F.No.VFSTR/Reg/02/2019_02   Date :13 07.2019

MINUTES OF THE 32nd MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON 15.06.2019

The 32nd Meeting of the Board of Management of VFSTR was held on 15 June 2019 i.e. Saturday at 10.00 AM in the Board Room, V-Floor of 'A' Block. Dr. M.Y.S. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, VFSTR chaired the meeting.

The following members were present:

1.	Dr. K. Ramamuthy Naidu, Chancellor, VFSTR	Special Invitee
2.	Dr. M. Malakondaiah, Former DGP, Andhra Pradesh	Special Invitee
3.	Prof. B.V.R. Chowdari, Senior Executive Director NTU, Singapore	External Member
4.	Dr. T.S. Rao, Sr. Advisor, DBT, New Delhi	External Member
5.	Prof. P.V. G.D. Prasad Reddy, Prof. Dept of CSE, AU, Vizag	External Member
6.	Dr. Y. Sarat, Director, United Health Systems, HYD	External Member
7.	Dr. PMV Rao, Dean-Academic Registration and Evaluation:	Internal Member
8.	Dr. Ravi Kumar V, Dean Admissions	Internal Member
9.	Dr. M.S.S. Rukumni, Dean SA	Internal Member
10.	Mr. D. Vijay Krishna, Assoc. Prof., Dept of MBA	Internal Member
11.	Dr. M. Ramakrishna, Dean-IQAC	Special Invitee
12.	Dr. D. Vijaya Ramu, Dean-Academics and Foreign Collaborations	Special Invitee
13.	Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao, Dean R&D and HoD-Dept of EEE	Special Invitee
14.	Dr. S. Krupanidhi, Dean P&M, and HoD-Dept. of BT	Special Invitee
15.	Dr. B. Seetharamanjaneyulu, Prof., Dept. of ECE	Special Invitee
16.	Dr. Shaik jakeer Hussain, Professor, Dept. of ECE	Special Invitee
17.	Dr. N. Srinivasu, HoD-Dept. of S&H	Special Invitee
18.	Dr. Venkatesulu, HoD, Dept. of CSE	Special Invitee
19.	Dr. T. Pitchaiah, HoD, Dept of ECE	Special Invitee
20.	Dr. Ramesh Naidu, HoD-Dept. of Chemical Engg.	Special Invitee
21.	Dr. N. Ruben, HoD-Dept of Civil Engg.	Special Invitee
22.	Dr. K. Kalpana, HoD-Dept of MBA	Special Invitee
23.	Mr. N. Narayana Rao, HoD, Dept of Applied Engg	Special Invitee
24.	Dr. N. Veerananjaneyulu, I/C HoD, Dept of IT	Special Invitee
25.	Cmde. Dr. M.S. Raghunathan, Registrar, VFSTR	Member Secretary

The following members have taken leave of absence:

1.	Dr. H. Devaraj, Former Vice-Chairman, UGC	External Member
2.	Sri. L. Sri Krishna Devarayalu, Vice-Chairman, VFSTR	External Member
3.	Dr. Satya Prasad, Rector, VFSTR	Internal Member
4.	Dr. V. Madhusudhan Rao, Dean-E&M	Special Invitee

5. Dr. K.V. Krishna Kishore, Dean-Lib & IT Services and HoD, Dept of IT Special Invitee

Proceedings

The Chair, Dr. M.Y.S. Prasad welcomed all the members to the meeting and sought opening remarks from the members of the BoM.

The Chancellor invited all the external members and expressed his pleasure for attending the meeting. He stated that there is tremendous competition among the universities of the country. He sought constructive suggestions from the members to improve research in VFSTR. Prof. BVR Chowdari stressed on the international recognition for the university and many Indian universities are concerned about entering into MoUs with international universities. As Dr. M. Malakondiah drew the attention of the members towards the changes in higher education, Dr. T. S. Rao advised that NIRF ranking should improve. He further stated that Niti Ayog had announced new policy which everyone should refer. He pointed at the difference between an engineering college and a deemed university. He wanted the university to attract talents. He advised for a more coordination between the members of Planning and Monitoring Board and seriously work towards to frame a road map for the forthcoming five years to 10 years. He advised that all faculty members should teach and do research well.

The Chair congratulated for the victory of Sri. Sri Krishna Devarayulu, the Vice-Chairman of VFSTR as Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) in the general elections that took place recently.

1. Agenda Items for the Meeting

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 31st BoM meeting held on 28.03.2019

Cmde. Dr. M.S. Raghunathan presented the Minutes of the 31st BoM meeting held on 28th of March 2019. He raised the point of action taken on the decisions of the previous BoM and requested Dr. Vijaya Krishna to give the details of internship process. Mr. Vijay Krishna highlighted the process of internship where he mentioned that students with 2 backlogs were also allowed for internships. He mentioned that there is a proper process in selecting companies where students would undergo internship. Further, he highlighted the process of evaluation of students' progression which is based on two reviews and preparing a report. He also mentioned that in the year 2017-18, 221 companies have offered internship to the students of VFSTR while in the year 2018-19, 350 companies have offered internships.

