



F.No.VFSTR/Reg/A5/04/2021-22_03

Date : 19.05.2022

**MINUTES OF THE 30TH MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON
7th May, 2022 BY HYBRID MODE (PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL)**

The Academic Council of VFSTR met on hybrid mode (physical and virtual) on 7th May, 2022 at 10:00 AM in the Board Room, 5th Floor, A-Block. Dr. P. Naga Bhushan, Vice-Chancellor of VFSTR chaired the meeting. The following members were present:

1. Dr. K. Babu Rao
MD, NAVAYUGA Info tech Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad : External Member
2. Dr. M. Shanti Swarup
Director of Engineering MathWorks, Hyderabad : External Member
3. Er. D. Ramakrishna
MD, Efftronics, Vijayawada : External Member
4. Dr. P.M.V. Rao
Dean, Academic Registration and
Evaluation and Controller of Examinations : Permanent Invitee
5. Dr. V. Madhusudhan Rao, Dean - E&M : Internal Member
6. Dr. D. Vijayaramu
Dean, Academics and Dean, Foreign Collaborations : Internal Member
7. Dr. M. Ramakrishna, Dean - IQAC : Internal Member
8. Dr. K.V. Krishna Kishore
Dean, IT & LIS, I/c Dean - Admission and
HoD, Dept. of IT : Internal Member
9. Prof. S. Krupanidhi
Dean, Planning & Monitoring and HoD, Dept. of Biotech. : Internal Member
10. Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao,
Dean, R&D and HoD, Dept. of EEE : Internal Member
11. Prof. A. Sharada,
Dean-Academic Faculty Development : Internal Member
12. Mr. D. Vijay Krishna, Dean - T&P : Internal Member
13. Dr. M.S.S. Rukmini, Dean - Student Affairs : Internal Member
14. Dr. M. Ramesh Naidu, HoD, Dept. of Chem. Engg. : Internal Member
15. Dr. N. Ruben, HoD, Dept. of Civil Engg. : Internal Member
16. Dr. D. Venkatesulu, HoD, Dept. of CSE : Internal Member
17. Dr. L. S. Raju, HoD, Dept. of Mech. Engg. : Internal Member
18. Dr. K. Kalpana, HoD, Dept. of MBA : Internal Member
19. Dr. Jithendra Ch, HoD, Dept. of Pharmacy : Internal Member
20. Dr. Praveen Kumar, Director of LAW : Internal Member
21. Dr. Shaik Jakeer Husaian, Prof., Dept. of ECE : Internal Member

22. Dr. N. Usha Rani, Prof., Dept. of ECE : Internal Member
23. Dr. N. Veeranjanyulu, Prof., Dept. of IT : Internal Member
24. Dr. M. Sreenivasulu, Prof., Dept. of S&H : Internal Member
25. Dr. P.L.N.Varma, Professor, Dept. of S&H : Internal Member
26. Dr. M. Nirupama Bhat, Prof., Dept. of CSE : Internal Member
27. Dr. P.V.S. Sobhan, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of EEE : Internal Member
28. Mr. S.V. Ramakrishna, Asst. Prof., Dept. of CSE : Internal Member
29. Mr. K. Praveen Kumar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of IT : Internal Member
30. Mr. N.S.N. Murthy, Finance Officer : Internal Member
31. Mr. R. Suresh Kumar, Systems Manager of IT Services : Internal Member
32. Dr. B. Srinivasa Rao, Director, CDOE : Special Invitee

Leave of absence:

1. Dr. N. Narayana Rao, HoD, AE : Internal Member
2. Dr. T. Pitchiah, HoD, ECE : Internal Member
3. Dr. N. Srinivasu, HoD, S&H : Internal Member
4. Dr. B.M. Rao, Professor, Dept of MBA : Internal Member
5. Dr. D. Satya Narayana, Professor, Dept of ME : Internal Member
6. Dr. B. Seetharamanjanyulu, Prof., Dept. of ECE : Internal Member
7. Mr. A. Gouri Sankar Rao, Assistant Registrar : Internal Member

The above Internal members have taken permission for leave of absence.

