



F.No.VFSTR/Reg/A1/02/2020_01

Date: 05.03.2020

MINUTES OF THE 35TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON 29.02.2020

The 35th Meeting of the Board of Management of VFSTR was held on 29.02.2020 (Saturday) at 10:00 AM in the Board Room (V Floor) of A-Block. Dr. M.Y.S. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, VFSTR University Chaired the meeting.

The following members were present.

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| 1. Dr. K. Ramamurthy Naidu, Chancellor, VFSTR University | Special Invitee |
| 2. Prof. A. Lakshminath, Former Chancellor, DSNLU, Visakhapatnam | Special Invitee |
| 3. Prof. H. Devaraj, Former Vice-Chairman, UGC | External Member |
| 4. Prof. B.V. R. Chowdari, Sr. Executive Director, President's Office, NTU, Singapore | External Member |
| 5. Dr. Y. Sarat, Director, United Health Systems Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad | External Member |
| 6. Prof. P. V. G. D. Prasad Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, AU, Visakhapatnam | External Member |
| 7. Sri. L. Srikrishnadevarayalu, Vice-Chairman, Vignan Group, Guntur | External Member |
| 8. Dr. K. Satya Prasad, Rector, VFSTR | Internal Member |
| 9. Dr. P. M. V. Rao, Dean - AR & E, VFSTR | Internal Member |
| 10. Dr. V. Ravi Kumar, Dean - Admissions, VFSTR | Internal Member |
| 11. Dr. M.S.S. Rukmini, Professor, Dept. of ECE, VFSTR | Internal Member |
| 12. Mr. D. Vijay Krishna, Assoc. Prof., Dept of MBA, VFSTR | Internal Member |
| 13. Dr. K.V.Krishna Kishore, Dean - Lib. & IT Services and HoD, Dept. of IT, VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 14. Dr. D. Vijay Ramu, Dean, Academics & I/c Foreign Collaboration, VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 15. Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao, Dean - R&D and HoD, Dept. of EEE, VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 16. Dr. M. Ramakrishna, Dean - IQAC, VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 17. Dr. S. Krupanidhi, Dean - P&M and HoD, Dept. of Biotech., VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 18. Dr. D. Venkatesulu, HoD, Dept. of CSE, VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 19. Dr. M. Ramesh Naidu, HoD, Dept. of Chem. Engg., VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 20. Dr. T. Pitchaiah, HoD, Dept. of ECE, VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 21. Dr. L. Suvarna Raju, HoD, Dept. of Mech. Engg., VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 22. Dr. N. Ruben, HoD, Dept. of Civil Engg., VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 23. Dr. N. Srinivasu, HoD, Dept. of S&H, VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 24. Mr. N. Narayana Rao, HoD, Dept. of Applied Engg., VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 25. Dr. Koya Prabhakar Rao, Prof. and Division Head of Chemistry, Dept. of S&H, VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 26. Dr. M. Sreenivasulu, Prof. and Division Head of Physics, Dept. of S&H, VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 27. Dr. P.L.N.Varma, Prof. and Division Head of Mathematics, Dept. of S&H, VFSTR | Special Invitee |
| 28. Dr. G. Sitaramanjaneya Reddy, Prof. of Biomedical Engg., Dept. of ECE, VFSTR | Special Invitee |

29. Mr. N. S. N. Murthy, Finance Officer, VFSTR

Special Invitee

30. Cmde. Dr. M.S. Raghunathan, Registrar, VFSTR

Member Secretary

The following member has taken leave of absence:

1. Dr. T. S. Rao, Sr. Advisor, Dept. of Biotech., Govt. of India

External Member

Proceedings

The meeting commenced at 10:00 AM and the Chair Dr. M.Y.S. Prasad welcomed all the members to the meeting. After pleasantries, the Chair, Dr. M. Y. S. Prasad thanked all the external members for accepting the invitation and asked the Hon. Chancellor to present his opening remarks.

The Chancellor specially welcomed Prof. A. Lakshminath, Former Chancellor, DSNLU, Visakhapatnam who had earlier served as the Vice-Chancellor of DSNLU, Visakhapatnam. The Chancellor then welcomed Prof. H. Devaraj, Prof. BVR Chowdari, Prof. PVGD Prasad Reddy and Dr. Y. Sarat.

