



VIGNAN'S

Foundation for Science, Technology & Research

(Deemed to be University)

-Estd. u/s 3 of UGC Act 1956



F.No. VFSTR/Reg/A1/04/2019

Date : 12th DEC 2019

**MINUTES OF THE 23rd MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON
29TH NOVEMBER 2019**

The Academic Council of VFSTR met on 29.11.2019 at 11:00 AM in the Board Room 5th Floor, A-Block. Dr. M.Y.S. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor of VFSTR, chaired the meeting.

The following members were present:

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, Efftronics, Vijayawada : External Member
4. Dr. Shanti Swarup
Director of Engg., MathWorks, Hyderabad : External Member
5. Dr. K. Satya Prasad, Rector : Internal Member
6. Dr. P.M.V.Rao : Permanent Invitee
Dean, Academic Registration and
Evaluation and Controller of Examinations
7. Dr. M.S.S. Rukmini, Dean - Student Affairs : Internal Member
8. Dr. D. Vijayaramu : Internal Member
Dean, Academics and I/c Dean, Foreign Collaborations
9. Dr. K.V.Krishna Kishore : Internal Member
Dean, IT & LIS and HoD, Dept. of IT
10. Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao, : Internal Member
Dean, R&D and HoD, Dept. of EEE
11. Dr. V. Ravi Kumar, Dean - Admissions : Internal Member
12. Mr. D. Vijay Krishna, Dean - T&P : Internal Member
13. Dr. M. Ramesh Naidu, HoD, Dept. of Chem. Engg. : Internal Member
14. Mr. A. Narayana Rao, HoD, Dept. of AE : Internal Member
15. Dr. N. Ruben, HoD, Dept. of Civil Engg. : Internal Member
16. Dr. N. Srinivasu, HoD, Dept. of S&H : Internal Member
17. Dr. K. Kalpana, HoD, Dept. of MBA : Internal Member
18. Dr. Dr. Jithendra Ch, HoD, Dept. of Pharmacy : Internal Member
19. Dr. B. Madhusudhan Rao, Professor, Dept. of MBA : Internal Member
20. Dr. A. Sharada, Prof. and Division Head of English,

- Dept. of S&H : Internal Member
21. Dr. M. Sreenivasulu, Prof. and Division Head of Physics, Dept. of S&H : Internal Member
22. Dr. P.L.N.Varma, Prof. and Division Head of Mathematics, Dept. of S&H : Internal Member
23. Dr. B.Seetharamanjaneyulu, Professor, Dept. of ECE : Internal Member
24. Dr. N. Usha Rani, Professor, Dept. of ECE : Internal Member
25. Dr. K. Annapurna, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of ECE : Internal Member
26. Mr. K. Praveen Kumar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of IT : Internal Member
27. Mr. N.S.N.Murthy, Finance Officer : Internal Member
28. Mr. R. Suresh Kumar, Systems Manager : Internal Member
29. Mr. A. Gouri Sankar Rao, Asst. Registrar : Internal Member
30. Dr. K. Prabhakar Rao, Prof. and Division Head - Chemistry : Special Invitee
31. Mr. T. Nagendra Kumar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of MBA : Special Invitee
32. Cmde. Dr. M.S.Raghunathan, Registrar : Member Secretary

Leave of Absence

The following members did not attend the meeting due to various reasons: -

| Name of the member | External / Internal member |
|---|----------------------------|
| Dr. V. Madhusudhan Rao, Dean, Engg. & Management | Internal Member |
| Dr. M. Ramakrishna, Dean - IQAC | Internal Member |
| Dr. S. Krupanidhi, Dean, Planning & Monitoring and HoD, Dept. of Biotech. | Internal Member |
| Dr. N. Veeranjanyulu, Professor, Dept. of IT | Internal Member |
| Dr. K. Hemantha Kumar, Professor, Dept. of CSE | Internal Member |
| Dr. Shaik Jakeer Husaian, Professor, Dept. of ECE | Internal Member |
| Dr. D. Satyanarayana, Professor, Dept. of Mech. Engg. | Internal Member |
| Mr. P.V.S.Sobhan, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of EEE | Internal Member |
| Dr. D. Venkatesulu, HoD, Dept. of CSE | Internal Member |
| Dr. T. Pitchaiah, HoD, Dept. of ECE | Internal Member |
| Dr. L. S. Raju, HoD, Dept. of Mech. Engg. | 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, greeted and welcomed the external and internal members as well as the special invitees to the meeting. Briefing the members on the meeting's agenda, the Vice-Chancellor informed the members that the focus of 23rd Academic Council Meeting would be on the commencement of four new P.G Programmes i.e., M.A (English), M.Sc. (Chemistry), M.Sc (Mathematics) and M.Sc. (Physics) and two U.G Programmes B.A LL.B (Hons) and BBA LL.B (Hons) from the Academic Year 2020-21. He then invited the Chancellor, Prof. Ramamurthy Naidu, to make his opening remarks. He informed the members that certain items on the agenda must be discussed in detail and sought suggestions and support from the external members on the subject of commencement of new Programmes and their feasibility. He also informed the members about revision of B.Sc. and B.Pharmacy Programmes. Dr. Prasad, briefed the Council on the events that had taken place in VFSTR since the last Academic Council Meeting on 26-07-2019.