Proceedings: -

The meeting commenced as the Vice-Chancellor was introduced by the Registrar to the External Members of Academic Council. In return, the VC welcomed the External Members to the meeting. The VC in his opening remarks stated that VFSTR should develop to highly capable self-reliant institute of international standards. The VC affirmed that the bubbling energy of the students should be converted into actions. He said that he spoke to the External Members and was impressed by them. He directed that the arrival and departure of external members should be scheduled to facilitate their interaction with students. He envisioned that the External Members should take the positions of Distinguished Adjunct Professors.

The Chair exhorted that VFSTR should upgrade its practices to meet the dynamics of industry. The curriculum should be changed to meet the needs of industry and advances in academics. The Chair also said that the faculty should spend some time in industry and the External members should suggest industry mentors for faculty and students and also to recognize as adjunct faculty.

Agenda

I. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes of 29th Academic Council meeting 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:

To the first action point, Dean, Academics responded that despite being provided special academic support by assigning student mentors and faculty mentors, the students were scoring low grades in the courses. The HoD, Civil Engineering responded that due to continuous monitoring, mentoring and counselling, the students were able to secure first class. He also said that among sixteen students, only six students narrowly missed distinction.

To the second action point that recommended to apply Analytics to analyse the results, the Dean, Evaluation responded that they were adopting an integrated tool in software. He stated that he could give the complete data by the coming Academic Council meeting. Er. D. Rama Krishna suggested to use the "Power BI" for this purpose.

To the third action point that recommended to drop all the redundant technologies from the syllabi, the Dean, Academics stated that there has been a major revision of the syllabi for every 2 or 3 years and all the redundant technologies will be dropped. He said that the forthcoming R-22 will be an example for this.

To the fourth action point, that recommended to contact RITES to enquire into the possibility of courses offered by Railways, the HoD, Civil Engineering stated that he contacted Mr. Satish, IRS and Mr. Anjeneya Reddy of railways in this respect for inputs. Webinars were conducted for students and value-added course on 'Railway and Airport Engineering' will be offered for III year students. Er. D. Rama Krishna informed that there was lot of demand for Signal Engineers. The Vice chancellor directed the HoD's of ECE and EEE to take the support of Er. D. Rama Krishna and find the possibility of collaborating with RITES.

To the fifth action point that recommended to emulate online coaching platforms and incorporate them in syllabi, Dean, Academics responded that VFSTR offers nine credits through NPTEL (MOOCs) for each of the R21 B.Tech. programs.

To the sixth action point that recommended to introduce computer programming into non-IT subjects by striking a balance with the existing core content, Dean, Academics responded that the percentage of core courses present in the curriculum is 32%. He further stated that the presence of computer courses into the curriculum has not reduced the rigor of the core content.

To the seventh action point the Dean Academics responded that Analytics was made as a core course in the first semester of fourth year along with a lab component.

To the eighth action point to integrate electives in CSE should be organised as specializations, Dean, Academics responded that electives in CSE were offered as a pool.

To the ninth action point that more practice should be given to the students to avoid forgetfulness, Dean Academics stated that laboratory sessions were integrated with majority of courses that enable learning by doing. He also said that inter-disciplinary projects, inter-departmental projects, take home assignments, weekly assignments, quizzes etc were provided to students. The VC in this respect added that there should be experiential learning to overcome the problem of forgetfulness.

To the tenth action point, Dean Academics responded that non-IT/CSE students are expected to learn the overall functionality of computer system together with internal aspects such as organisation and architecture. Students shall learn the Basics of Computers in their first year. Computer Architecture will be floated as a value added course.

