

Minutes of 43rd Meeting of the Academic Council

Date: 15/11/2025 (Saturday) at 10.00 AM.

Venue: Chancellor's Board Room, VFSTR

**Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and Research
Vadlamudi, Guntur
Andhra Pradesh- 522213**

MINUTES OF THE 43rd MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 15th November, 2025. (Hybrid mode)

The members of Academic Council met on 15th November, 2025 at 10:00 AM in the Chancellor's Board Room, A-Block. Prof. P. Naga Bhushan, Vice-Chancellor of VFSTR chaired the meeting. The following members were present:

1. Col.Prof. P. Nagabhushan, Vice-Chancellor : Chairman
2. Prof. Sreenivasa Kumar Professor, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras : External Member
3. Dr. Shanti Swaroop (virtual participation)
Director of Engineering, MathWorks, Hyderabad : External Member
4. Dr. Bala Subramanian Raman (virtual participation)
Professor, dept. of CSE, IIT, Roorkee : External Member
5. Prof. D. Vijaya Ramu, Dean AAA & FA : Member
6. Prof. P. Bangariah, CoE : Permanent Invitee
7. Prof. K.V. Krishna Kishore, Dean, SCIT, Dean - Admissions : Member
8. Prof. B. Seeta Ramanjeneyulu,
Dean, Faculty and Staff Development : Member
9. Prof. G. Srinivasa Rao, Dean Promotions & Collaborations : Member
10. Prof. D. Venkatesulu, Dean R&D, Addl. Dean ACSE : Member
11. Prof. Sk. Jakeer Hussain
Dean, Infrastructure, Planning and Monitoring : Member
12. Prof. M.S.S. Rukmini, Dean - Student Affairs : Member
13. Prof. Y. Ravi Shekhar, Dean, T&D, Dean - SEECE : Member
14. Prof. A. Sharada, Dean, IS : Member
15. Prof. K. kalpana, Dean - School of Law and Management : Member
16. Prof. T. Ramesh Babu, Deaan - SAFT : Member
17. Prof. N. Srinivasu, Dean - SASH : Member
18. Prof. T. Pitchaiah, HoD, Dept. of BME : Member
19. Dr. M. Sarada, HoD, Dept. of ECE : Member
20. Dr. T.C. Vekateswarlu, HoD, Biotechnology : Member
21. Dr. S.V. Phani Kumar, HoD, CSE : Member
22. Dr. D. Radha Rani, HoD, ACSE : Member
23. Dr. Ch. Jitendra, HoD, Dept. of Pharmacy : Member
24. Dr. P. Sundara Kumar, HoD, Civil Engineering : Member
25. Dr. PVS Shoban, HoD, EEE : Member
26. Dr. K. Sujatha, HoD, IT : Member
27. Prof. Sarita Sathpathy, HoD, MBA : Member
28. Prof. N. Veeranjanyulu, HoD, Dept. of CA, Director, CDOE : Member
29. Dr. N. Seshagiri Rao, HoD, Mathematics and Statistics : Member
30. Dr. Koya Prabhakar Rao, HoD, Chemistry : Member
31. Dr. K.V.Madhuri, HoD, Physics : Member
32. Dr. G. Mohanacharyulu, HoD, English : Member
33. Dr. T.C. Venkateswarulu, HoD, Biotechnology : Member
34. Dr. P. Ashok Kumar, HoD, Dept. of Chemical Engg. : Member
35. Dr. Nandure Narayan Rao, HoD, Mechanical Engg. : Member
36. Dr. Sarita Satpathy, HoD, MBA : Member
37. Dr. Ch. Govardhan Rao, HoD, Dept. of TT : Member

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| 38. | Dr. A. Ranganadha Reddy, HoD, Dept. of Bioinformatics | : Member |
| 39. | Dr. D. Adam Stephen, HoD, SS&H | : Member |
| 40. | Dr. Merugu Chandra Surya Rao, HoD, AHS | : Member |
| 41. | Dr. Partha Sarathi Rakshit, Director, Law | : Member |
| 42. | Dr. Shaik Anwar, Assoc. Prof of Chemistry | : Member |
| 43. | Dr. B. Nageswara Rao, Prof of Mech. Engg. | : Member |
| 44. | Dr. B. Srinivasa Rao, Professor, MBA | : Member |
| 45. | Dr. D. John Babu, Professor, BT | : Member |
| 46. | Dr. A. Siva Sankar, Prof, Environmental Sciences | : Member |
| 47. | Dr. K. Mercy Rosalina, Prof, Dept. of EEE | : Member |
| 48. | Dr. P. Siva Prasad, Assoc.Prof of CSE | : Member |
| 49. | Dr. N. Ananda Rao, Officiating Assoc. Prof, Dept of ECE | : Member |
| 50. | Dr. G. Nageswarara Rao, Assoc. Prof of English | : Member |
| 51. | Dr. P. Joshua Reginald, Officiating Assoc. Prof of ECE | : Member |
| 52. | Dr. Ch. Siva Koteswara Rao, Officiating Assoc. Prof of CA | : Member |
| 53. | Dr. K. Maria Das, Asst. Professor of Chemistry | : Member |
| 54. | Dr. B.M. Rao, Professor, MBA | : Member |
| 55. | Dr. N. Satya Sree, Professor, Chemistry | : Member |
| 56. | Dr. S. Deva Kumar, Asst. Prof of CSE | : Member |
| 57. | Dr. Y. Venkata Daseswara Rao,
Director, Off-Campus, Hyderabad | : Special, Invitee |
| 58. | Dr. N.V. Subba Reddy, Former Vice-Chancellor,
Mody University, Rajasthan
Ombudsperson for Redressal of Grievances of students | : Special Invitee |
| 59. | Mr. Prasad Panda, Director-Industry Relations | : Special Invitee |
| 60. | Prof. D. Vijaya Ramu, I/C Registrar, VFSTR | : Ex-Officio Member Secretary |

