VIGNAN'S
Foundation for Science, Technology & Research
(Deemed to be University)
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NAAC **A**
Accredited

MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 29TH APRIL 2019

The Academic Council of VFSTR met on 29.04.2019 at 09:30 AM in the Board Room, 5th Floor, A-Block. Dr. M.Y.S. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor of VFSTR, Chaired the meeting.

Members attended :-

1.	Dr. K. Ramamurthy Naidu, Chancellor, VFSTR	: Special Invitee
2.	Dr. K. Babu Rao MD, NAVAYUGA Infotech Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	: External Member
3.	Er. D. Rama Krishna MD, Effotronics, Vijayawada	: External Member
4.	Dr. M. Malakondaiah Former DGP, Andhra Pradesh	: Special Invitee
5.	Prof. Mukesh Doble Professor, Dept. of Biotech., IIT Madras	: Special Invitee
6.	Dr. Veeresh Babu Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Mech. Engg., NIT Warangal	: Special Invitee
7.	Dr. K. Satya Prasad, Rector	: Internal Member
8.	Dr. V. Madhusudhan Rao, Dean, Engg. & Management	: Internal Member
9.	Dr. P.M.V.Rao Dean, Academic Registration and Evaluation and Controller of Examinations	: Permanent Invitee
10.	Dr. M.S.S. Rukmini, Dean – Student Affairs	: Internal Member
11.	Dr. D. Vijaya Ramu Dean, Academics and I/c Dean, Foreign Collaborations	: Internal Member
12.	Dr. M. Ramakrishna, Dean - IQAC	: Internal Member
13.	Dr. K.V.Krishna Kishore Dean, IT & LIS and HoD, Dept. of IT	: Internal Member
14.	Prof. S. Krupanidhi Dean, Planning & Monitoring and HoD, Dept. of Biotech	: Internal Member
15.	Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao, Dean, R&D and HoD, Dept. of EEE	: Internal Member
16.	Dr. V. Ravi Kumar, Dean - Admissions	: Internal Member
17.	Mr. D. Vijay Krishna, Dean – T&P	: Internal Member
18.	Dr. M. Ramesh Naidu, HoD, Dept. of Chem. Engg.	: Internal Member
19.	Mr. A. Narayana Rao, HoD, Dept. of AE	: Internal Member
20.	Dr. N. Ruben, HoD, Dept. of Civil Engg.	: Internal Member
21.	Dr. D. Venkatesulu, HoD, Dept. of CSE	: Internal Member
22.	Mr. T. Pitchaiah, HoD, Dept. of ECE	: Internal Member

1

23.	Dr. L. S. Raju, HoD, Dept. of Mech. Engg.	: Internal Member
24.	Dr. N. Srinivasu, HoD, Dept. of S&H	: Internal Member
25.	Dr. K. Kalpana, HoD, Dept. of MBA	: Internal Member
26.	Dr. B. Madhusudhan Rao, Professor, Dept. of MBA	: Internal Member
27.	Dr. M. Sreenivasulu, Professor, Dept. of CSE	: Internal Member
28.	Dr. P.L.N.Varma, Professor, Dept. of S&H	: Internal Member
29.	Dr. N. Veeranjaneyulu, Professor, Dept. of IT	: Internal Member
30.	Dr. N. Gnaneswara Rao Professor, Dept. of CSE	: Internal Member
31.	Dr. K. Hemantha Kumar, Professor, Dept. of CSE	: Internal Member
32.	Dr. B.Seetharamanjaneyulu, Professor, Dept. of ECE	: Internal Member
33.	Dr. N.Usha Rani, Professor, Dept. of ECE	: Internal Member
34.	Dr. Shaik Jakeer Husaian, Professor, Dept. of ECE	: Internal Member
35.	Dr. D. Satyanarayana, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Mech. Engg.	: Internal Member
36.	Mr. P.V.S.Sobhan, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of EEE	: Internal Member
37.	Dr. K. Annapurna, Asst. Prof., Dept. of ECE	: Internal Member
38.	Mr. K. Praveen Kumar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of IT	: Internal Member
39.	Mr. R. Suresh Kumar, Systems Manager	: Internal Member
40.	Mr. A. Gouri Sankar Rao, Asst. Registrar	: Internal Member
41.	Cmde. Dr. M.S.Raghunathan, Registrar	: Member Secretary

Leave of Absence:

The following members did not attend the meeting :-

1.	Dr. Shanti Swarup Director of Engg., MathWorks, Hyderabad	: External Member
2.	Dr. Vidhu Kampurath Poduvattil Joint Director (PHE), NIPHM, Hyderabad	: Special Invitee
3.	Dr. Mani, Assoc. Dean, Dr. NTR College of Agricultural Engg., Bapatla	: Special Invitee
4.	Dr. A. Sharada, Prof., Dept. of S&H	: Internal Member
5.	Dr. Jithendra Chimakurthy, HoD, Pharmacy	: Internal Member
6.	Mr. R. Sambaiah, Finance Officer	: Internal Member

Student participants:

1. Ms. K. Harika, Reg. No. 171FA04154
2. Ms. U. Mounika, Reg. No. 171FA04181
3. Ms. P. Akanksha, Reg. No. 171FA05321
4. Ms. M. Pravallikadevi, Reg. No. 161FA05393
5. Ms. V. Gayathri, Reg. No. 161FA04204

Proceedings:

Dr.M.Y.S. Prasad, Vice Chancellor, VFSTR, welcomed the external and internal members and special invitees to the meeting. He informed the members that the focus of the 21st Academic Council Meeting would be R-19, the revised curriculum for VFSTR in the following academic year. He then invited Prof. Ramamurthy Naidu, Chancellor, VFSTR to give his initial comments. Prof. Naidu expressed that certain items on the agenda such as the projects that were presented in Srujanankura and Anveshan must be discussed in detail but may be postponed as discussions on R-19 are more important. He also expressed that Convocation should have been an agenda point. Dr. M Malakondiah, Former DGP, Andhra Pradesh, opined that gainful employment, niche area research, faculty development programmes, residential facility for faculty and physical and mental fitness of the faculty and students must be the focus in the subsequent years. Er. D. Ramakrishna, MD, Effotronics Systems Pvt. Ltd., highlighted the importance of ability of self-learning. He opined that self-learning would help students to understand the mindset required to function in the industrial era as well as aspire for high profile jobs. Dr. K. Babu Rao, Former Professor, NIT Warangal & Director Navayuga Infotech, Hyderabad said that the course design must focus on course outcome, delivery and evaluation. Prof. Mukesh Doble, Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology, IIT Madras, opined that summer internships must be mandated and credited to improve the students' exposure to industry. He opined that the university may invite industrial collaborators to improve the chances of student internships too. He also recommended active research through filing patents, writing grants, encouraging start-ups by students.

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting.**

   Minutes of the 20th Meeting of Academic Council held on 30.07.2018 was placed for confirmation. The Chair invited comments from the members on the minutes of 20th Academic Council meeting. With no comments, members confirmed the minutes.

2. **Actions taken on the decisions of the previous meeting.**

   A report on the actions taken on the decisions of the previous meeting was placed for information. The same was duly noted by the members.

3. **Agenda Items for Approval**

   a) Revision of Curriculum, structure and regulations for all B.Tech Programmes

   Dr. D. Vijaya Ramu, Dean Academics, VFSTR, presented the R19 B.Tech curriculum, structure and its regulations. The R19 B.Tech Curriculum follow Choice Based Credit System as like any other curriculum at VFSTR. All of the Courses including new Courses in the respective R19 B.Tech Curriculum enable Employability / Entrepreneurship / Skill Development which were reviewed and recommended by respective Board of Studies (BoS). The feedback from various stake holders including Students, Employers, Parents and Teachers was carefully reviewed by BoS for design of R19 B.Tech Curriculum.

Dean, Academics presented the major inputs from the BoS members of all the departments and suggestions from experts at BITS Pilani (Hyderabad campus). He informed the members that good features from the previous regulation such as seminar, mini project and semester-long internship are maintained in R19 and that R19 focused more on aspects such as self-study, project-based learning (further divided into Intra disciplinary, Inter-departmental and societal projects) and physical fitness, sports and games. He said that the total number of credits have been reduced to 170 but has not been maintained at 160 (as per AICTE guidelines) because the university has decided to give credits to certain courses to encourage the students. He briefed the members on the list of courses and their distribution throughout the semesters. He emphasized on the inclusion of credit based courses pertaining to life skills and employability skills. He also elucidated on the procedure followed in the interdisciplinary, inter departmental and societal projects in R19, physical fitness and games, inclusion of courses in the humanities and management stream and environmental sciences and the procedural details of the honors programme. Registrar VFSTR informed the members that the curriculum design was undertaken by forming two committees; one that looked at R19 and the other that worked on online courses. He presented the process followed in the preparation of R-19 which was a systematic one and prepared with due diligence. He informed the members that R-19 has been finalized by considering the inputs from BoS members, other expert panels and reviews in DDH Meetings.

