

**VIGNAN'S**

Foundation for Science, Technology &amp; Research

(Deemed to be University)

-Estd. u/s 3 of UGC Act 1956



F.No.VFSTR/Reg/A1/02/2020\_03

Date: 01.12.2020

**MINUTES OF 37<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON  
21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER, 2020 BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

The 37<sup>th</sup> Board of Management meeting was held through video conference on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2020 at 10:00 AM in the Board Room (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) A Block under the chairmanship of Dr. M.Y.S. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor. The following members were present:

1. Dr. K. Ramamurthy Naidu, Chancellor, VFSTR : Special Invitee
2. Prof. BVR. Chowdari, Sr. Executive Director,  
President's Office, NTU, Singapore : External Member
3. Prof. H. Devaraj, Former Vice-Chairman, UGC,  
New Delhi : External Member
4. Dr. T.S. Rao, Sr. Advisor, DBT, New Delhi : External Member
5. Sri. L. Sri Krishna Devarayulu, Vice-Chairman,  
Vignan Group, Guntur : External Member
6. Prof. PVGD. Prasad Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, AU : External Member
7. Dr. Y. Sarat, Director, United Health Systems Pvt.  
Ltd., HYD : External Member
8. Dr. PMV. Rao, Dean AR&E, VFSTR : Permanent Member
9. Dr. MSS. Rukmini, Dean SA, VFSTR : Internal Member
10. Mr. D. Vijay Krishna, Dean, T&P, VFSTR : Internal Member
11. Dr. M. Rama Krishna, Dean, IQAC, VFSTR : Special Invitee
12. Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao, Dean, R&D, HOD,  
Dept. of EEE, VFSTR : Special Invitee
13. Dr. D. Vijaya Ramu, Dean, Academics, VFSTR : Special Invitee
14. Dr. KV. Krishna Kishore, Dean, IT and Library  
Services, HoD, Dept of IT, VFSTR : Special Invitee
15. Dr. S. Rama Krupanidhi, Dean, P&M and HoD,  
Dept. of Bio-Technology, VFSTR : Special Invitee

16. Dr. K. Kalpana, HoD, Dept of MBA : Special Invitee
17. Dr. M. Malkondaiah, Advisor, VFSTR : Special Invitee
18. Cmde. Dr. M.S. Raghunathan, Registrar, VFSTR : Member Secretary

#### **Proceedings:**

The Chair started the meeting with his remarks in which, he informed the members about the closure of VFSTR on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 due to pandemic and its opening on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 for employees. During this period, online classes and online exams were held diligently. Online exams were held for 6000 students and only 80 cases of suspected malpractice were registered. Students started attending classes physically from November 5<sup>th</sup> 2020.

The Chair informed that, faculty generated e-content with interactive boards and glass boards. The Chair acknowledged the dedicated efforts of faculty and constant guidance from Chairman. VFSTR was able to submit a large number of projects which are both multi-disciplinary and societal. VFSTR applied for the Vignan Institute of Law and was inspected by Bar Council of India. Four new programmes, three in CSE (Computer Science and Business Systems, CSE Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and CSE Cyber Security) and one in Mechanical Engineering (Robotics and Automation) were commenced. VFSTR applied for NAAC reaccreditation and is ready with SSR.

The Chair appreciated the excellent services of IT department and department of evaluation during the pandemic. Then he called for the opening remarks from the external members.

After the remarks by the Chair, the Chancellor welcomed all the external members of BoM and stated that 50% attendance after reopening is a good sign.

Dr. H. Devaraj stated that he shall visit VFSTR and shall interact with students and the staff on the National Education Policy - 2020.

Prof. BVR Chowdari appreciated the commencement of new programmes.

Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy appreciated the innovative methods of VFSTR in the use of glass boards and interactive boards. He advised to obtain funds from DST. Dr. T.S. Rao expressed his happiness to meet Vignan's Faculty personally.

The Chair informed that all the new programmes will be available to sections with strength of 30 each. The Chair further stated that VFSTR plans for a seminar on new educational policy introduced by the Central government.

#### **Proceedings:**

##### **I. Agenda Items for Meeting**

1. **Confirmation of Minutes of 36<sup>th</sup> BoM meeting held by circulation on 09.09.2020.**

Minutes of meeting of BoM held by circulation was placed before the members of the BoM. The Board members approved the minutes.

2. **Confirmation of Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> Academic Council meeting held by circulation on 05.09.2020.**

Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> Academic Council meeting held virtually on 05.09.2020 was placed before the members of BoM. The Board members approved the minutes.