To the eleventh action point, the Dean, Academics stated that Mobile Computing was offered as a core course in CSE with lab component and in ECE as a core course. In IT Mobile Computing was added as an elective. He also stated that Cloud Computing - II course was going to be offered as a value-added course. HoD CSE stated that three faculty members were identified to be trained in Cloud Computing and efforts were on to develop Cloud equipment. Dean, Academics further stated that RS and GIS was embedded as a core course in fourth year first semester of B.Tech. Civil Engineering. Data Structures will be introduced in the coming revised curriculum.

III. Agenda Items for Approval:

1. New Academic Regulations - 2022:

Dean, Academics presented that the new academic regulations will be called as R22 and the features of the revised curriculum shall be:

- NEP compliant curriculum
- More autonomy for students and faculty enabling more effective teaching-learning process
- Multiple entry and multiple exit options
- Continuous Assessment rather than examination
- Add-on concept in the form of B.Tech. (Honors) B.Tech. (Major and Minor) Add-on diploma with B.Tech. and Add-on certification with B.Tech.

The total number of credits in this revised curriculum shall be around 160+20. The Dean stated that students shall obtain add-on degree by obtaining additional credits in which there shall be cognate 20 credits for B.Tech. Honors, 20 credits shall be given by sister departments for major and minor, assorted 20 credits for an add on diploma with B.Tech. less than 20 credits for add-on certification with B.Tech. The Dean further presented on the distribution of credits and new multi-level entry and exit model, predominantly to uplift the less fortunate students of B.Sc. and BCA.

The Dean - Evaluation presented the organization of academic session in an Academic Year. It consists of two regular semesters and one summer semester. The syllabus of a subject within a semester will be arranged into two modules and within a module into two units. First Unit covers the fundamentals and broad perspective of the topics to be covered in second unit. Whereas second unit covers advanced topics. The assessment will be continuous and comprehensive that includes MCQ test, Report writing, presentation, experimentation. The division of marks between Formative Assessment and Summative Assessment is 60:40. Two new grades are proposed in R-22 regulation and are 'R' grade (dropped) and "I" grade (Incomplete). These Regulations are discussed in length.

Dean Academics presented a new multi entry - multi exit model predominantly aimed at uplifting the less fortunate 3 year BSc/BCA graduates towards M.Tech (Computer Science), M.Tech (Biotechnology), etc.

As part of this 3 year schedule integratedly leading to M.Tech Programme, B.Sc. / BCA graduates after completing the first one year becomes eligible for the award of Honors / Graduate Diploma. The candidate thus has put in 3+1 = 4 years and he / she could even opt to exit the programmes with the Graduate Diploma / B.Sc. Hons. After successful completion of the first year he / she formally enters the two-year M.Tech. programme. After completing one year in M.Tech. period, if the candidate intends to exit he /she becomes eligible for the award of MCA/M.Sc., etc. After formal completion of M.Tech. 2nd year they become eligible for the award of M.Tech. in the chosen field of specialization.

The Council gave its approval in principle for the new academic regulations.

2. Minor revision in R-21 B.Tech Curriculum

Minor amendments were done for R-21 B.Tech Curriculum integrating the concept of minors except for Computer Programmes. The total number of credits were maintained at 178. Among these, 18 of them account towards minor degree. For computer programmes such as B.Tech Computer Science and Engineering, CSE-Cyber Security, CSE-CSBS, CSE- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and Information Technology, students will undertake courses such as Mongo DB, Full Stack Development Technologies, Software Testing Methodologies to obtain 8 additional credits.

The Council gave its approval for minor revision of R-21 B.Tech curriculum.

3. Seeking approval for the commencement of 3 -year integrated M.Tech. CSE from academic year 2022-23 under NEP 2020.

The agenda point was presented by Dean, Admissions and the council gave its approval in principle, vide the last paragraph in 1 above.

4. Seeking approval for B.Tech. Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science).

This agenda point was presented by HoD, CSE. He mentioned that Data Science was the area where applications of various tools and techniques from the disciplines of

Applied Statistics, Mathematics and Computer Science were used to get greater insights and make better and informed decisions for various purposes by analysing large amounts of data. He further stated that there was a huge demand for professionals as the industries have large volumes of data to process.