Leave of Absence: The following members have taken the leave of absence

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| 1. | Er.Dr. D. Rama Krishna, MD, Effectronics | : External Member |
| 2. | Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra
Director, NITTTR, Kolkata | : External Member |
| 3. | Dr. Subbarangaiah. K
Director and Professor at Veda IIT
VLSI Physical Design, Hyd | : External Member |
| 4. | Dr. M. Ramakrishna, Dean - IQAC | : Member |
| 5. | Dr. D. Vijaya Krishna, Dean - Training & Placement | : Member |
| 6. | Dr. J. Nitchal Kiran, Prof of Physics | : Member |
| 7. | Dr. M. Nirupama Bhat, Prof. Dept of ACSE | : Member |
| 8. | Prof. M. Sreenivsulu, Prof. Dept. of Physics | : Member |
| 9. | Dr. A. Goswami, Assoc Prof of Chemistry | : Member |
| 10. | Dr. P. Subba Rao, Prof. of IT | : Member |
| 11. | Dr. N.S. Sampath Kumar, Joint Dean-AAA | : Special Invitee |

Minutes of the 43rd Meeting of the Academic Council

Date: 15/11/2025 [Saturday] at 10:00 AM

Item	
	<p>Welcoming the members of Academic Council by the Chair.</p> <p>The meeting commenced with the remarks by the Chair, Col. Prof. P. Nagabhushan welcoming the members to the 43rd Academic Council meeting. He handed over the meeting to be commenced by the Member Secretary, Prof. Vijaya Ramu.</p> <p>The Chair narrated the backdrop of instatement of the new Chancellor Dr. Pavuluri Subba Rao, the former ISRO technocrat and Chairman of Ananth Technologies, Hyderabad on 6th November 2025.</p> <p>Dean AAA then rendered the profile of Dr. Subba Rao. The Chair mentioned the first and the second Chancellors Dr. B. Rama Moorthi Naidu and Dr. L. Ratthaiah. And the third incumbent Dr. Subba Rao was proposed by the Hon'ble Chairman of Vignan Group, and the same was graciously accepted by the latter. The proposal for the incumbency of Dr. Subba Rao as the third Chancellor of VFSTR was unanimously accepted by the members of 9th Executive Council. The 43rd Academic Council welcomed the new Chancellor in absentia, and the Member Secretary read the profile of the new Chancellor of VFSTR stating that Dr. P. Subba Rao was an ardent follower of Swami Vivekananda. With the spirit to stimulate the development of indigenous technology, he established Ananth Technologies Limited, three decades ago. Dr. Subba Rao, who advocated the public and private partnership in development of space technology, through his organisation had been the contributor of many major space programs. He, in his career, received several awards and accolades.</p> <p>The Chair stated that Dr. Subba Rao's appointment was the realization of industry – academy synchrony and the directed the Member Secretary to convey this introduction to the Chancellor.</p>
	<p>I. Confirmation of the Minutes of Earlier Apex Body Meetings</p>
	<p>1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 41st Academic Council Meeting held on 24-05-25.</p> <p>The minutes of the 41st ACM held on 24-05-25 was presented before the members of the 43rd ACM. The Council approved the minutes after deliberation.</p> <p>2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 42nd Academic Council Meeting held on 26-07-25.</p> <p>The minutes of the 42nd ACM held on 26-07-25 was presented before the members of the 43rd ACM. The Council approved the minutes after deliberation.</p>
	<p>II. Action taken Report on the decisions of the 41st Academic Council Meeting held on 24-05-25</p>
	<p>1. HoD Pharmacy should consult experts in Pharmacy education field to find solutions to the problems. Dean AAA should design a separate model to deal with the Department of Pharmacy – presented by HoD, Pharmacy</p> <p>The HoD, Pharmacy presented the action taken report with the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce language and communication gap 2. Improve regularity to classes 3. Focus on continuous learning

