# VIGNAN'S
Foundation for Science, Technology & Research
(Deemed to be University)
-Estd. u/s 3 of UGC Act 1956

**NAAC** **A**
Accredited

## MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 29TH APRIL 2019

The Academic Council of VFSTR met on 29.04.2019 at 09:30 AM in the Board Room, 5th Floor, A-Block. Dr. M.Y.S. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor of VFSTR, Chaired the meeting.

**Members attended :-**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Dr. K. Ramamurthy Naidu, Chancellor, VFSTR | : Special Invitee |
| 2. | Dr. K. Babu Rao<br>MD, NAVAYUGA Infotech Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad | : External Member |
| 3. | Er. D. Rama Krishna<br>MD, Effotronics, Vijayawada | : External Member |
| 4. | Dr. M. Malakondaiah<br>Former DGP, Andhra Pradesh | : Special Invitee |
| 5. | Prof. Mukesh Doble<br>Professor, Dept. of Biotech., IIT Madras | : Special Invitee |
| 6. | Dr. Veeresh Babu<br>Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Mech. Engg., NIT Warangal | : Special Invitee |
| 7. | Dr. K. Satya Prasad, Rector | : Internal Member |
| 8. | Dr. V. Madhusudhan Rao, Dean, Engg. & Management | : Internal Member |
| 9. | Dr. P.M.V.Rao<br>Dean, Academic Registration and<br>Evaluation and Controller of Examinations | : Permanent Invitee |
| 10. | Dr. M.S.S. Rukmini, Dean – Student Affairs | : Internal Member |
| 11. | Dr. D. Vijaya Ramu<br>Dean, Academics and I/c Dean, Foreign<br>Collaborations | : Internal Member |
| 12. | Dr. M. Ramakrishna, Dean - IQAC | : Internal Member |
| 13. | Dr. K.V.Krishna Kishore<br>Dean, IT & LIS and HoD, Dept. of IT | : Internal Member |
| 14. | Prof. S. Krupanidhi<br>Dean, Planning & Monitoring and HoD, Dept. of Biotech | : Internal Member |
| 15. | Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao,<br>Dean, R&D and HoD, Dept. of EEE | : Internal Member |
| 16. | Dr. V. Ravi Kumar, Dean - Admissions | : Internal Member |
| 17. | Mr. D. Vijay Krishna, Dean – T&P | : Internal Member |
| 18. | Dr. M. Ramesh Naidu, HoD, Dept. of Chem. Engg. | : Internal Member |
| 19. | Mr. A. Narayana Rao, HoD, Dept. of AE | : Internal Member |
| 20. | Dr. N. Ruben, HoD, Dept. of Civil Engg. | : Internal Member |
| 21. | Dr. D. Venkatesulu, HoD, Dept. of CSE | : Internal Member |
| 22. | Mr. T. Pitchaiah, HoD, Dept. of ECE | : Internal Member |

| 23. | Dr. L. S. Raju, HoD, Dept. of Mech. Engg. | : Internal Member |
|---|---|---|
| 24. | Dr. N. Srinivasu, HoD, Dept. of S&H | : Internal Member |
| 25. | Dr. K. Kalpana, HoD, Dept. of MBA | : Internal Member |
| 26. | Dr. B. Madhusudhan Rao, Professor, Dept. of MBA | : Internal Member |
| 27. | Dr. M. Sreenivasulu, Professor, Dept. of CSE | : Internal Member |
| 28. | Dr. P.L.N.Varma, Professor, Dept. of S&H | : Internal Member |
| 29. | Dr. N. Veeranjaneyulu, Professor, Dept. of IT | : Internal Member |
| 30. | Dr. N. Gnaneswara Rao Professor, Dept. of CSE | : Internal Member |
| 31. | Dr. K. Hemantha Kumar, Professor, Dept. of CSE | : Internal Member |
| 32. | Dr. B.Seetharamanjaneyulu, Professor, Dept. of ECE | : Internal Member |
| 33. | Dr. N.Usha Rani, Professor, Dept. of ECE | : Internal Member |
| 34. | Dr. Shaik Jakeer Husaian, Professor, Dept. of ECE | : Internal Member |
| 35. | Dr. D. Satyanarayana, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Mech. Engg. | : Internal Member |
| 36. | Mr. P.V.S.Sobhan, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of EEE | : Internal Member |
| 37. | Dr. K. Annapurna, Asst. Prof., Dept. of ECE | : Internal Member |
| 38. | Mr. K. Praveen Kumar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of IT | : Internal Member |
| 39. | Mr. R. Suresh Kumar, Systems Manager | : Internal Member |
| 40. | Mr. A. Gouri Sankar Rao, Asst. Registrar | : Internal Member |
| 41. | Cmde. Dr. M.S.Raghunathan, Registrar | : Member Secretary |