Prof. PVGD Prasad Reddy enquired about the evaluation process while Dr.T.S Rao asked for a confidential report on the internships. Answering this Dr. PMV Rao mentioned of the reviews for evaluation. He also mentioned of the Project Report that is linked to these internships.

Prof. PVGD Prasad Reddy commented that good companies contact the worthy students irrespective of their marks and branch and mentioned the example of two students who were placed in Google and TCS. He mentioned that skill is mandatory for receiving such offers. He mentioned that internship is mandatory in 4th year. He also advised to avoid giving marks for internship and make certificates mandatory from the company. Mr. D. Vijay Krishna mentioned that they have made the certificate from the company as mandatory. Dr. PMV Rao mentioned that in the proposed R19 regulations, the credits are reduced to 12 credits for internship. The Chair here mentioned that there is a lot to work on internships and the university shall evolve a policy to improve the evaluation of internships.

After this discussion the Minutes of 31st BoM meeting held on 28.03. 2019 were approved.

2. Agenda Items for Approval

A. Revision of B.Tech Regulations 2019 (R19)

Registrar gave a brief overview on the framing of R19 regulations stating that rigorous efforts and six months of hard work were put in for the framing of R19 regulations. He mentioned that two committees were created one being the R19 committee and the other being the Online courses committee. Various academic regulations of other institutions like BITS Pilani were researched. He mentioned that as per these regulations, department electives would start from 3-1 onwards and Python course is introduced in all branches. There were Boards of studies constituting of both internal and external members. He stated that during finalization of the revised B.Tech curriculum of all programmes, feedback from various stakeholders was carefully considered after thorough discussions in various academic bodies. Inputs regarding technical matters were taken from the BoS and were presented before the Academic Council for approval.

Prof. Vijaya Ramu, Dean Academics mentioned that the fundamentals of every course are retained. He further mentioned that credits were proposed to be reduced to 170 from 190. The regulations have made project-based learning as its highlight and have credits for online courses. He further said that judicious credit distribution; number of credits matching with AICTE guidance number and year-wise course work; inclusion of branch-specific Chemistry in 2nd and 3rd year and strengthening of Mathematics and Physics across branches by offering branch-specific components are some of the major highlights of R19. Branch specific Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry across branches; technical seminars; interdepartmental projects; societal centric projects; introduction of MOOCS via SWAYAM; credit system as per AICTE guidelines; credits for physical fitness and sports and games; Honours program; recommendation of BoS membership drawn from industry and academia have increased the credibility of R19 regulations.

Dr. T.S. Rao advised to introduce the Game Editing in the R19 regulations. Prof. BVR Chowdari appreciated the interdisciplinary project system. Prof. P.V.G.D Prasad Reddy advised that if a student develops an idea in the incubation centre, he should be allowed to go into the market by introducing the system of 'break year concept' and if a student wants to go abroad for higher studies, he should be allowed a window to facilitate the same. Prof. BVR Chowdari mentioned that there should be good balance between science, technology and humanities. Dr. Malakondiah advised that along with societal related projects there should be emphasis on core competence and knowledge so as to help the employment of students, and industry related problems should also be included.

The Chair mentioned that the problems of the society can be solved by applying the knowledge of science and technology and asked to bring Engineers into day to day life. Prof. PVGD Prasad Reddy mentioned that the problems identified by AICTE sponsored Hackathon should be placed in the website of the university and encourage the students to find solution for such problems. The Chancellor Prof. K. Ramamurthy Naidu enquired about the number of industrial persons included in the framing of R19 syllabus and advised to check with other deemed universities. Prof. Vijaya Ramu mentioned that he compared the R19 syllabus with that of IIT Chennai. Dr. Y. Sarat appreciated the effort of R19 as commendable.

Dr.PMV Rao explained the evaluation scheme of R19 as the one with comprehensive evaluation. He mentioned that theory occupies 40% of the evaluation while attendance, periodic tests, mid exams, lab experiments occupy 50% of evaluation. He presented the scheme of marks allotted and also presented on mid examination model paper; end exam model paper; lab evaluation blue print; blue print for evaluation of inter disciplinary and societal centric projects; blue print for evaluation of internships; blue print for evaluation of semester long project; evaluation of life skills and employability skills and qualifying marks and award of class. As the Chair advised for the perfect evaluation of the lab by external members, Dean Evaluation mentioned that they involve 350 external members as lab exam evaluators every semester.

Dr. Y. Sarat mentioned that internal members should replace external lab examiners for which Dr. Malakondiah mentioned that the students may not take the lab exams seriously if there is no external member. The Chancellor Prof. K. Ramamurthy Naidu, Dr. T. S. Rao and the Vice-Chancellor appreciated the involvement of external member for the lab exams and advised that the system has to be tightened.