A presentation on online courses (MOOCs) was made by Dr. Shaik Jakeer Hussain, Prof., Dept of ECE. He explained the process of course identification, list of courses identified, process of evaluation and grading scheme. He informed the members that as a trial and as well as a source of feedback required for implementing the SWAYAM courses in R-19, faculty and students of the university enrolled themselves for these courses and appeared for the exams. He said that all facilities required to run the courses have already been implemented in the university. Dr. Malkondiah opined that courses offered by foreign universities and the ones that do not fall within the purview of AICTE and SWAYAM could be offered as non-credited courses.

Further, Dr. P.M.V. Rao, Dean AR & Evaluation, explained the scheme of evaluation for R19. He informed the members that the question papers have already been revised to suit R-19 based on revised Bloom's Taxonomy. He explained the change in evaluation scheme for R-19 and the blueprint for the evaluation of intra departmental, inter-disciplinary and societal projects, internship, semester-long projects, life skills and employability, online courses, physical fitness and games. The members opined that the internal members may consider drawing a separation between first class and distinction degrees awarded to the students. Dr. M.Y.S Prasad, Vice Chancellor, VFSTR, said that the matter would be discussed internally and a decision would be reached upon. Er.D.Ramakrishna, MD, Effotronics, Hyderabad, and Dr.M. Malakondiah, Special Invitee opined that the number of examinations held could be

reconsidered. Vice Chancellor, Dr. M.Y.S Prasad, recommended that the matter be discussed internally.

Next, course-wise changes from previous regulation to R19 and their rationale was explained by the respective departments.HOD of CSE presented the curriculum and said that the focus of the same is on building programming skills. Er. D.Ramakrishna opined that mobile computing technology may be included as its scope is widening day by day. He suggested teaching the methodology than technology which in turn would prepare the students for more than a routine job. He also suggested that the faculty of the department could attend Gartner conferences to have a better understanding and planning of the courses. He also suggested that certain professional courses as mentioned in the curriculum could be offered in the first year of the programme and that courses such as computer organization and OS could be included in one of the first four semesters.

This was followed by a presentation by Dr. K.V. Krishna Kishore, HOD IT and Dean IT Services. Er. D.Ramakrishna suggested that the topics in electronics could cover more of digital aspects than analog. He opined that the curriculum could include OS structures than compiler design. Dr. K. Babu Rao, external member recommended that big data analytics could be made a regular course.

Next was the presentation of R19 by department of ECE. It was suggested that digital broadcasting be included as an elective. Market oriented elective courses such as AWS were also suggested to be included as electives. It was discussed that industry centric and society centric projects may run simultaneously so that the problems dealt with in the projects be better defined. Dr. Mukesh Doble, special invitee suggested that a list of industries could be identified for these projects and can be taken forward through CSR funding.

This was followed by R19 curriculum for department of EEE and the same was presented by Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao, HOD of EEE and Dean R&D. Dr. M.Y.S Prasad, Vice Chancellor, VFSTR, opined that the need for the course on power systems protection for a full semester may be reconsidered.

Thereafter, Dr.S.Krupanidhi, HoD, Department of Biotechnology, presented the salient changes brought about in the R19 curriculum for Biotechnology and Bioinformatics. The members suggested that the number of industrial experts on the BoS could be improved. This was followed by a presentation by Dr.L.S.Raju from the department of Mechanical Engineering. Dr. M.Malakondiah, special invitee recommended that courses in conventional designing, basic sciences, particularly courses in basic engineering could be retained as self-study courses if it could not be accommodated as per AICTE guidelines. This, according to him would make sure that the overall content does not undergo any reduction.

Dr. N. Srinivasu, HoD of Department of Sciences & Humanities, informed the member that in R19, courses in chemistry, physics and mathematics with branch specific contents incorporated will suit the requirements of respective branches. The members

suggested that the courses in mathematics may be aligned along modern methods than the conventional style. For the course on Professional Ethics, it was suggested that ethical issues discussed should be branch-specific for better understanding of work ethics.