**Leave of Absence:**

The following members did not attend the meeting :-

| 1. | Dr. Shanti Swarup | : External Member |
|---|---|---|
| | Director of Engg., MathWorks, Hyderabad | |
| 2. | Dr. Vidhu Kampurath Poduvattil | : Special Invitee |
| | Joint Director (PHE), NIPHM, Hyderabad | |
| 3. | Dr. Mani, Assoc. Dean, Dr. NTR College of | : Special Invitee |
| | Agricultural Engg., Bapatla | |
| 4. | Dr. A. Sharada, Prof., Dept. of S&H | : Internal Member |
| 5. | Dr. Jithendra Chimakurthy, HoD, Pharmacy | : Internal Member |
| 6. | Mr. R. Sambaiah, Finance Officer | : Internal Member |

**Student participants:**

1. Ms. K. Harika, Reg. No. 171FA04154
2. Ms. U. Mounika, Reg. No. 171FA04181
3. Ms. P. Akanksha, Reg. No..171FA05321
4. Ms. M. Pravallikadevi, Reg. No. 161FA05393
5. Ms. V. Gayathri, Reg. No. 161FA04204

## Proceedings:

Dr.M.Y.S. Prasad, Vice Chancellor, VFSTR, welcomed the external and internal members and special invitees to the meeting. He informed the members that the focus of the 21st Academic Council Meeting would be R-19, the revised curriculum for VFSTR in the following academic year. He then invited Prof. Ramamurthy Naidu, Chancellor, VFSTR to give his initial comments. Prof. Naidu expressed that certain items on the agenda such as the projects that were presented in Srujanankura and Anveshan must be discussed in detail but may be postponed as discussions on R-19 are more important. He also expressed that Convocation should have been an agenda point. Dr. M Malakondiah, Former DGP, Andhra Pradesh, opined that gainful employment, niche area research, faculty development programmes, residential facility for faculty and physical and mental fitness of the faculty and students must be the focus in the subsequent years. Er. D. Ramakrishna, MD, Effotronics Systems Pvt. Ltd., highlighted the importance of ability of self-learning. He opined that self-learning would help students to understand the mindset required to function in the industrial era as well as aspire for high profile jobs. Dr. K. Babu Rao, Former Professor, NIT Warangal & Director Navayuga Infotech, Hyderabad said that the course design must focus on course outcome, delivery and evaluation. Prof. Mukesh Doble, Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology, IIT Madras, opined that summer internships must be mandated and credited to improve the students' exposure to industry. He opined that the university may invite industrial collaborators to improve the chances of student internships too. He also recommended active research through filing patents, writing grants, encouraging start-ups by students.

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting.**

   Minutes of the 20th Meeting of Academic Council held on 30.07.2018 was placed for confirmation. The Chair invited comments from the members on the minutes of 20th Academic Council meeting. With no comments, members confirmed the minutes.

2. **Actions taken on the decisions of the previous meeting.**

   A report on the actions taken on the decisions of the previous meeting was placed for information. The same was duly noted by the members.

3. **Agenda Items for Approval**

   **a) Revision of Curriculum, structure and regulations for all B.Tech Programmes**

   Dr. D. Vijaya Ramu, Dean Academics, VFSTR, presented the R19 B.Tech curriculum, structure and its regulations. The R19 B.Tech Curriculum follow Choice Based Credit System as like any other curriculum at VFSTR. All of the Courses including new Courses in the respective R19 B.Tech Curriculum enable Employability / Entrepreneurship / Skill Development which were reviewed and recommended by respective Board of Studies (BoS). The feedback from various stake holders including Students, Employers, Parents and Teachers was carefully reviewed by BoS for design of R19 B.Tech Curriculum.

Dean, Academics presented the major inputs from the BoS members of all the departments and suggestions from experts at BITS Pilani (Hyderabad campus). He informed the members that good features from the previous regulation such as seminar, mini project and semester-long internship are maintained in R19 and that R19 focused more on aspects such as self-study, project-based learning (further divided into Intra disciplinary, Inter-departmental and societal projects) and physical fitness, sports and games. He said that the total number of credits have been reduced to 170 but has not been maintained at 160 (as per AICTE guidelines) because the university has decided to give credits to certain courses to encourage the students. He briefed the members on the list of courses and their distribution throughout the semesters. He emphasized on the inclusion of credit based courses pertaining to life skills and employability skills. He also elucidated on the procedure followed in the interdisciplinary, inter departmental and societal projects in R19, physical fitness and games, inclusion of courses in the humanities and management stream and environmental sciences and the procedural details of the honors programme. Registrar VFSTR informed the members that the curriculum design was undertaken by forming two committees; one that looked at R19 and the other that worked on online courses. He presented the process followed in the preparation of R-19 which was a systematic one and prepared with due diligence. He informed the members that R-19 has been finalized by considering the inputs from BoS members, other expert panels and reviews in DDH Meetings.

