

F.No. VFSTR/Reg/A1/04/2021

MINUTES OF THE 28TH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 31ST JULY 2021 BY HYBRID MODE (PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL)

The Academic Council of VFSTR met on hybrid mode (physical and virtual) on 31st July 2021 at 10:00 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
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2. Dr. K. Babu Rao

MD, NAVAYUGA Info tech Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad : External Member

Dr. M. Shanti Swarup 3.

Director of Engineering Math Works, Hyderabad : External Member

4. Er. D. Ramakrishna

> MD, Efftronics, Vijayawada : External Member

Dr. Vidhu Kampurath Paduvattil 5. Joint Director-Plant Health Engg., National Institute Of Plant Health Management, Dept. of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of

Agriculture, Govt. of India, Hyderabad : Special Invitee

Dr. P.M.V. Rao 6.

Dean, Academic Registration and

Evaluation and Controller of Examinations : Permanent Invitee

7. Dr. V. Madhusudhan Rao, Dean - E&M : Internal Member : Internal Member

Date: 07.08.2021

Dr. D. Vijavaramu 8.

Dean, Academics and Dean, Foreign Collaborations

Dr. M. Ramakrishna, Dean - IQAC 9. : Internal Member

Dr. K.V. Krishna Kishore 10.

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

HoD, Dept. of IT : Internal Member

Prof. S. Krupanidhi 11.

: Internal Member Dean, Planning & Monitoring and HoD,

Dept. of Biotech.

Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao, 12.

> Dean, R&D and HoD, Dept. of EEE : Internal Member

13. Prof. A. Sharada,

> Dean-Academic Faculty Development : Internal Member

14. Dr. M. Ramesh Naidu, HoD, Dept. of Chem. Engg. : Internal Member

15. Mr. A. Narayana Rao, HoD, Dept. of AE : Internal Member

Dr. N. Ruben, HoD, Dept. of Civil Engg. 16. : Internal Member

Dr. D. Venkatesulu, HoD, Dept. of CSE 17. : Internal Member

18. Dr. T. Pitchaiah, HoD, Dept. of ECE : Internal Member

19. Dr. L. S. Raju, HoD, Dept. of Mech. Engg. : Internal Member

Dr. N. Srinivasu, HoD, Dept. of S&H 20. : Internal Member

21. Dr. K. Kalpana, HoD, Dept. of MBA Internal Member

22. Dr. Jithendra Ch, HoD, Dept. of Pharmacy : Internal Member 23. Dr. B. M. Rao, Prof., Dept. of MBA : Internal Member 24. Dr. Shaik Jakeer Husaian, Prof., Dept. of ECE : Internal Member Dr. N. Usha Rani, Prof., Dept. of ECE : Internal Member 25. 26. Dr. K. Hematha Kumar, Prof., Dept. of CSE : Internal Member 27. Dr. N. Veeranjaneyulu, Prof., Dept. of IT : Internal Member 28. Dr. M. Sreenivasulu, Prof., Dept. of S&H : Internal Member 29. Dr. P.L.N. Varma, Professor, Dept. of S&H : Internal Member 30. Dr. D. Satyanarayna, Prof., Dept. of Mech. Engg. : Internal Member 31. Dr. M. Nirupama Bhat, Prof., Dept. of CSE Internal Member 32. Dr. P.V.S. Sobhan, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of EEE : Internal Member 33. Mr. S.V. Ramakrishna, Asst. Prof., Dept. of CSE : Internal Member 34. Mr. K. Praveen Kumar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of IT : Internal Member 35. Mr. N.S.N. Murthy, Finance Officer Internal Member 36. Mr. R. Suresh Kumar, Systems Manager of IT Services : Internal Member 37. Dr. T. Ramesh Babu, Director, AHS (Hons.) : Special Invitee 38. Dr. B. Srinivasa Rao, Prof., Dept. of MBA : Special Invitee 39. Dr. Praveen Kumar, Director, VIL : Special Invitee 40. Dr. G. Sitaramaneya Reddy, Prof. of Biomedical Engg. : Special Invitee 41. Cmde. Dr. M.S. Raghunathan, Registrar : Member Secretary

Leave of absence:

Dr. M.S.S. Rukmini, Dean - Student Affairs : Internal Member
Dr. B. Seetharamanjaneyulu, Prof., Dept. of ECE : Internal Member
Mr. A. Gouri Sankar Rao, Assistant Registrar : Internal Member

Above Internal members have taken permission for leave of absence.

