (CoES, MoUs and H-Index)
8. Future plans from one year and three years.

Prof. Devaraj advised to improve the package of placement in the school. Vice-Chairman enquired about the SFR in the department from which the Dean responded that it was 1-9.

6. School of Applied Sciences and Humanities: Dean SAS&H presented the research in this school under the following heads:
1. Faculty details
2.Research publication/patents/projects
3. Ph.D details
4. Centers of Excellence: patents, award of Ph.Ds and publications in high indexed journals
5. Action plan for coming two and four years.

		7. School of Law and Management: Dean SL&M presented the research in his school under the following heads: 1. Faculty of the school 2. Research scholars 3. Year wise research activity 4. No of scholars awarded Ph.D 5. Research publication / projects 6. FDP and conferences 7. Future plans HoD, VIL presented the research details of his branch under the following heads: 1. Programs offered 2. Students' strength 3. Faculty at VIL 4. Research thrust areas 5. Research publications 6. Strategic plan for 3 to 4 years. Prof. Devaraj advised the HoD to improve the strength of the branch and advertise to achieve nation-wide publicity.
3. VLSI course to be given additional stream	HoD ECE	HoD, ECE presented on the existing ECE curriculum stating that one of the important elective under that was VLSI. The HoD stated that, under this curriculum, student can study 8 courses in VLSI specialization with 24 credits. In addition, students can also choose Honours with additional 16 credits in 4 courses in the same domain. The HoD informed that in the current III year, 67 students have registered for elective in VLSI specialization and 40 students have registered for VLSI Honours.

4. 5G And 6G should be the part of the curriculum.	Dean, T&D	Dean TD had presented the 5G and 6G subjects in the Academic Council conducted on 17th June 2023 and obtained approval in principle to introduce 5G and 6G as a minor stream from the forthcoming semester. When Prof. Devaraj enquired about the importance of 5G and 6G, Dean T&D stated that it was the part of day to day life and helps in research. Relating to the discussion above, Dr. Y. Sarat advised that SAS&H could earn its income by conducting PET and BEC exams; teacher training program and exams for school children. Dr. Sarat also advised the Dean, SL&M to make efforts to upgrade his department of MBA to B-School and admit all the local students. Dr. Sarat further advised to the Director, VIL to improve the strength by conducting Town hall programs and other publicity activities for which the Director responded that plans for Judicial Academy and coaching for judicial services exams were in the pipeline. Dr. Sarat further advised to plan for more composite courses. The Registrar responded that from the coming September 10 to October 1st there shall be many activities in the Law School with several notable personalities shall visit the Law School.

II	Agenda Items for Discussion and Approval

i. Next one year and three year plans (to be presented by Deans in administrative positions)

1. Dean Admissions

Dean Admissions presented on the following details:
A. B.Tech. admissions details
B. Admission in M.Tech.
C. Ph.D admissions
D. Admissions from out of state and country
E. No. of merit students
F. Average marks in qualifying exam
G. Gender wise analysis
H. Future plans

Prof. Devaraj questioned on the limited number of students in Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering departments. The Vice-Chairman stated that there was good demand for Civil and Mechanical Engineering braches in other colleges and states. He stated that there should be a thorough review of the situation for improvement. The Chair justified the workload of the faculty in these departments by mentioning the minors introduced and the number of CSE students who were opting for minor course in Structural and Smart City Engineering.

Dr. Y. Sarat opined that there must have been certain problems with syllabus and perception about the department. He advised that parents should be convinced to join non-CSE branches by explaining the importance of computer minor in other branches.

2. Dean AAA

01/03 Dean AAA presented on this point under the following heads:
A. One-year plan from Dean AAA's office
B. Five years plan from Dean AAA's office

3. Dean R&D
A. Strategies and plans for next one and three years
B. Publications
C. Joint collaborations
D. Books and book chapters
E. Projects
F. Ph.D admissions
G. Ph.Ds awarded
H. Scopus citations
I. H-Index
J. WoS H-Index
K. 1-10 index
L. Patents
M. Patents granted
N. Consultancy and active MoUs
O. Extension activities
P. E-Content platform
Q. Strategic plan for next five years

3. Dean PCF
The Dean presented the current and future plans under the following heads:
A. Orientation program
B. Policy making and implementation
C. Entrepreneurial activities
D. Collaborative activities

4. Dean T&D

The Dean presented the current and future plans under the following heads:

A. Software development

B. Hardware infrastructure

C. Library infrastructure

5. Dean SA

The Dean presented the current and future plans under the following heads:

A. Gallery at sports ground

B. Yoga Hall

C. Flood lights in grounds

6. Dean, IQAC

The Dean presented the current and future plans under the following heads:

A. One-year plan

B. Accreditation and certification

C. Rankings

D. Collaborations

The agenda point was discussed and approved by the Executive Council.

7. Dean IPM

Under the agenda item for discussion and approval, Dean, PM&B presented the VISION document as below:

1. Various buildings and their area.

Sl.No.	Building	Built up area (Sq.mts.)	Floor area(Sq.mts.)
01.	Vishwesharayya Bhavan	3037.87	12267.86
02.	Aryabhatta Bhavan	3719.2	17538.41
03.	Bhuvana Vijayam	2978.95	15991.93
04.	Pharmacy Block	1084.8	4339.58
05.	NTR Vignan Library	1475.65	5902.6
06.	Nagarjuna Bhavan	46424.15	46424.15

2. Proposed plan required for next three years:

Total area required	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	13,480 Sq.mts.	7958 Sq.mts.	8561 Sq.mts.

3. Budget

Academic Year	Area SFT	Cost per SFT	Total cost in crores
2024-25	13480	20000	35.85
2025-26	7958	22000	23.28
2026-27	8561	24000	27.55

4. Future Plans:

Part-3 and Part-4 of Nagarjuna Bhavan will be ready.