A presentation on online courses (MOOCs) was made by Dr. Shaik Jakeer Hussain, Prof., Dept of ECE. He explained the process of course identification, list of courses identified, process of evaluation and grading scheme. He informed the members that as a trial and as well as a source of feedback required for implementing the SWAYAM courses in R-19, faculty and students of the university enrolled themselves for these courses and appeared for the exams. He said that all facilities required to run the courses have already been implemented in the university. Dr. Malkondiah opined that courses offered by foreign universities and the ones that do not fall within the purview of AICTE and SWAYAM could be offered as non-credited courses.

Further, Dr. P.M.V. Rao, Dean AR & Evaluation, explained the scheme of evaluation for R19. He informed the members that the question papers have already been revised to suit R-19 based on revised Bloom's Taxonomy. He explained the change in evaluation scheme for R-19 and the blueprint for the evaluation of intra departmental, inter-disciplinary and societal projects, internship, semester-long projects, life skills and employability, online courses, physical fitness and games. The members opined that the internal members may consider drawing a separation between first class and distinction degrees awarded to the students. Dr. M.Y.S Prasad, Vice Chancellor, VFSTR, said that the matter would be discussed internally and a decision would be reached upon. Er.D.Ramakrishna, MD, Effotronics, Hyderabad, and Dr.M. Malakondiah, Special Invitee. opined that the number of examinations held could be

4

reconsidered. Vice Chancellor, Dr. M.Y.S Prasad, recommended that the matter be discussed internally.

Next, course-wise changes from previous regulation to R19 and their rationale was explained by the respective departments.HOD of CSE presented the curriculum and said that the focus of the same is on building programming skills. Er. D.Ramakrishna opined that mobile computing technology may be included as its scope is widening day by day. He suggested teaching the methodology than technology which in turn would prepare the students for more than a routine job. He also suggested that the faculty of the department could attend Gartner conferences to have a better understanding and planning of the courses. He also suggested that certain professional courses as mentioned in the curriculum could be offered in the first year of the programme and that courses such as computer organization and OS could be included in one of the first four semesters.

This was followed by a presentation by Dr. K.V. Krishna Kishore, HOD IT and Dean IT Services. Er. D.Ramakrishna suggested that the topics in electronics could cover more of digital aspects than analog. He opined that the curriculum could include OS structures than compiler design. Dr. K. Babu Rao, external member recommended that big data analytics could be made a regular course.

Next was the presentation of R19 by department of ECE. It was suggested that digital broadcasting be included as an elective. Market oriented elective courses such as AWS were also suggested to be included as electives. It was discussed that industry centric and society centric projects may run simultaneously so that the problems dealt with in the projects be better defined. Dr. Mukesh Doble, special invitee suggested that a list of industries could be identified for these projects and can be taken forward through CSR funding.

This was followed by R19 curriculum for department of EEE and the same was presented by Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao, HOD of EEE and Dean R&D. Dr. M.Y.S Prasad, Vice Chancellor, VFSTR, opined that the need for the course on power systems protection for a full semester may be reconsidered.

Thereafter, Dr.S.Krupanidhi, HoD, Department of Biotechnology, presented the salient changes brought about in the R19 curriculum for Biotechnology and Bioinformatics. The members suggested that the number of industrial experts on the BoS could be improved. This was followed by a presentation by Dr.L.S.Raju from the department of Mechanical Engineering. Dr. M.Malakondiah, special invitee recommended that courses in conventional designing, basic sciences, particularly courses in basic engineering could be retained as self-study courses if it could not be accommodated as per AICTE guidelines. This, according to him would make sure that the overall content does not undergo any reduction.

Dr. N. Srinivasu, HoD of Department of Sciences & Humanities, informed the member that in R19, courses in chemistry, physics and mathematics with branch specific contents incorporated will suit the requirements of respective branches. The members

suggested that the courses in mathematics may be aligned along modern methods than the conventional style. For the course on Professional Ethics, it was suggested that ethical issues discussed should be branch-specific for better understanding of work ethics.

This was followed by a presentation on R19 curriculum for Food Technology. It was mentioned that the courses have been designed in tune with recent changes in the field. Prof. Doble recommended that lectures by industrial experts and industrial visits must be necessary components for the curriculum in Food Technology as much of the knowledge in the area has to come through industry experience. Incorporation of credit-based industry learning system recommended by Dr.M.Malakondiah has been added to this suggestion by recommending the names of possible collaborators such as CFTRI, Mysore, ICT, Mumbai, Mango processing units in Chittoor and IICT, Hyderabad.