Proceedings: -

Dr. MYS Prasad, the Vice-Chancellor and the Chair of the meeting commenced the proceedings of the meeting by welcoming all the members. He sought initial remarks from the external members.

Dr. Shanthi Swarup rendered his condolences to the people who succumbed to Covid-19 during pandemic period. He appreciated the resilience of VFSTR in its return to normalcy.

Dr. K. Ramamurthy Naidu, Chancellor rendered his condolences to the members of the bereaved families affected by Covid19. He advised to seek the assistance of Er. D. RamaKrishna while carrying out revision of the existing syllabus.

Prof. K. Babu Rao paid his condolences to the people who succumbed to Coivd-19. He appreciated that VFSTR is progressing well inspite of pandemic.

Er.D. Ramakrishna appreciated the works done in VFSTR during pandemic. He alerted the members about the imminent financial crunch. He also mentioned about the shortage of people who were capable of building algorithms. He advised to include algorithms in the syllabus of VFSTR.

Prof. K.P. Vidhu rendered his condolences to the staff who succumbed to Covid-19 and appreciated the commitment of the rest of the faculty in discharging their duties.

Prof. V. Madhusudan Rao lamented the sad demise of some staff members during the pandemic. He advised that coding and algorithms should be included in the syllabus as add on courses and students should be trained from the second year onwards.

The Registrar thanked the members for joining the meeting and informed the external members that eighth convocation will be held on 27^{th} of August and 9^{th} convocation will be held on 28^{th} of August.

Agenda

I. (i) Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes of 27th meeting of Academic Council held on hybrid mode (Physical as well as virtual) were placed for approval. After deliberations, the council approved the minutes.

(ii) Actions taken on the decisions of the previous AC meeting held on 20-03-2021:

Under this point, Dr. Shanti Swarup pointed that in the department of Civil Engineering the number of students passed with distinction was same as students passed in first class while in other branches, the students passed in distinction are more than those who passed in first class. HoD, Civil Engineering responded that the toughness of six Math related courses in the syllabus was responsible for the aberration. Er. D. RamaKrishna advised that in this condition, the correlation between syllabi and placements should also be studied.

Dean, Academics stated that syllabi of all the branches was revised as per the decisions of previous Academic Council. In all the departments, there is revision of fundamentals (revision ranging from 30% to 38.7%); Core Advanced Domain Expertise (revision ranging from 24% to 67%); Computer related latest tools [Core] (revision ranging from 1% to 12.9%) and Computer related latest tools [Electives] (revision ranging from 2% to 9.6%).

Er. D. Rama Krishna mentioned that System of Systems should be familiarised to all students. He also advised that, Computer Architecture and IOT should be made as part of curriculum. He stated that capability is the combination of mindset multiplied by practice and technology added to it.

Dr. Shanti Swarup stated that he is happy with the changes and resilience should be taught as part of life skills training. He also informed the members that industry is in search of team players.

The Chancellor enquired on the duration between each revision. Prof. V. Madhusudan Rao advised that revision should be as per the need.

II. Agenda Items for Approval:

1. Award of degrees to eligible students (UG, PG and Ph.D) totalling 1367 students in the 9th convocation:

Dean, AR&E informed the members that approval for 8th convocation was obtained in the previous Academic Council meeting. In the 9th convocation, degrees will be awarded to B.Tech. (2017), MCA (2018) and Ph.D students. In this convocation 36 students will be awarded Honours degrees and 10 students will be receiving their doctoral degrees on

successfully defending their theses. A total 1367 students will be awarded their degrees. The Dean mentioned that around 500 students may be added to the list, since results of some more examinations were going to be announced in the next three weeks.