3. **Actions taken on the decisions of previous BoM meeting namely “the examination pattern and percentage of change during moderation”:**

Dean, Evaluation stated that question papers were accessed from the faculty of other reputed colleges. Before the papers are sent into the exam hall, they are subjected to moderation by senior faculty whose moderation of the exam paper is to eliminate typing errors and other errors like questions coming from out of syllabus. The practice of procuring papers from outside is happening for the past seven years, but still, the errors were happening. However, in the recent exams, out of 456 question papers, 332 required no moderation. The rule that faculty moderating the papers should not change for more than 1-9 marks preserves the sanctity of this system.

## **II. Agenda Items for Approval**

1. **Approval to commence academic programs through Open and Distance Learning mode and Online mode.**

Dr. Kalpana, Head, Dept. of Management studies, placed before the BOM stating that the UGC has invited the Universities with minimum NAAC grade of A and above to apply for commencement of Academic Programmes on Open and Distance Learning and Online modes. Since the UGC permitted only those courses without lab activity, Engineering, Pharmacy and Law were not accepted under this plan. HoD, MBA informed that BBA shall be for 120 credits and MBA shall be for 104 credits. Accordingly, VFSTR has submitted the proposals to the UGC to start Programmes such as three year BBA (General) two year MBA (General), MBA (HR) and MBA (Finance) on ODL and OL modes and waiting for approval. Further, she elaborated the house on details such as infrastructure to be provided, curriculum design, teaching, fee structure and conduct of exam. She said that the item is placed for approval. Prof. Devaraj questioned on the mode of exam and Vice Chairman responded stating that the exam will be conducted online like it happened in the case of B.Tech. in VFSTR. Chancellor also stated that the institute had experience already in conducting exams online.

Prof. B.V.R. Chowdari stressed on the importance of sustainability of the newly started courses.

After deliberations, the Board of Members of VFSTR resolved to approve the commencement of MBA and BBA programs in ODL and OL modes from the academic year 2020-21 as given below :-

**Resolution No.01:** To offer academic programmes in (i) BBA (General) (ii) MBA (General) (iii) MBA (Human Resource Management) in the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode and /or Online mode as the case may be under the ambit of VFSTR, with effect from the academic year 2020-21.

**Resolution No.02:** To allocate the required funds to develop the necessary infrastructure and meet the recurring expenditure to offer the academic programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode and /or Online mode, as the case may be, under the ambit of VFSTR with effect from the Academic Year 2020-21.

**Resolution No.03:** To earmark the third floor of VFSTR Library as Centre for Open and Distance Learning programmes and/or Online programmes with a plinth area of 16,000 Sq.ft. (1487 Sq.m).

The Vice-Chancellor is authorised to take further necessary actions in respect of the resolutions which are proposed and resolved by the Board.

## 2. Revision of academic programmes

### I. Revised R20 Curriculum for all programmes of M.Tech

Dean, Academics presented the salient features pertaining to revision of all M.Tech programs that follows choice based credit system (CBCS). The curriculum of M.Tech programme is revised by incorporating suggestions/feedback received from all stakeholders after thorough discussion in the BoS meetings. The revised M.Tech curriculum is in-line with model M.Tech curriculum of AICTE. He mentioned about inclusion of MOOCs courses and audit courses in the M.Tech curriculum. In addition to year-long internship/major projects, Societal-centric/industry oriented projects are also introduced. The stakeholders feedback analysis of all M.Tech programmes and their corresponding action taken reports are approved.

### II. Revision of MCA Curriculum

The revised MCA curriculum as per the new regulations of UGC and AICTE is presented by HoD IT Prof. Krishna Kishore. The MCA programme duration is reduced from three to two years and it follows Choice based credit system (CBCS). Dr.T.S.Rao enquired about the opportunities for MCA students to which Prof.Krishna Kishore responded by saying that the placement percentage was good.

### **III. Revision of BBA Curriculum**

The HoD of Management studies presented the revised R20 BBA curriculum which brought about skill based learning and Analytics in Marketing and HR streams. The curriculum was revised by incorporating suggestions from various stakeholders. The curriculum also includes MOOCs courses. The stakeholders feedback analysis of BBA programme and action taken report is approved.

#### **2. Additions to the eligible candidates for the Award of Degrees**

Dean, AR&E stated that the approved initial number eligible for the award of degree was 1688 to which an additional 178 were now to be added. This makes the total eligible number of students receiving the degrees as 1866. The Dean remarked that considering the number of degrees awarded in the previous years, 1866 will be the maximum number of degrees awarded in VFSTR so far.