The Chair Dr. MYS Prasad, then took over from the Hon. Chancellor and remarked on the improvement of results in the previous two semesters. He also mentioned that the University Computer Center is made functional for the sake of advanced research. The Chair mentioned that placements are good with more than 1000 students placed with an average salary package of Rs. 3.5 - 4.0 lakh rupees. Dr. MYS Prasad informed the members present that 875 research papers were published in SCI and Scopus indexed journals. He mentioned that seven projects worth Rs. 228 lakh rupees were sanctioned to the university. The Chair mentioned the research internship at NTU and South Korea. The Chair mentioned of the success of cultural and sports event at VFSTR i.e. Mahotsav, and Dr. Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate visited the university and with his inspiration, a course on child rights is planned in the university. Dr. MYS Prasad mentioned of the grant of UGC 12(B) for the university. He informed the members present about the visit of NBA team for accrediting five departments. The Chair said that the university shall go for the approval of AICTE in 2020-2021. The Chair brought to the notice of the members that during the last one year, 120 faculty were relieved from duties but recruitment to fill in the shortfall was done adequately with alacrity by 22 recruitment drives and with proper planning and execution so as to ensure smooth and uninterrupted teaching. Prof. H. Devaraj mentioned that to grow as an 'Institute of Eminence', the affiliation of faculty with the organization is essential. Responding to this, the Chair mentioned that there are 60-70% faculty who are loyal to the university and have been working since the commencement of the institution.

As the Chair asked for the initial remarks of the External members of BOM, Dr. H. Devaraj congratulated the university on the achievement of 12 (B) status. He mentioned that NBA accreditation is essential for the growth of the university. He expressed his happiness on the commencement of new courses and wished more progress in the research areas.

Dr. Y. Sarat expressed his happiness that after a decade, VFSTR has registered progress in many fronts and congratulated the staff and management for their hard work.

Prof. B.V.R. Chowdari advised to emphasize on research and publications in high impact factor journals. He congratulated the students for attending the internship at NTU, Singapore. He advised the faculty to interact more with faculty of foreign universities and in this respect, they shall have the administrative support from VFSTR and academic support from NTU.

Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy expressed his happiness over the progress made in the last three months and mentioned that parents expect a higher package for their children. He appreciated that 16 students are offered more than Rs. 6.0 Lakhs and five students offered Rs. 16.0 Lakhs packages. He congratulated the University authorities for their success in NBA inspection and advised them to be prepared for NAAC visit. He further mentioned that with hardwork, VFSTR should compete with all premier universities. He advised that a thrust area should be identified and the university should work in that area. He advised that instead of commencing new courses, the new emerging areas should be merged with the existing ones. For broadening the perspectives of the faculty, he advised them to travel abroad.

Mr. L. Sri Krishna Devarayulu expressed his wish to increase placements. He opined that NIRF and NAAC should be targeted. He also opined that they should recruit good faculty for new courses, if required on deputation from foreign Universities.

Prof. A. Laksminath opined that there is a moratorium imposed on the sanction for the commencement of graduation courses in Law in new colleges, and yet, VFSTR can start a law course on Governance. He mentioned that Masters Course in law can be technically commenced. He advised for the research in law. Since there is no scope of commencing LLB, VFSTR can take over some sick institute and commence the courses in law. He also advised to introduce diplomas and PG diplomas in law.

I. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MEETING

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of 34th BoM Meeting held on 30-11-19

The Minutes of the 34th BoM meeting held on 30-11-12 was placed before the BoM for the approval and the members confirmed the minutes.

2. Actions taken on the decisions of previous meeting

The Registrar presented on the action points of the previous meeting and also briefed the members present on the actions taken. Concerning the research on the employability of PG courses in Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry, the Registrar submitted that actions have been initiated and thorough research on the employability of PG courses in the above said subjects have been undertaken by consulting the experts from industry. As per the second action point, the details on the experts chosen to review the project proposals at VFSTR was presented by the Registrar.

II. Agenda Items for Approval / Discussion

1. Commencement of M.Sc. (Chemistry), M.Sc. (Mathematics) and M.Sc. (Physics) with effect from Academic year 2020-21.

Regarding the commencement of M.Sc. Chemistry, HoD, Dept. of Chemistry, Dr. K. Prabhakar Rao presented on the following aspects:-

1. M.Sc. Chemistry - Structure
2. BoS Meeting
3. Feasibility report
4. Industry interaction
5. Infrastructure

The HoD stated that M.Sc. course is in high demand for its employability and further presented on the program objectives and MoUs with companies like Pharma, drugs, paints and dyes and fuel cells. As a part of feasibility report, the HoD presented on the status of admissions into the course in various institutions in Guntur district.

Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy commented that as the state government reimburses 100% fee, the possibility of drawing the students to VFSTR may be difficult. He reminded that recently AICTE has decided to remove Chemistry as a subject in Engineering which adversely affects the employability of the subject. Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy mentioned that with all the labs and faculty, research can be improved in the department instead of concentrating on M.Sc. He also opined that industry should support the course by sponsoring students.