The council after deliberations gave its approval for the award of degrees.

2. Revision of B.Tech Programs - R-21

The Dean, Academics mentioned the changes made in the R 21 syllabus stating that the following courses are included selectively in all branches:

- 1. Introduction to C Programming
- 2. Programming for Problem Solving.
- 3. Data Structures
- 4. Object Oriented Programming
- 5. DBMS
- 6. Python
- 7. Web Technologies
- 8. Computer Programming
- 9. Minor Project

There shall be project based learning in all the branches.

The credit distribution in R-19, R-21 and AICTE is also compared in which the number of credits in R-21 is 170 while in that of AICTE is 160.

Under this agenda point, the HoDs of Applied Engineering, Bio-Technology, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electronics and Communications Engineering, Bio-Medical Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Information Technology and Mechanical Engineering presented individually about the various changes they have made in the syllabi of their respective branches.

All the HoDs uniformly presented on the following list of points:

- 1. Credit distribution in R21 syllabus plan
- 2. Computer aided courses added
- 3. List of BoS members
- 4. Suggestions given by BoS members
- 5. List of courses added
- 6. List of subjects removed
- 7. List of courses modified
- 8. Professional Electives in the department

The following are the highlights of the presentations by HoDs.

a. The Chancellor advised the HoD Applied Engineering to consult IARI (Water Technology Department) and Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd. in relation to the practicals in his department.

- b. Prof.K.P. Vidhu advised to initiate "Student Ready" programs by classifying the skills into Industry, Research and Academics.
- c. Study of composition of vehicles should be made as vehicles have the component of electronics up to 50%.
- d. When HoD, Civil Engineering presented on Computer Aided Civil Engineering (CACE), Dr. Shanti Swarup advised to include the concepts of sustainable construction in the syllabus of Civil Engineering.
- e. Videos should be made on Civil Engineering and placed in the website.
- f. Prof. K.P. Vidhu advised that Remote Sensing should be included into the syllabus.
- g. Dr. Shanti Swarup advised that online teaching modules should be made as library.
- h. Prof. Babu Rao advised that mobile computing should be made as regular course than electives.
- i. Er. D. Rama Krishna advised that knowledge of hardware is important and in depth visualization is needed.

After extensive deliberations and suggestions, the new R21 syllabus was approved by the council.

3. Placement Data by Dean, Training and Placement Mr. D. Vijay Krishna:

As per the direction of the Chancellor, the details of placements were presented by Dean, D. Vijay Krishna. He presented on number of placements in the year 2021, salary packages, and prominent placements. The Chair appreciated the placement record mentioning that, all these placements happened in spite of restrictions of pandemic situation.

4. Seeking approval for courses of B. Tech. Computer Science and Business Systems (CSBS); B. Tech. Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI&ML); B. Tech. Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security CS) from second year onwards:

Dean, Academics stated that in B.Tech. CSE, graduates practice the activities (Analysis, Design, Development and Maintenance) of Software development life cycle to solve the complex and challenging real world engineering problems.

In addition to that VFSTR's B.Tech. AI & ML graduates are also able to

- Understand computers applications to perform intellectual tasks such as decision making, problem-solving, perception, prediction and understanding human communication.
- Apply various learning strategies to build intelligent machines or applications with a cutting-edge combination of machine learning, analytics, and visualization technologies.
- Design and develop various applications such as e-commerce recommendations, decision support systems, object detection and recognition systems etc. to realize the societal requirements.

B.Tech. Computer Science & Engineering - Cyber Security

Dean, Academics further stated that in B.Tech. CSE, graduates practice the activities (Analysis, Design, Development and Maintenance) of Software development life cycle to solve the complex and challenging real world engineering problems.

In addition to that our B.Tech. Cyber Security graduates are also able to

Understand and apply principles of secure network/ database/ system by monitoring and analyzing the nature of attacks through cyber/computer forensics software/tools and IT legal decisions.