Annapurna Block construction with 40 Classrooms and 28 Laboratories Since the number of sections will increase every year, a separate building must be required for the first year with 60 classrooms and 20 laboratories

No. of sections - 169

Total classrooms – 119

Decision: After extensive deliberation, the agenda point was approved.

01/04	**ii. Examination results of the academic year 2022-23 (II semester). (presented by Dean AAA)** Dean AAA presented the examination results of the academic year 2022-23 by comparing the aggregate result of I, II, III and IV B.Tech. II semester of the present year with that of previous two years. Decision: The agenda point was discussed and approved by the Executive Council.
01/05	**iii. Details of students eligible to receive degrees during the 11th Convocation-2023. (presented by Dean AAA)** Dean, AAA presented this topic by presenting the details of students who shall receive their degrees in the forthcoming 11th Convocation. The Dean stated that a total of 1767 students (including Ph.Ds) shall receive their degrees. Decision: The agenda point was discussed and approved by the Executive Council.
01/06	**iv. Admissions for the year 2023-24. (presented by Dean Admissions)** Dean Admissions presented this agenda point. Decision: The agenda point was discussed and approved by the Executive Council

01/07	**v. Vision document of VFSTR (presented by Prof. A. Sharada)**
	Prof. A. Sharada presented the Vision document of VFSTR under the following heads: The Dean further discussed the Vision document under the heads given under
	Preamble
	1. Vision / Mission
	2. Genesis
	3. Pillars of VISION document
	   a. Pillar I
	   Academic progress and curriculum
	   Pillar II
	   a. Teaching – Learning process
	   b. Research and innovations
	   c. Student support and progression
	   Pillar III
	   Research and innovation
	   Pillar IV
	   Student outcome
	   Pillar V
	   Human resource
	   Pillar VI
	   Infrastructure
	Decision: The external members directed that the document be sent by email to all concerned for their suggestions if any. If there are no suggestions the agenda point is deemed to be approved.

III	**Agenda Items for Information**
01/08	**i. Status of research activities (presented by Dean R&D)** The Dean R&D presented the status of research activities under the following heads: 1. Focussed research areas 2. Publications 3. Citations 4. H-Index 5. Impact factor 6. Funded research projects 7. Patents 8. Ph.Ds awarded

01/09	ii. Establishment of Department of Social Science and Humanities under the School of Applied Science and Humanities. (presented by Dean AAA) The Dean presented that with a view to enhance research culture in various domains of Social Sciences and Humanities and strengthen Vignan's Civil Services Academy by enriching with experts from other domains, the establishment of the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities under the School of Applied Sciences and Humanities and restructuring of the Department of English and the Department of T&P was authorised vide proceedings of Registrar dated 27th July 2023.
01/10	iii. Continuation of Deemed to be University status by Ministry of Education (presented by the Registrar) The Registrar presented on the continuation of deemed to be university for VFSTRU by the Ministry of Education vide the Gazette of India publication Part 1 section 1 dated 27th July, 2023.
iv	Agenda Items for Ratification
01/11	(i) Superannuation of Teaching Staff and Terms of Conditions for their Re-engagement (presented by Dean PCF) Dean PCF presented this agenda point which discussed the superannuation of teaching staff on attainment of 65 years of age and terms of conditions for their re-engagement. This agenda point was ratified after thorough discussion.
01/12	(ii) Appointment of Visiting Professors and Professors of Practice (presented by Dean AHS). The Dean AHS presented the details of five Visiting Professors and two Professors of Practice in the Department of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences on 24th July, 2023. This agenda point was ratified after thorough discussion.
01/13	(iii) Recruitment of faculty since the last BoM meeting held on 15th April, 2023. (presented by the Registrar) The Registrar presented the details of faculty recruitment since the last BoM meeting held on held on 15th April, 2023. He presented that out of the 231 candidates selected, 70 faculty have joined VFSTRU. This agenda point was ratified after thorough discussion.
01/14	(iv) List of Teaching and Non-teaching staff joined and relieved since the last meeting held on 15th April, 2023. (presented by the Registrar) The Registrar presented that since the last BoM meeting held on 15th April, 2023, total 70 teaching and 48 non-teaching staff joined VFSTRU. The Registrar further presented that in the same above-said duration, 26 teaching and 18 non-teaching staff were relieved from VFSTRU. This agenda point was ratified after thorough discussion.

The following action points was pronounced during the 1st Executive Council meeting.

Sl.No.	Action Point	Action point addressed to
1.	There should be integration of syllabus of Law with that of Engineering courses.	Director, VIL
2.	Director, VIL should develop courses in Cyber Security in consultation with the department of Computer Science.	Director, VIL
3.	Arbitration and Mediation courses, certification courses, conferences should be organised in VIL. There should be an action plan for strength improvement in VIL	Director, VIL
4.	Dean Admissions should discuss with HoDs of Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering to evolve an action plan to increase admissions in the departments with less enrolment.	Dean Admissions HoD, Civil Engg. HoD, Mechanical Engg.
5.	There should be improvement and modification of standards of counselling with the active participation of the departments during counselling for admissions.	Dean Admissions
6.	Departments offering M.Tech. Programs should choose the right specializations and offer these programs in collaboration with industry	HODs of concerned depts.

Having discussed all the agenda points, the meeting was adjourned.

4.9.23
REGISTRAR
VIGNAN'S FOUNDATION
FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
(Deemed to be University)
VADLAMUDI-522 213
GUNTUR (DISTRICT), A.P. INDIA

4/9/23
VICE-CHANCELLOR
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GUNTUR (DISTRICT), A.P. INDIA