Prof. B.V.R Chowdari opined that concerted efforts to commence M.Sc. (Chemistry) should be made as in the future the course will be successful and hence he supported the proposal.

The Hon. Chancellor also expressed the same positive opinion on the commencement of the course.

The Vice Chairman supported the commencement of the course provided the department is self sufficient in terms of faculty and no additional faculty is required. The other two external members viz Dr. Sarat and Prof. Devaraj also supported the commencement of M.Sc (Chemistry) from the next academic year 2020-21.

Based on the suggestions of majority of external members, the commencement of M.Sc. (Chemistry) course from the next AY 2020-21 has been approved, However, the faculty and infrastructure should be met from the existing resources of VFSTR. The status of admissions is to be presented in the next BoM meeting by HoD, S&H.

2. Review of student intake trends in certain departments:

The Rector brought out that AICTE gave its permission to change the intake of the institution to which NBA has visited. The HoDs of Applied Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, EEE, Mechanical Engineering, Bio-Medical Engineering and Bio Informatics presented on the following points:

- a. Current student intake and strength
- b. Student pass percentage
- c. Job opportunities
- d. Placement and average salary
- e. Faculty strength
- f. Condition of the intake details in other neighboring colleges.
- g. Action plan.

The HoD of Applied Engineering mentioned that the prospective strength of Agricultural Engineering should be 60 seats while that of AME should be 30 seats. On these lines the HoDs of Chemical Engineering needed 30 seats each as intake in the branches of Chemical Engineering, Petroleum Engineering and Textile Technology. The HoD of Civil Engineering wanted the intake strength to be 30 seats. The HoD of EEE wanted the strength to be 30 seats while the HoDs of Mechanical Engineering, Bio Medical Engineering and Bio-Informatics wanted to continue with the strength of 60 seats each as intake.

In this context, the HoD, Applied Engineering discussed the reasons for the drop in strength of Agricultural Engg. The HoD T&P mentioned that the salary of the students of Agriculture falls between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 16,000 which may be the main reason for the fall in the students opting for B.Tech. in Agriculture. The Chair mentioned that Kia Motors has provided employment for 15 students of VFSTR. He also mentioned of the amenities in the department like tractor, and tilling machine, besides, two doctorate faculty were provided for the department. Dr.Y.Sarat opined that AME should be amalgamated with other branches like Mechanical Engg.

After discussions, the intake strength of various departments proposed was approved.

3. Starting of new B.Tech. programs in emerging areas as given below:-

- a. Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)
- b. Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security)
- c. Computer Science and Business Systems
- d. Electronics and Communications Engineering (IOT) / CSE (IOT)
- e. Robotics and Automation

The Dean, Admissions opined that considering the changing employment scenario in the country, new courses should be introduced for increasing the employability of the students. Answering the question to Prof. H. Devaraj on the availability of faculty for these high end courses, HoD, CSE mentioned that we have faculty dealing these subjects, but specialists can be obtained on deputation from industries and Foreign Universities. Dr. Y. Sarat asked each department to carefully examine and finalize thrust areas.

After thorough deliberations, the members of BoM approved the commencement of B.Tech. programs in the emerging areas as given below:-

- a. Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)
- b. Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security)
- c. Computer Science and Business Systems
- d. Electronics and Communications Engineering (IOT) / CSE (IOT)
- e. Robotics and Automation

III. Agenda Items for Ratification:

The following agenda points were presented before BoM for ratification

- a. List of teaching and non-teaching staff joined and relieved since the last BoM meeting held on 30-11-2019.
- b. Appointment of Dr. Kavi Kishor as Research Advisor for the departments of Bio-Technology, Bio-Informatics, Pharmacy and Food Technology.
- c. Issuance of degree certificates for three students, before the convocation.

Presentation on three points was made by the Registrar and Dean, Evaluation. After a short discussion on three items, the BoM ratified the same.

IV. Agenda items for Information:

1. Grant of approval of 12(B) status by UGC

The agenda point for information was presented before the BoM members by Registrar. The members took a note of the above said information.

2. Visit of NBA team to VFSTR from 14th to 16th February 2020

The agenda point for information was presented before the BoM members by Registrar. The members took a note of the above said information.

3. Odd semester results of Academic year 2019-20

The agenda point for information was presented before the BoM members by Dean AR&E. The members took a note of the above said information.

4. Status of research activities

The agenda point was presented by Dean, R&D and the members appreciated the research activities in VFSTR.

5. Submission of application for commencement of Law course to Bar Council of India

The point was presented by the Registrar. Responding to this, Prof. A. Lakshminath stated that post-graduate courses can be commenced in the University along with activities meant to spread legal awareness even though there is a ban on commencement of Law courses at the UG level. Chancellor requested Prof. A. Lakshminath to use his good offices in BAR Council of India separating Universities from Colleges in giving permissions for Law Courses. Mr. L. Srikrishna Devarayulu responded that the matter is currently sub judice and the decision on the commencement of Law course can be left pending till the directive of the Hon Supreme court on this aspect.