Analyze and evaluate the cyber security needs of an organization and also analyze the software vulnerabilities and security solutions to reduce the risk of exploitation.

Comprehend and execute risk management processes, risk treatment methods, and key risk and performance indicators.

Design and develop security architecture for an organization and to design operational and strategic cyber security policies.

B.Tech. Computer Science & Engineering - Computer Science & Business Systems

The Dean stated that curriculum of this collaborative program aims to ensure that the students graduating from the program not only know the core topics of Computer Science but also develop an equal appreciation of humanities, management sciences and human values.

Exposed to emerging topics such as Analytics, Machine Learning, Cloud Computing, Internet of Things etc. to make them industry ready.

Key Objectives of the CSBS Programme include

- Learning Common Business Principles
- Exploring Business Discipline and Service Orientation
- Innovative Ability
- Strong Human Ethics and Values
- Understanding Technology Abstraction

After through deliberation, the Council approved the inclusion of the abovementioned three streams of CSE into VFSTR's curriculum.

5. Syllabus for 4 Year B.Sc. (Hons.) - Agricultural & Horticultural Sciences to commence from the ensuing Academic Year 2021-22.

Director, Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences stated that to meet the growing demand for agricultural production, farmers and agricultural companies were seeking for solutions and ways to enhance production capabilities. Further, Government of India enacted three farm bills which necessitated to plan new ways of farming towards profitable agriculture. Further, Agriculture is at the cusp of a technological revolution. With this back drop the course content of "ICAR Vth Deans Committee report" has been reshaped with the subject experts without deviating the ICAR broad course credit system of 183 credits over eight semesters. In addition to the changes (15 to 20 %) in the course content suggested by subject experts, VFSTR proposed to include three

additional courses and this modified course curriculum was thoroughly discussed in the Board of Studies (BoS) conducted in Hybrid mode (both physical and virtual) on 19th June, 2021. The salient points are furnished below.

- The Director proposed 67 courses during 1st to 3rd year (6 Semesters) as against
 61 of ICAR, including three additional new courses
- The Director also proposed 197 credits (94 Theory + 103 Practical credits) over 4 years (8 Semesters) as against 183 credits (82 Theory + 101 Practical credits) of ICAR
- The pattern, of regular courses, remedial courses, non-gradial courses and electives during first to third year and Student READY programme during Final year, as suggested by ICAR is being followed scrupulously.
- Following three new courses are proposed

Title of the Course	Credits	Theory	Practical
Python Programming	4	3	1
Machine learning	4	3	1
Statistical Methods and data Visualization	4	3	1

Note: All 3 courses are mandatory. Python Programming course is Credit (with grade) course. Machine Learning and Statistical methods with data Visualization are credit and non-gradial (without grade)

Abstract (Proposed for VFSTR (Deemed to be University))

Item	Number of courses	Credits	Theory	Practical
Department Courses	56	128	76	52
Remedial courses	2	3	2	1
Non Gradial courses	3	5	1	4
Additional Gradial courses	1	4	3	1
Additional Non-gradial courses	2	8	6	2
Electives	3	9	6	3
RAWE and ELP	-	40	0	40
Total	67	197	94	103

After through deliberation, the syllabus for four year B.Sc. (Hons) - Agriculture was approved by the Council.

6. Academic Regulations, Examination System and Grading of 4 Years B.Sc. (Hons.) - Agriculture, to commence from the ensuing Academic Year 2021-22.

The Director presented the details of credit structure, Grading, Academic Regulations and Examination pattern.

- ENCLOSURE - I (a) & (b)



The Council, after thorough deliberations, approved the academic regulations, examination system and grading of 4 Years B.Sc. (Hons.) - Agriculture

7. Revision of BCA Programme - Regulations-2021 (R-21):

As many technological and application domains are growing across the world and in the field of computer science and information technology, the department is revising the Bachelor of Computer Applications Curriculum with about 24% of change compared with the previous curriculum (R18 Regulation).