B. Revision of MBA Regulations (R19)

HoD, Dept. of Management Studies presented the main features of revised MBA curriculum and regulations. She stated that the revised MBA curriculum was finalized after obtaining feedback from various stakeholders further followed by thorough discussions in various academic bodies. The members approved the revised regulations, stakeholders feedback analysis and corresponding action taken reports of all B.Tech programmes and MBA programme.

C. Revision of PhD programmes in English and Agriculture Engineering

The revised PhD programmes in English and Agriculture Engineering was brought to the members for approval. New courses were added in both the programmes to provide more choice to the scholars in the course work. The members have unanimously approved the revision.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of 21st Academic Council Meeting held on 29.04.2019

The Minutes of the 21st Academic Council Meeting held on 29.04.2019 were placed before the members of the Board for approval. Before the members of the BoM confirmed the Minutes, the action taken report related to Academic Council Meeting was presented before the Board by the Registrar, Cmde. Dr. MS. Raghunanthan.

After this the Minutes of 21st Academic Council Meeting held on 29.04.2019 were confirmed by the members of BoM.

4. Seventh Convocation scheduled on 27.07.2019 (Saturday)

Registrar, Cmde. Dr. MS. Raghunanthan informed the members of BoM that seventh Convocation was scheduled on 27th of July 2019. He informed that Dr. PMV Rao is the chief Coordinator for the Convocation. Dr. PMV Rao stated that 1500 graduates will be awarded degrees in this Convocation. A committee consisting of Vice-Chairman, Sri. Sri Krishna Devarayulu, Prof. PVGD Prasad Reddy, and Dr. PMV Rao will form as a subcommittee to work on the award of Honorary Doctorates.

III. Agenda Items for Ratification

1. Promotions of Faculty under Career Advancement Scheme

Registrar, Cmde. Dr. MS. Raghunanthan presented the list of faculty who were given promotions under the Career Advancement Scheme. He mentioned that 21 faculty applied for promotions out of whom 04 faculty members were promoted. Three Assistant Professors were promoted as Associate Professors and one Associate Professor was promoted as Professor. The agenda item was ratified by the members of BoM.

2. Recruitment of faculty since the last BoM held on 28.03.2019

Registrar, Cmde. Dr. MS. Raghunanthan presented the list of faculty recruited since the last BoM held on 28.03.2019. The agenda item was ratified by the members of BoM.

3. List of Teaching and non-teaching staff joined and relieved since the last BoM meeting held on 28.03.2019

Registrar, Cmde. Dr. MS. Raghunanthan presented the list of teaching and non-teaching staff joined and relieved since the last BoM held on 28.03.2019. The agenda item was ratified by the members of BoM.

IV. List of Agenda Items for Information:

1. AICTE approval for the Academic Year 2019-20
2. Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) approval for the academic year 2019-20
3. Admissions 2019-20
4. Second semester results of academic year 2018-19
5. Commencement of Bridge course for the first year UG students
6. National Institutional Ranking Framework Ranking
7. Details of Placement 2018.

Registrar, Cmde. Dr. M.S. Raghunanthan informed the members about the approval accorded by AICTE and PCI for the academic year 2019-20.

Registrar, Cmde. Dr. MS. Raghunanthan mentioned that the VFSTR did not compromise on the standards of students while giving admissions. In spite of high cut-off mark for admission, the number of admissions reached 1187 by 14 June 2019.

Dr. PMV Rao presented the second semester results

First year - 83.15%

Second Year - 83.46%

Third Year - 88.65%

Fourth year - 98.0%

He mentioned that 85% of students are going to obtain their degree.

HoD, S&H Dr. N. Srinivas mentioned that Bridge Course for the newly admitted students of I B. Tech. commenced from 12.06.2019.

Dr. Rama Krishna, Dean, IQAC informed about the National Institutional Ranking Framework and on the process VFSTR applied for NIRF. In the discussion that ensued on this, it was advised by the members of the Board that VFSTR should emulate the techniques followed by the universities which scored good ranking in the evaluation by the NIRF.

Speaking on placements, Mr. D. Vijay Krishna informed that in the academic year 2018-19, the placements have crossed 1100. He also informed of the campus recruitment training programs going on in the University for placing the students in the next year.

Action to be taken as per the directions of external members:

Action point	Action to be taken by
Marks for internship to be studied further.	Dean, Evaluation
Introduction of Break Year Concept to facilitate the innovative students in future.	Dean, Academics
Problems identified by AICTE sponsored Hackathon should be placed in the website of the university	Dean Library and IT services
a) Publications or papers published by faculty and Research Scholars b) Status of on-going Projects c) Seminars conducted by VFSTR d) Seminar attended by VFSTR Faculty e) Conferences conducted by VFSTR f) Conferences attended by VFSTR Faculty	Dean – R&D

As all the agenda points were discussed, the meeting concluded with the Vote of Thanks by the Registrar followed by the felicitation of external members by the Vice-Chancellor.

There being no further points, the meeting was adjourned.

REGISTRAR
VIGNAN'S FOUNDATION
FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
(Declared to be Deemed University U/S 3 of UGC Act 1956)
VADLAMUDI-522 213.
A.P. INDIA

VICE-CHANCELLOR
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