Dr. Shanti Swarup stated that Mathematical models and Data Visualisation were important.

The proposal was approved in principle by the Council.

5. Seeking approval for Ph.D program in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the academic year 2022-23.

Dr. Jitendra, HoD, Department of Pharmacy presented on this agenda point stating that the Department of Pharmacy was fully equipped with doctoral staff and functional laboratories. He stated that only a few government universities and two deemed universities were providing the doctoral program in Pharmacy. He said that the department successfully faced all the inspections by PCI. He also stated that a number of students were approaching the department for doctoral programs. He said that there was a migration of students to Department of Chemistry or Bio Technology as there was no doctoral program in the Department of Pharmaceutical Science and sought approval for commencement of doctoral program in Pharmaceutical Sciences. The proposal was approved in principle. The VC directed that the proposal should be presented in the BoS and then to be presented in the next Academic Council.

6. Seeking approval for Ph.D program in Food Technology from the Academic year 2022-23.

HoD, Chemical Engineering presented that a number of universities were offering P.hD program in Food Technology and the department is equipped with expert faculty to run the program.

The proposal was approved in principle by the Council.

7. Seeking approval for new programs in OL and ODL mode and add electives

The Director for Centre of OD an ODL proposed to introduce new electives in MBA-General (ODL and OL programs) like Business Analytics, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Information Technology Management, Banking and Fintech, Healthcare Management, Digital Marketing, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and start-up applicable from June 2022 according to R-22 regulations for MBA.

The proposal was approved in principle by the Council after discussion.

IV. Agenda item for Ratification

1. Results of Odd semester of all programs of academic year 2021-22.

Dean, AR&E presented the results of odd semester of all programs of academic year 2021-22. The Chair enquired the number of students who completed 4-year B.Tech. within the course duration. The Dean responded that 95% of students registered for final year course work are receiving their degrees within the course duration.

V. Agenda items for Information

1. Details of Vice-Chancellor selection process.

The details of this point were presented by the Registrar.

2. Status of Research activities.

Dean, R&D presented on the status of research activities. He stated that in this year, 4 projects worth of 151.48 lakhs were secured by VFSTR. He also stated that 36 Scholars completed their Ph.D. since the last Academic Council meeting.

3. Organization of departments into schools.

The details of this point were presented by the Registrar. He mentioned that to encourage the cross disciplinary research within the school, allocation of resources, infrastructure within the school, faculty and staff allocation and to meet other responsibilities assigned by the Vice-Chancellor, the departments were organised into schools.

4. Reorganization of Deans.

The details of this point were presented by the Registrar.

5. Faculty who have acquired Ph.D after last Academic Council Meeting.

The Registrar presented that eleven faculty acquired Ph.D after the last Academic Council Meeting.

Having discussed all the points, the meeting was adjourned.

The following action plans were given during the meeting:

Action Point	Action to be taken by
1. Negotiations with industry should be conducted to spare employees for 2 hours a week.	Dean - Promotion, Collaborations & Faculty Affairs & HoDs
2. The number of credits given for each semester should not be more than 25.	Dean - Academics, Assessment and Awards
3. Identify other domains where B.Tech.(Data Science) may be aligned and how to create value for data in these domains	HoD, CSE
4. Enquire on the possibilities of consultancy in Food Technology and advertise the availability of this facility.	HoD, Chemical Engineering
5. Details on steps to be taken to increase the visibility of research papers and details of average number of scholar publications and post-doctoral publications.	Dean - R&D
6. Details of international collaboration, first author publication and the number of CoEs supported by DST.	Dean - R&D

The Chair rendered the closing remarks by thanking all the external members and internal members for their participation. The Registrar rendered the Vote of Thanks. The External members were then felicitated by the Chair.

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