Python Programming Course is introduced in I Year-II semester and Data Visualization Lab is Introduced and I Year-II semester based on the industry requirements. In addition, Office Automation Course is Introduced I Year I semester for practical oriented Lab. Business Intelligence is Introduced in II Year-II semester based on the industry requirements. Programming for Problem Solving II is also introduced in I Year-II Semester as practical oriented course.

We have familiarized Machine learning with python instead of Programming through Python in II Year-II semester. And also introduced Web Application Development is offered in II Year II semester based on the industry requirements. Could Computing as a new course is introduced in III Year-I semester based on the current trends.

After deliberations, the Council approved the revision of BCA programme R 21.

8. Revision of MBA Programme - Regulations-2021 (R21):

MBA is a two year Programme and the curriculum is redesigned for every two years. The major focus has been given to the introduction of Analytics as core disciplinary course as well as specialization course viewing its demand in present business scenario. R21 regulation is being revised by introducing operations and analytics as separate specializations. The pedagogy provides real time exposure and hands on training to the students to understand and analyze the complex business situations. Recognizing the hierarchical nature of these objectives, the Department has designed its curriculum and learning activity.

After deliberations, the Council approved the revision of MBA programme - R 21.

III. Agenda item for Ratification

-NIL-

IV. Agenda item for Information

1. Conduct of Online Classes since May 2021 (presented by Dean - Academics)

The Dean, Academics presented that during the second wave of Covid pandemic, online classes were conducted for 63 days from May 5th till July 17th that also includes revision classes. On an average the attendance percentage of students attending classes is around 85. The total number of hours wherein online classes were conducted is 21,000.

2. Status of Research Activities (presented by Dean - R&D)

Dean, R&D presented on this agenda point as per the information furnished as **Enclosure.** - **ENCLOSURE** - **II**



3. Conduct of Webinars (presented by Dean - R&D)

Dean, R&D stated that objectives of conducting webinar in VFSTR (Deemed to be University) are as follows:

- a) To get more exposure and awareness on emerging areas of research.
- b) To provide opportunity to the researchers to interact with the eminent persons in research.
- c) To exchange ideas on discussions and deliberations to solve the problems in Research
- d) To invite ideas from eminent persons to strengthen existing researchers of engineering and science.

VFSTR has organized 54 webinars so far and few more are scheduled in the month of August 2021. Information about the no of webinars organized by the departments is given below.

SI. No	Department	No. of Webinars organized
1	AE	04
2	Biotech	04
3	CHEM	05
4	CIVIL	04
5	CSE	02
6	ECE	04
7	EEE	02
8	IT	03
9	MBA	01
10	MECH	04
11	Pharmacy	09
12	S&H	12
	Total	54

The list of conducted Webinars is shown in ENCLOSURE.

- ENCLSOURE - III



4. Status of Open & Distance Learning (ODL) and Online (OL) Programmes (presented by Dean - IQAC and Director, CDOE)

Dean, IQAC presented that the institution applied for permission to float four programs for Open & Distance Learning (ODL) and Online Learning (OL) - Bachelor of Business Administration (General), Master of Business Administration (General), Master of Business Administration (HR) in October 2020.

The Dean stated that approval was obtained for all the four Programmes from AICTE for the academic year 2021-22 with an intake of

BBA (General) - 540; MBA (General) - 450; MBA (Finance) - 450; MBA (HR) - 450;

For all the programs the curriculum of the convention mode was adopted (BBA - R17 and MBA-R19).

Dean, IQAC informed that VFSTR has underwent the Virtual visit of the Expert Committee of UGC for both Open & Distance Learning and Online Learning. We are waiting for the approval from UGC.

5. Results of examinations announced after previous Academic Council meeting
Dean, AR&E stated that the results of examinations announced after previous Academic
Council meeting were placed for information as ENCLOSURE.

- ENCLSOURE - IV



6. Conduct of Eighth & Ninth Convocations on 27th Aug 2021 (Friday) & 28th Aug 2021 (Saturday) respectively (presented by Chief Coordinator, Convocation-2021)

Mr. D. Vijay Krishna stated that the eighth and ninth convocations of VFSTR Deemed to be University were scheduled respectively on 27th and 28th of August 2021.