In his initial remarks, Dr. K. Babu Rao, opined that timely execution and delivery is critical for processes and work in the industry and suggested that people working in the academia should also work with the same kind of expediency and speed. Mr. D. Ramakrishna, opined that the faculty must focus on the latest trends and the changing dimensions of technologies and how new technologies such as IOT, Machine Learning and AI were impacting the world and suggested that it could be not only brought into curriculum but allied areas could also be pursued in research. Dr. Santhi Swarup advised the introduction of online courses for the students. Also, he felt that if faculty members could first undergo these courses, they could design some assessment tests to check the learning of the students in the courses. If students could enroll for more number of courses through the NPTEL and SWAYAM platform, he felt it would improve the scope for experimental learning in relevant and emerging areas. Mr. Ramakrishna felt that these online courses could be followed up by some small projects to provide the students some hands-on, on the technologies learned. He also said that it is heartening to see VFSTR growing very fast, and suggested that the university should be guided with a long term plan to develop and distinguish itself on some clear thrust areas in the next 5-7 yrs. The long term academic goal should be to think of reengineering some real world products in the future.

I. Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting.

Minutes of the 22nd Academic Council meeting held on 26-07-2019 was placed for confirmation. The Chair invited comments from the members on the Minutes of 22nd Academic Council Meeting, with no comments, members confirmed the minutes.

II. Actions taken on the decisions of the previous meeting.

A report of the action taken on the decisions of the previous meeting held on 26.07.2019 was placed for information.

1. **Compare R19 syllabus with other deemed to be Universities:** Dean, Academics responded that a total of 170 credits are to be acquired by a student for successful completion of degree. He presented a chart comparing the credit system of premier engineering universities of the region like SRM, Chennai, VIT, Chennai, SASTRA, Manipal, GITAM and KLU. Dr. Santhi Swaroop reiterated that both students and faculty should register and pursue courses on emerging technologies and their applications in Coursera. Dean, Academics responded that online courses through NPTEL, SWAYAM & Coursera were already being pursued by many students and faculty members of VFSTR.
2. **Identify deemed to be Universities and verify the credits awarded to online courses in those deemed to be Universities:** Dean, Academics answered that a total of 9 credits are awarded out of 170 credits for NPTEL courses. A total of 12 credits were being obtained for NPTEL courses in VIT, Vellore while Amrita University and BITS, Pilani did not have any provision to offer credits to online courses. Mr. Rama Krishna advised that the course and content relevance should be carefully studied before recommending it for students, as sometimes the content may be very basic and not really add to their learning.
3. **Concentration on III Yr. students who have backlogs:** Speaking on this point, Dr. Santhi Swaroop advised that students with backlogs should be given additional help from first year instead of waiting until third year. The HoD of S&H responded by pointing out to the members that remedial classes for slow learners and backlog classes were being conducted for students right from their first year.
4. **Encouragement to faculty publishing papers in international conferences outside the country:** Dean, R&D responded to this point by explaining the financial support to the publishing faculty to extent of 50% of the registration fee and airfare. He also mentioned that 70\$ per day is granted to these faculty attending and publishing papers in international conferences. He presented the details of faculty members who had availed this provision from VFSTRU.