This was followed by a presentation on R19 curriculum for Food Technology. It was mentioned that the courses have been designed in tune with recent changes in the field. Prof. Doble recommended that lectures by industrial experts and industrial visits must be necessary components for the curriculum in Food Technology as much of the knowledge in the area has to come through industry experience. Incorporation of credit-based industry learning system recommended by Dr.M.Malakondiah has been added to this suggestion by recommending the names of possible collaborators such as CFTRI, Mysore, ICT, Mumbai, Mango processing units in Chittoor and IICT, Hyderabad.

Dr. Ruben, HoD, Department of Civil Engineering in his presentation informed the members that the course has been designed with a focus on construction and infrastructure development. It was suggested that the courses must also incorporate construction methodologies, project planning, field methods and climate-change effective methods.

HoD, Applied Engineering presented the curriculum for Agriculture Engineering and Automobile Engineering. The members were informed that since there was no AICTE regulation applied on the course, the structure of the curriculum is aligned with that of ICAR. It was advised that a course on plant mechanization procedure be included and Nagpur Farm Equipment manufacturers be contacted for collaboration. It was also advised that ICRISAT be included in the BoS. For automobile engineering, it was opined that the Society for Automobile Engineering be contacted through which changes and progress in the field can be analyzed. Dr.M.Y.S Prasad recommended to maintain the electric vehicle project.

Presentations on R19 for Biomedical Engineering was made. It was advised that Bio medical engineers from hospitals be made a part of the BoS. This was followed by presentation of curriculum for Chemical Engineering by HoD Chemical Engineering. The members recommended inclusion of courses in bioreactors and bioprocess engineering to improve employability quotient. Next, presentations were made by the members of Textile Technology, and Petroleum Engineering.

The external members then gave their concluding comments on R19. Prof. Doble stressed upon the in-house teaching-learning centres to ensure better teaching inputs. He advised contacting industries for rural-project funding via CSR. He also stressed on publications, patents and other research related activities for the overall growth of the university. He said that research and teaching are simultaneous and active research could lay the base for effective teaching. Dr. M. Malakondiah emphasized the importance of practicality over syllabus. He said that faculty development schemes should be prioritized.

Outcome: All the R19 B.Tech programmes along with their Curriculum, structure, and regulations have been approved.

b) **Revision of Curriculum, structure and regulations for MBA Programme**

HoD, Department of Management Studies presented the R19 MBA curriculum, structure and its regulations. She mentioned that R19 MBA Curriculum follows Choice Based Credit System and Case studies are also included. All the Courses in the Curriculum enable Employability or Entrepreneurship or Skill Development which were reviewed and recommended by respective Board of Studies (BoS). The feedback from various stake holders including Students, Employers, Parents and Teachers was carefully reviewed by BoS for design of R19 MBA Curriculum and the same is here with approved.

Outcome: The R19 MBA programme along with its Curriculum, structure, and regulations have been approved.

c) **Revision of PhD Programmes**

• **PhD (English)**

Dean, R&D presented the revised curriculum of PhD (English) where in new courses were added and presented the details of the revised PhD English Curriculum. With inclusion of 4 new courses for PhD course work as suggested by DRC and recommended by BoS.

• **PhD (Agriculture Engineering)**

Dean, R&D presented the revised curriculum of PhD (Agriculture Engineering) where in new courses were added and presented the details of the revised PhD Agriculture Engineering Curriculum. With inclusion of 4 new courses for PhD course work as suggested by DRC and recommended by BoS, the curriculum is more oriented towards societal centric problems in Agriculture.

d) **Courses for Ph.D. scholars in various disciplines:**

The list of courses proposed by respective departments based upon the recommendation of BoS members and DRC to Ph.D. scholars are presented. The scholars are mandatorily required to choose courses for the completion of their course work. In addition to the aforementioned courses, scholars are also provided the option to choose courses from the existing Masters program in their discipline.

Outcome: All the courses for Ph.D were approved by the members.

4. **Agenda Items for Ratification**

NIL

5. **Agenda Items for Information**

Following items were presented for information of the members and all the points were duly noted.

a. Continuation of the Deemed to be University status accorded by MHRD to VFSTR
b. First Semester Results of Academic Year 2018-19
c. Srujanankura (National Level Tech Extravaganza) and Anveshan - South Zone Student Research Convention 21 - 23rd Feb 2019
d. Management Development Programme (MDP) in Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) Hyderabad for Senior faculty members from 11-15 Mar 2019
e. Parents Felicitation function on 06.04.2019.