The eight convocation could not be held because of COVID-19 Pandemic situation, hence both the convocations are planned to be conducted on 27^{th} and 28^{th} of August 2021.

Prof D. P. Singh, Chairman UGC, agreed to grace the eight convocation on 27th August as the Chief Guest.

Honorary Doctorate degrees will be conferred to Guests of honour as given below:

Mr. Sonam Wangchuk, Founder Director, Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh.

Mr. Young -Seup, Kown, Consul General of the Republic of Korea, Chennai will be the Guest of honour gracing the occasion.

Dr. Chinthala Govinda Rajulu, Chairman NABARD, agreed to grace the ninth convocation on 28^{th} August as the Chief Guest.

Honorary Doctorate degrees will be conferred to Guests of honour as given below:

Dr. Satyanaraya Chava, Founder and CEO of Laurus Labs Ltd, Hyd

Dr. Achyuta Samantha, Founder Chairman of KIIT & KISSS & Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), New Delhi. Though he is one of the guest of honour, he has declined to accept the honorary Doctorate degree as a matter of principle.

A total of 3800 students of UG, PG and Ph.D. will be given ODs on the two convocation days.

The external members gave their closing remarks in which Dr. Shanti Swarup remarked that lot of good work happened in VFSTR in spite of pandemic.

Dr. Babu Rao mentioned that there is a need for elastic borders between the departments where the consultation between one department and another should be easily possible for the evolution of holistic syllabus.

Prof. Vidhu.K.P. remarked that chatbox remarks should be studied. Training programs should be offered to students before they proceed to field training. Bond between village and institution should be developed. He also remarked that constant monitoring of the syllabus was required.

Er. D. Rama Krishna mentioned that the students should be given the feel of technology right from their initial year.

The Chancellor thanked all the external members for their cooperation in reviewing the R 21 syllabus. He informed the members about the ongoing debate to teach Engineering subjects in regional languages. He advised that all academicians should discuss this aspect and send their opinions to AICTE and UGC.

The following action plans were given during the meeting:

	Action Point	Action to be taken by
1.	To study the reason behind the equivalence between the students passed with distinction and students passed in first class in Civil Engineering department. (an evaluation team should be constituted.)	Dean, Academics and HoD Civil Engineering
2.	Apply analytics to analyse the results.	Dean, Evaluation
3.	Prepare the students for broader perspectives. Drop the redundant technologies.	All HoDs
4.	Contact RITES to enquire into the possibilities for courses offered by railways.	HoD Civil Engineering
5.	Emulate the online coaching platforms and incorporate them in the curriculum.	All HoDs
6.	Computer programming in non-IT subjects should strike a balance with the existing core content. A five-member committee is to be created to study the balance mentioned above.	Committee and Dean, Academics
7.	Analytics should be a core course in AI and ML.	Dean, Academics and HoD, CSE
8.	Electives in CSE should be organised into specializations.	Dean, Academics and HoD, CSE
9.	More practice should be given to students to avoid the forgetting of the subject after one or two readings.	All HoDs
10.	Computer Architecture and Basics of Computers should be made a core course in all non CSE, IT and ECE programmes.	Dean, Academics

- 11. The following courses have to be made core courses.
 - i. Mobile computing for CSE, IT and ECE branches
 - ii. Cloud Computing II as an additional course for CSE & IT.
 - iii. RS & GIS course should be a core course for Civil Engineering.
 - iv. Algorithm designs are to be made into a course in each branch are to be included as practicals in the computer related subjects.

Dean, Academics

The Chair rendered the closing remarks by thanking all the external members and internal members for their participation. He thanked the Chancellor for his guidance. He thanked all the people for their effort in bringing up the high quality syllabus and expected its high quality execution.

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

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VADLAMUDI-522 213

GUNTUR (DISTRICT), A.P. INDIA