III. Agenda items for Approval

1. Commencement of new programmes from the next Academic Year 2020-21

A. M.A (English)

Prof A. Sharada, Head, Division of English, presented the proposal of the M.A (English) programme. She presented the feasibility of the course in VFSTR and shared details of the findings of the survey conducted by the English department, where she compared the course structure being followed in different institutions and the limitations they have in offering the MA. Further, she informed members about the course content and number of credits allocated for each course where in Choice based credit system is being offered to provide more flexibility. She also mentioned about orientation of courses towards employment opportunities. She briefed the members of how the curriculum had been designed taking the support of eminent experts like Prof. T. Nageswara Rao, of the English and Foreign Languages University and Dr. Susmita Pani

of Ravenshaw University, Cuttack. Further, she informed the members that the proposed syllabus had been vetted by two more subjects experts, Prof. M.Vedasharan of EFLU, Hyderabad and Prof. M. Suresh Kumar of Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur. Dr. Shanti Swarup advised that, the criteria for the selection of the students should be stringent to see that only competitive students are admitted into the programme. He also suggested project samples from IT companies may be useful for documenting writing errors and training students on the writing skills.

Outcome: The Council strongly recommended the commencement of the Programme from the academic year 2020-21

B. M.Sc. (Chemistry)

Dr. Koya Prabhakara Rao, presented the proposal for the start of M.Sc (Chemistry) from the academic year 2020-21 in VFSTR. He explained the demand and feasibility of the course highlighting the specializations, fee structure and course structure. He mentioned that Choice based credit system is being implemented to provide more flexibility. He also informed the members that the thorough review of syllabus had been carried out in consultation with various stakeholders and the suggestions made by the external BoS members were also included in the revised syllabus. Further, he briefed about the infrastructure required, and course outcomes. Dr.Koya also mentioned that majority of courses in the programme are oriented towards industrial needs. Mr. D. Ramakrishna suggested that the nomenclature of M.Sc. Chemistry should be changed in order to capture the attention of the stakeholders. He also pointed out that the Programme should focus on specializations. The council opined that, an upskilling course may be initiated.

Outcome: Based on the presentation and discussion, the Council approved the Programme.

C. M.Sc. (Mathematics)

Dr. Varma, Head, Division of Mathematics, made a presentation on the proposal of M.Sc in Mathematics & Computing Programme in VFSTR from academic year 2020 - 2021. He informed the members of the Council the significance of the Programme by highlighting the Programme objectives and outcomes. He also briefed on the course structure and details of the syllabus including the suggestions made by the external BOS members Dr. Y.N. Reddy, Professor, Department of Mathematics, NIT Warangal, Dr. S. Sreenadh, Professor, Department of Mathematics, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati and Dr. E.D. Boobalan, Data Scientist, ZakApps Software Pvt. Ltd., Chennai. Further, he informed the members the requirements of the course and number of credits and electives in each semester. Dr.Varma mentioned that the curriculum follows choice based credit system and will serve the needs of academia and industry. Er. D. Ramakrishna suggested, having Data Science Course which has a huge demand and such courses be initiated in the syllabus and must be revised every year.

Outcome: Based on the presentation and discussion, the Council approved the Programme.

D. M.Sc. (Physics):

The division Head made a presentation on M.Sc. Physics from the academic year 2020 - 21. He informed the members that there is a need to introduce M.Sc. Physics in VFSTR, focusing on the objectives and specializations of the Programme and the resources available in the department. He informed the members that BOS meeting was held on 23rd Nov 2019 to initiate the programme and inputs were sought from academia and industry personnel prior to initiation of the programme. He also presented the proposed programme structure following Choice based credit system (CBCS) and open electives, and specializations such as Material science and Photonics. The council opined that course syllabus should incorporate relevant engineering subjects and also encourage job potential and its relevance in research. Vice Chancellor suggested that there should be focus on two areas viz. Sensors and Lithium Ion Batteries.

Outcome: Based on the presentation and discussion, the Council approved the course.

2. Commencement of Law programme from the next Academic Year 2020-2021:

Dean, Academics, Dr. Vijay Ramu presented the proposal of B.A LL.B (Hons) and BBA LL.B (Hons) from the next academic year 2020-21. He informed the members that there is a need to empower aspiring youth in this region on the subject of law with a view to make them understand different subjects in law profession. He also highlighted 10 law programs at international and national level have been analyzed in order to get the best outcome of the proposed law programmes. He emphasized that majority of the law programmes do not have Honors degree and therefore it is the need of the hour that the VFSTR should initiate the honors program. He also informed the council that eminent people from various universities like Prof. Y. Sathyanarayana, Former VC, Damodaram Sanjivayya, National Law University, Vishakapatnam and Prof. G. Subramanyam, Former VC, GITAM University, Vishakapatnam were involved in this process.