The members unanimously agreed to the proposal.

#### **III. Agenda Items for Ratification:**

##### **1. Recruitment of faculty since the last BoM meeting held on 09.09.2020:**

The Registrar presented the details of faculty recruited since the last BoM meeting held on 09.09.2020.

##### **2. List of teaching and non-teaching staff joined and relieved since the last BoM meeting held on 09.09.2020:**

The Registrar presented the list of teaching and non-teaching staff joined and relieved since the last BoM meeting held on 09.09.2020.

##### **3. Appointment of Dr. B. Srinivasa Rao as Director, Centre for Open and Distance Learning and Online Programs:**

The Registrar presented before the members of BoM about the appointment of Dr. B. Srinivasa Rao as Director, Centre for Open and Distance Learning and Online Programs.

##### **4. Appointment of Prof. Y. Satyanarayana who is the former founder VC of Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU) and former Director, GITAM Institute of Law, GITAM University, Vishakhapatnam as Advisor, Vignan Institute of Law (VIL):**

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#### **IV. Agenda Items for Information:**

**1. Status of research activities:**

Dean, Research presented before the members of BoM that 755 papers were published and the H-Index of the VFSTR is 27. He also mentioned that projects sanctioned so far by Government is one. Dr. H. Devaraj advised that papers should be published in good journals with good impact factor. Dr. T.S. Rao advised to form a committee with Dr. Muralidhar to improve the research at VFSTR. He also advised to conduct the research in current problems like Covid etc. Prof. BVR Chowdari advised to publish in standard international journals with good impact factor and individual H-Index.

Dr. Krupanidhi, HoD BT presented on the research in his department and the journals published in the international journals with good impact factor. He stated that Dr. Ambati Rangarao was identified by Stanford University as one of the top two percent of the scientists in particular Biotech area. He also brought to the notice of the members that faculty and students were applying for funding. He said that ten projects related to Covid were submitted. He informed the members that in consultation with Prof. Kavi Kishor and Dr. T.S. Rao the department applied for DST Project in May 2020.

External members strongly criticised the present state of research - especially allowing part-time research scholars, H-index of the institute, number of patents, and Projects. They advised efforts to improve on them. Vice-Chancellor requested for specific suggestions for implementation.

Based on the remarks made by the External members Prof. H. Devaraj, Dr. T.S.Rao & Prof. B. V. R. Chowdari, Dr. K. Ramamurthy Naidu, Chancellor suggested the University authorities should take the necessary steps to improve the research activities at VFSTR.

**2. Virtual inspection of proposed VIL by Bar Council of India team held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

The Registrar informed the members of the virtual inspection of proposed VIL by Bar Council of India team held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020. He said that approval for BBA (Law) and BA. LL.B shall soon be received by VFSTR.

**3. Submission of Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR), IIQA and Self-study Report (SSR) for NAAC second cycle:**

Dean, IQAC mentioned that three AQARs were submitted and IIQA was submitted on 5<sup>th</sup> of November. He said that this time, the NAAC accreditation rating will be better than first cycle. The Chancellor in this respect stated that he made 26 corrections in the SSR report and the statement was acknowledged by Dean, IQAC.

4. Results of supplementary examinations held in October 2020:

The Dean AR&E submitted the results of supplementary examinations held in October 2020.

V. Any other points with the permission of the chair

Dean - Academic Registration & Evaluation has suggested that due to current Pandemic situation, the Convocation for this year viz 2020 may be combined with that of next year. The members unanimously agreed to the suggestion.

As part of closing remarks, Dr. H. Devaraj advised the internal members to try to come in the category one of the universities. Prof. BVR. Chowdari stated that with limited resources, VFSTR should take the help of other organisations. Dr. T.S. Rao advised to utilize the infrastructure appropriately. The Vice-Chairman advised to improve the research activities. The Chancellor and Dr. Malakondaiah advised to take care of research in VFSTR.

The following action points were brought up during the discussion of the meeting:

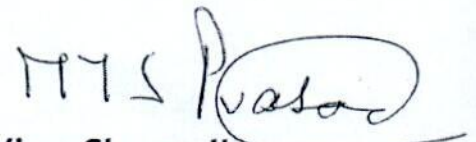
Sl.No	Action Point	Concerned Person
01.	The number of full-time Ph.D scholars should be increased.	Dean, Research
02.	The convocation ceremony for this year viz 2020 should be combined with that of next year and conducted. However, the students to be issued with the degrees according to their requirements.	Dean, Evaluation

There being no further points for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.



**Registrar**

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**Vice-Chancellor**

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