	<p>4. Enhance supervision and monitoring of progress</p> <p>The HoD stated that all the above-said strategies were approved by the BoS. Additionally, experts like Dr. Javed Ali, School of Pharmacy, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi and Dr. Mohana Lakshmi, Amity University, Gwalior, M.P. Both the experts were consulted as Jamia Hamdard, N.D. has good diversity of students, while Amity University has sizable number of students from Bihar. The student committee was also included in the process of evolving the action plan.</p> <p>Responding to this action plan, the Chair appreciated the increase of weightage of Continuous Internal Assessment from 3 marks out of 25 (12%) to 15 marks out of 25 (60%).</p> <p>Dr. Shanthi Swarup appreciated the plan which had focussed on enhancing language capabilities of students. He stated that some early warning systems concerning attendance and drop out should also be maintained. He also mentioned the concerns about the pass percentage of the target group and advised for a regular monitoring of the system.</p> <p>The HoD stated that he discussed the diagnostic test in the 42nd ACM and the performance of the students in the test owes to their earlier academic background. He said that there were no problems related to the social adjustment of the students from Bihar. The Chair opined that proper socialization of the students with their local counterparts would help them in academics.</p> <p>Prof. P. Sreenivas Kumar enquired about the hostel arrangement of the Bihar students and advocated that they should be encouraged to inter mingle with the local students.</p> <p>Dean SA responded that the students of Bihar and others had common hostel. She stated that those students mingle with all the rest in all activities.</p> <p>Dr. Subba Reddy enquired on the design of any instrument to measure the students' academic progression and emotional well-being. The Dean SA responded that 8 Counselling Psychologists were deployed to address the relevant problems of the students and the Chair concluded stating that the university aims to achieve the counsellor – student ratio at 1: 500.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer, VFSTR further clarified by stating the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty – student ratio was maintained at 1:20 for counselling by faculty. Qualified psychologists are deployed to redress any relevant problems and a personalised app which gives an easy and effective access to redress is in the pipe line. All the efforts of psychologists are being documented. A yearly health check-up for all the students of VFSTR is conducted to identify malnutrition etc, related problems. The Department of MBA is conducting a project to map the consumption of junk food in the campus. <p>3. Plans for aspirational goals in research should be presented in the forthcoming ACM – to be presented by Dean R&D</p> <p>The agenda point was presented by Dean R&D as the part of agenda points for information.</p>
	<p>III. Agenda Items for Discussion and Approval</p>
	<p>1. List of identified online courses from platforms such as SWAYAM, NPTEL and MOOCs aligned with the recommendations of the 6th Deans' committee of ICAR and the principles of NEP 2020 for inclusion in the B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture curriculum for 10 credits – presented by Dean SAFT</p> <p>The Dean presented the point under the following heads:</p>

- a. List of online courses for inclusion in the B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture curriculum for 10 credits as per ICAR.
- b. Creative self-work as part of projects
- c. Student READY program (20 credits)
- d. Credit distribution

Dr. Shanthi Swarup appreciated the plan as flexible, valuable, and multi-disciplinary that encourages student choice and initiative. He requested the Dean to identify some areas of concern:

- a. Since courses are non-gradual, the students may resort to selecting some easy choices.
- b. There should be assessment of integration.
- c. The plan is good for scoring co-curricular achievements.
- d. Student mentors should be helpful to guide the students in labs.
- e. Develop a pathway to realize the plan.
- f. Publications should be gradual.

The Dean answered that there would be a presentation after the completion of the course at the department level. Mentorship shall be provided with staff of whom 70% are doctorates. Dr. Swarup advised that other departments also should emulate this model.

Prof. Sreenivas Kumar stated that the plan encourages group work and individual work but there should be a clear discrimination between individual contribution and contribution within the team.

The Chair opined that all credits in the plan were given to courses and they also be given to classes.

The agenda item was approved by the members after deliberation.

IV. Agenda items for Information

1. Plans for aspirational goals in research – Presented by Dean R&D

The Dean R&D presented the agenda point under the following heads:

- a. Research Programs
- b. Ph.D program enrolment (Part time 638, Full Time 163)
- c. Research labs establishment
- d. Research Supervisors (305 Research Supervisors; 247 from VFSTR; 58 from Vignan Research Centres)
- e. Research Centres
 - (i) Vignan Pharmacy College, Vadlamudi, Guntur
 - (ii) Vignan Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Vizag
 - (iii) Vignan Institute of Information Technology, Vizag
 - (iv) Vignan Nirula Institute of Technology and Science for Women, Guntur
 - (v) Vignan Institute of Technology, Hyderabad
- f. Incentives
 - (i) Annual Research Assistantship Budget - Rs. 7-8 cr
 - (ii) Contingency Grant per research scholar – Rs. 40,000
 - (iii) Annual Contingency Budget – Rs. 80 lakhs
- i. Patent Cell
- j. Faculty Seed Grant (5 to 10 lacs)
 - (i) Follow up research grant (RSG) for Assistant Professors
 - (ii) Research start up grant for Assistant Professors
 - (iii) Support research grant (SRG) for Associate Professors and Professors
 - (iv) Exclusive research grant for women faculty