The Council strongly recommended the proposal of law programme for commencement from the academic year 2020-2021. However, the council recommended taking the suggestions of Prof. Dr. A. Lakshminath, former Vice Chancellor and an expert in Law after going through the curriculum of National Law University, Bangalore and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

3. Revision of UG Programmes

The revision of B.Sc. and B.Pharmacy Programmes was presented before Academic Council for discussion and approval.

(i) **B.Sc. Programme**

Prof. P.L.N.Varma, Division Head for Mathematics presented the details of the revised B.Sc Curriculum following Choice Based Credit System (CBCS). He mentioned that they have adopted Learning Outcome Based Curriculum Framework of UGC. He explained that the curriculum was revised based on stakeholders feedback. He mentioned that the numbers of credits were reduced from 160 to 145. He also mentioned that the syllabus comprises training for PET and BEC with credits. Physical Fitness, Sports and Games, NCC and NSS were given credits. Prof. Varma mentioned that Web Technologies and Artificial Intelligence courses were introduced in to the syllabus. He also mentioned that Calculus course is introduced in the first semester to facilitate the better learning of Differential Equations.

As the Chair enquired about the removal of computer science fundamentals and its effect on the learning of Artificial Intelligence, the HoD mentioned that by the time the B.Sc. students reach final year, they complete course in programming. Dr.Varma presented the semester wise course structure for which Dr. Shanti Swarup appreciated the same as comprehensive.

Outcome: The revised B.Sc. Curriculum, Structure and Regulations were approved by the members.

(ii) **B. Pharmacy Programme**

HoD, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences presented the details of the revised B.Pharmacy Curriculum with inclusion of 21 courses as electives. Already the existing B.Pharmacy Curriculum is following Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and inclusion of these elective courses would add more choice. The courses were incorporated based on stakeholders feedback to enhance skills in allied fields.

Outcome: The revised B.Pharmacy Curriculum was approved by the members.

4. **Revised Examination Manual**

Dr. P.M.V. Rao, Dean Evaluation, made a presentation on the exercise carried out by the institution towards the revision of the examination manual. He opined that there would be three formats in the exam manual, classifying (I) Examination manual (Confidentiality of Exam), (II) Formats (Application) and (III) Applications (Instructions). He added that all these are included in the new manual, and a section on the special arrangements available for physically challenged students. In this regard, comments were sought from all the members by end December 2019. It was agreed that the draft copy of the manual would be circulated to all for further comments. In case no comments are received within the mentioned time, revised manual would be considered as approved.

IV. Agenda items for ratification

Nil

V. Agenda items for information

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

a) Status of research activities

Dean, R&D briefed the members on the research activities that had happened during the year 2019. He informed the members that the number of papers published in SCI, SCOPUS and UGC Index journals had been significantly increased. During the 2019, 333 faculty members attended the conferences and four projects were sanctioned by the Government agencies worth of 121.6 lakhs and two laboratories were established.

b) Faculty members who have acquired PhD since the last Academic Council meeting held on 26/07/2019.

Seven faculty members from the various departments have been awarded PhD since 26/07/19.

A report on the visit of senior faculty, which included the five Deans to NTU Singapore during 06/10/2019 to 10/10/2019 was given by Dean Academics, where he shared that the visit had been most productive. He expressed satisfaction that important links had been established for future collaborations for academic exchange like internships, as well as Research

The following action plans were arrived at during the meeting:

| S.No | Action Point | Action to be taken by |
|------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | A thorough review should be conducted on the syllabi, content and outcomes of M.Sc. (Chemistry), M.Sc. (Mathematics) and M.Sc. (Physics) courses to be commenced from the next Academic Year 2020-21. | HoDs concerned |
| 2 | No of faculty publications and quality of the papers to be further increased through identification of thrust areas department wise. | Dean, R & D |
| 3 | Faculty and students to be encouraged to participate in 'trade-fairs', along with conferences | Dean, R & D |
| 4 | Remedial classes to be conducted for all backlog students from I Yr. to III Yr. | All HoDs |

The agenda items for information were placed before the members and the members took note of it. There being no further points, the meeting was adjourned.

REGISTRAR

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

VICE-CHANCELLOR

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