The decisions / actions from the 21st Academic Council Meeting are as given below:

1. Society Centric Projects should also include projects from industry and on industry related problems **(Action: Dean, Academics and All HoDs)**
2. To check how much credits other universities are allotting for online courses **(Action: Dean, Academics)**
3. Credit based summer internship for one month for the students during 2nd and 3rd year to study and consider **(Action : Dean, Academics)**
4. A team should visit some of the Deemed to be Universities and study their curriculum and regulations **(Action : Dean, Academics and Dean, Evaluation)**
5. All the branches have included in the semester IV-I the management related subject, it may be difficult for the Department of MBA to cater to the load. To examine rearrangement. **(Action : Dean, Academics & HoD, MBA)**
6. Evaluation criteria for physical fitness for sports and games is still Grey, to be finalized **(Action : Dean, Evaluation)**
7. Mobile Technology and Mobile Computing Course are to be shifted from electives to core **(Action : HoD, ECE and HoD, CSE)**
8. Introduce usage of readymade tools in analytics curriculum **(Action : HoD, CSE)**
9. Big Data Analysis should be introduced as core subject in the Department of Information Technology **(Action : HoD, IT)**
10. The electronic contents in the courses should be more digital, and analog electronics to be shortened only for the introduction **(Action : HoD, ECE)**
11. The positioning of computer organization course in the semester after students study digital logic design – to be re-examined. **(Action : HoD, CSE and HoD, IT)**
12. Compilers need not be a detailed subject. More emphasis to be given to platforms and real time operating systems **(Action : HoD, CSE and HoD, IT)**
13. Cameras and Vision should be subjects as vision based applications will further evolve. **(Action : HoD, ECE)**
14. Digital Broad Casting had to be introduced in appropriate semester. **(Action : HoD, ECE)**
15. To examine whether there is enough content for two semester long courses on Power Systems Protection. **(Action : HoD, EEE)**
16. The professional electives of the EEE department should include more advanced courses in electrical engineering also. **(Action : HoD, EEE)**
17. To examine whether online courses in Basic Science and Engineering can also be included in the list **(Action : Dean, Academics and HoD, S&H)**
18. Food Technology Department should include more field training in the industry, and it should be credit based **(Action: HoD, Chemical Engineering)**

19. The Food Technology syllabus can also be reviewed by more food industry and food research experts (like CFTRI)

(Action: Dean, Academics and HoD, Chemical Engineering)

20. Department of Civil Engineering should include more field oriented visits and courses, and they should be credit based. **(Action: HoD, Civil Engineering)**

21. Agricultural Engineering syllabus to get reviewed by Head, Engineering Section of ICRISAT. **(Action: Dean, Academics and HoD, AE)**

22. Bioreactors to be included as electives in the Chemical Engineering Department

(Action: Dean, Academics and HoD, Chemical Engineering)

General:

1. Proper facilities have to be developed for physical fitness use like Gym etc, especially for use during hot months **(Action: Dean, Student Affairs)**

2. Finishing school concept has to be brought in and implemented in lead departments

(Action: Dean, Engineering and Management)

3. It should be examined whether we are doing too much of examinations to be verified with other universities, to be reduced if required **(Action: Dean, Evaluation)**

4. Future recruitments may change and hence future on-campus recruitment may concentrate more on technical content. University should prepare for such change in future **(Action : Dean, Training and Placement)**

5. The implementation of R19 and practicality are important involving students, in the follow-up actions on R19 **(Action: Dean, Academics)**

6. Chancellor suggested that eminent academicians from across the country and from various Deemed to be Universities to be included in the BoS of all the departments

(Action: All HoDs)

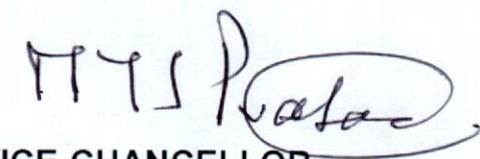7. University should evolve from teaching to research, and more emphasis to be put on faculty development **(Action : Dean, Academics and Dean, R&D)**

Dr.M.Y.S Prasad gave the concluding remarks.The external members and special invitees of the Academic Council were felicitated.

There being no further points, the meeting was adjourned.

REGISTRAR

VICE-CHANCELLOR

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