6. Service Rules, Policies and Procedures - VFSTR

This agenda point was presented by Registrar. The members took a note of the above said information.

7. Visit of Dr. Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Laureate to VFSTR on 21-01-2020:

The Registrar mentioned that through sustained efforts of the Vice-Chairman Mr.L. Sri Krishna Devarayulu, the Nobel Laureate's visit to VFSTR was materialized. The members took a note of the above said information.

8. Vignan Mahotsav celebrations from 30-01-2020 to 01-02-2020:

This agenda point was presented by the Dean, SA. The members took a note of the above said information.

9. Revised intake capacity for UG and PG programs for the next academic year 2020-21:

This agenda point was presented by the Dean, Admissions. He stated that as per the proposal the new intake capacity shall be 1830 (including B.Tech. in Emerging areas) and the same for M.Tech shall be 180 students. The new intake capacity is given below :-

Sl.No	Level	Course	AICTE Approved intake for A.Y.2019-20	Proposed intake for A.Y. 2020-21
1	UG	Agricultural Engineering	60	60
2	UG	Automobile Engineering	60	30
3	UG	Bio Technology	180	180
4	UG	Bio-Informatics	60	60
5	UG	Bio-Medical Engineering	60	60
6	UG	Chemical Engineering	60	60
7	UG	Civil Engineering	60	30
8	UG	Computer Science and Engineering	540	540
9	UG	Electronics and Communications Engg.	420	300
10	UG	Electrical and Electronics Engg.	60	30
11	UG	Food Technology	120	120
12	UG	Information Technology	120	120
13	UG	Mechanical Engineering	120	60
14	UG	Petroleum Engineering	60	30
15	UG	Textile Technology	60	30

The proposed intake for four courses in emerging areas like Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning), Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security), Computer Science and Business Systems, and Robotics and Automation is 30 each.

All the PG courses in Engineering with the exception of Structural Engineering will be 18. The proposed intake capacity for structural Engineering remains unchanged at 36 seats. The intake for MBA and MCA courses will be reduced to 150 and 60 respectively. The intake for M.Tech in Communication Systems in ECE (approved in the last BoM) will be 18.

The members took a note of the above said information and approved the revised intake capacity.

The Chair, after the discussions on agenda points for information, summed up the decisions of BoM meeting announcing the approval of members to commence PG course in Chemistry, new B.Tech programs in the emerging areas and new intake strength.

The decisions / actions from the 35th Board of Management Meeting are as given below:-

S.No.	Action Point	Action to be taken by
1	No additional facility or new faculty for the new M.Sc. (Chemistry) program.	HoD, S&H and Division Head, Chemistry
2	A committee has to be formed to study the merging with another department / redesign of total courses / closure of the branch for the following courses a. Automobile Engineering b. Petroleum Engineering c. EEE The committee has to be formed in consultation with Prof. PVGD Prasad Reddy, and Prof. Devaraj.	Vice-Chancellor
3	Each department /Engineering programs has to identify only one or two thrust areas for concentrated and focused improvement	All HoDs
4	The five new Engineering Programs are approved (Three in CSE, one in ECE, and one in Mechanical Engineering Departments) - the additional courses to be introduced for each of these programs have to be thoroughly redesigned in consultation with Industry / Academic experts. (Approach should not be adding one or two courses in the selected specialization with old content)	HoDs of CSE, ECE, Mechanical Engineering and Dean, Academics
5	A dedicated Department has to be created for the Emerging Areas with an interdisciplinary expert as Head of the department	Vice-Chancellor
6	The examination pattern and the percentage of change during moderation should also be given in the BoM meeting along with the trend in semester examinations results.	Dean - AR&E
7	UNICEF can be approached for funding of Child Rights Centre which is recently decided in a MoU with KSCF	Registrar and Finance Officer
8	The Masters programme in law and PG Diploma courses in new areas of law can be started by the Vignan Institute of Law without approval of Bar Council of India	Registrar, HoD, MBA and Dean, Academics

There being no further points, the meeting was adjourned.

 5.3.20

REGISTRAR

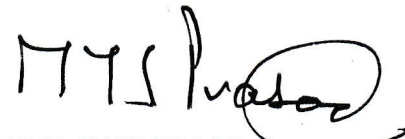
VIGNAN'S FOUNDATION

FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

(Deemed to be University)

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GUNTUR (DISTRICT), A.P. INDIA



VICE-CHANCELLOR

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