- k. CoEs / RCs RLs
 - (i) 5G Use Case Lab
 - (ii) Centre of Excellence for Autonomous Systems
 - (iii) Centre of Excellence in Space Science and Technology
 - (iv) Thin Film Research Centre
 - (v) AR/VR Lab
 - (vi) EV lab

l. Strategies for increasing research enrolment

m. Career Development Fund for faculty

n. Research Outcomes

- (i) Ph.D. degree awarded for 302 candidates
- (ii) Total 512 journal publications
- (iii) Total 195 conference publications
- (iv) Total 81 book chapters published

o. H – Index

- (i) Scopus H Index of the institute – 71
- (ii) No. of Faculty with H Index more than 10 - 51

P. Government funded projects

q. Consultancy (Keysight CoE)

Prof. Sreenivas Kumar appreciated the efforts of the Dean R&D and advised that the University should maintain a contingency fund to cope with the delay of fund release by government. He also advised that faculty presenting in the international conferences should be initially encouraged by funding them so that they gain knowledge and develop networking. The Chair opined that such funding should be provided to the faculty during vacation. He also advised to host an annual research scholars Event. The Dean responded to Prof. Sreenivas Kumar's enquiry on availability of space in affirmative.

Dr. Shanti Swarup appreciated the Dean's presentation and stated that the Dean should also work on the broad based approach, definition of a CoE, and roadmap for CoEs. He also opined that there should be an audit of research funding that tallies with the research output. Dr. Swarup stated that there should be a screening committee for patents and publications should be increased along with multidisciplinary approach of research.

Dr. Subba Reddy appreciated the Research (Hons.) program and advised to encourage the students to present posters and paper presentations. He opined that a method to be evolved to continue the problem to students of B.Tech. (Research) to the successive batches.

The Vice-Chairman enquired on the consultancy possibilities in the departments of Civil Engg. and English. Prof. A. Sharada responded that the Cambridge Centre at VFSTR is organizing training sessions for the faculty and teachers of colleges and schools. The Vice-Chairman advised that such programs should be documented and properly projected.

2. Faculty Immersion Program – Presented by Director IR

The Director, IR presented the agenda under the following heads:

- a. FIP Objective
- b. Key Highlights
- c. Phase I (27 faculty)
 - Phase II (21 faculty)
 - Phase III (Commenced)
- d. FIP Phase I (partnering companies)

	<p>Dr. Shanti Swarup advised the Director to monitor the program and also record the dissemination of knowledge. He advised to look for more outcomes.</p> <p>The Dean R&D advised to have flagship outcomes and focus on CoEs, more grants and more faculty.</p> <p>The Chair advised to look for more inter disciplinary approach, new direction of program with off-campus in view.</p>
	V. Agenda items for Ratification
	There are no agenda items for ratification
	<p>VI. Table Agenda:</p> <p>1. Proposal for the Commencement of B.Tech. Media Technology – presented by the Chair</p> <p>The Chair proposed a new program B.Tech. Media Studies and presented the agenda under the following heads:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Media – Objectives Media - Obligations Media – Technology Media – Data Media related Technology <p>The Chair requested all the external members to consider this integrated course to commence B.Tech. (Media Technology).</p> <p>Dr.Shanti Swarup opined that the idea was pragmatic and should be more curative in its nature. Prof.Sreenivas opined that studies on Audio Visual communication were proliferating but content security was a major concern. He also opined that content expertise and content technology are two separate things. Major content houses should be consulted in this respect. Dr. Subba Reddy also maintained that it should be made multi-disciplinary and should be taken forward.</p>

The Chair thanked the external and internal members of the Academic Council Meeting and the external members present were felicitated. Having discussed all the points, the meeting was adjourned.

The following action points were pronounced during the 43rd Academic Council.

Sl.No.	Action Point	Action Point Addressed to
01.	The Dean R&D shall present on the overall research activities in the University.	Dean R&D
02.	The Dean School of Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engineering (SEECE) shall present on the status of academic programs, research activities, and roadmap for the SEECE for the coming five years.	Dean, SEECE and concerned HoDs of the school.


Registrar

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


28/11/15

Vice-Chancellor
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FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
(Deemed to be University)
VADLAMUDI-522 213
GUNTUR (DISTRICT), A.P. INDIA