Dr. Ruben, HoD, Department of Civil Engineering in his presentation informed the members that the course has been designed with a focus on construction and infrastructure development. It was suggested that the courses must also incorporate construction methodologies, project planning, field methods and climate-change effective methods.

HoD, Applied Engineering presented the curriculum for Agriculture Engineering and Automobile Engineering. The members were informed that since there was no AICTE regulation applied on the course, the structure of the curriculum is aligned with that of ICAR. It was advised that a course on plant mechanization procedure be included and Nagpur Farm Equipment manufacturers be contacted for collaboration. It was also advised that ICRISAT be included in the BoS. For automobile engineering, it was opined that the Society for Automobile Engineering be contacted through which changes and progress in the field can be analyzed. Dr.M.Y.S Prasad recommended to maintain the electric vehicle project.

Presentations on R19 for Biomedical Engineering was made. It was advised that Bio medical engineers from hospitals be made a part of the BoS. This was followed by presentation of curriculum for Chemical Engineering by HoD Chemical Engineering. The members recommended inclusion of courses in bioreactors and bioprocess engineering to improve employability quotient. Next, presentations were made by the members of Textile Technology, and Petroleum Engineering.

The external members then gave their concluding comments on R19. Prof. Doble stressed upon the in-house teaching-learning centres to ensure better teaching inputs. He advised contacting industries for rural-project funding via CSR. He also stressed on publications, patents and other research related activities for the overall growth of the university. He said that research and teaching are simultaneous and active research could lay the base for effective teaching. Dr. M. Malakondiah emphasized the importance of practicality over syllabus. He said that faculty development schemes should be prioritized.

**Outcome:** All the R19 B.Tech programmes along with their Curriculum, structure, and regulations have been approved.

b) **Revision of Curriculum, structure and regulations for MBA Programme**

HoD, Department of Management Studies presented the R19 MBA curriculum, structure and its regulations. She mentioned that R19 MBA Curriculum follows Choice Based Credit System and Case studies are also included. All the Courses in the Curriculum enable Employability or Entrepreneurship or Skill Development which were reviewed and recommended by respective Board of Studies (BoS). The feedback from various stake holders including Students, Employers, Parents and Teachers was carefully reviewed by BoS for design of R19 MBA Curriculum and the same is here with approved.

**Outcome:** The R19 MBA programme along with its Curriculum, structure, and regulations have been approved.

c) **Revision of PhD Programmes**

- **Ph.D. (English)**

Dean, R&D presented the revised curriculum of PhD (English) where in new courses were added and presented the details of the revised PhD English Curriculum. With inclusion of 4 new courses for PhD course work as suggested by DRC and recommended by BoS.

- **Ph.D. (Agriculture Engineering)**

Dean, R&D presented the revised curriculum of PhD (Agriculture Engineering) where in new courses were added and presented the details of the revised PhD Agriculture Engineering Curriculum. With inclusion of 4 new courses for PhD course work as suggested by DRC and recommended by BoS, the curriculum is more oriented towards societal centric problems in Agriculture.

d) **Courses for Ph.D. scholars in various disciplines:**

The list of courses proposed by respective departments based upon the recommendation of BoS members and DRC to Ph.D. scholars are presented. The scholars are mandatorily required to choose courses for the completion of their course work. In addition to the aforementioned courses, scholars are also provided the option to choose courses from the existing Masters program in their discipline.

**Outcome:** All the courses for Ph.D were approved by the members.

4. **Agenda Items for Ratification**

NIL

5. **Agenda Items for Information**

Following items were presented for information of the members and all the points were duly noted.

a. Continuation of the Deemed to be University status accorded by MHRD to VFSTR
b. First Semester Results of Academic Year 2018-19

c. <u>Srujanankura</u> (National Level Tech Extravaganza) and <u>Anveshan - South Zone Student Research Convention</u> 21 - 23rd Feb 2019

d. Management Development Programme (MDP) in Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) Hyderabad for Senior faculty members from 11-15 Mar 2019

e. Parents Felicitation function on 06.04.2019.

**The decisions / actions from the 21st Academic Council Meeting are as given below:**

1. Society Centric Projects should also include projects from industry and on industry related problems **(Action: Dean, Academics and All HoDs)**

2. To check how much credits other universities are allotting for online courses **(Action: Dean, Academics)**

3. Credit based summer internship for one month for the students during 2nd and 3rd year to study and consider **(Action : Dean, Academics)**

4. A team should visit some of the Deemed to be Universities and study their curriculum and regulations **(Action : Dean, Academics and Dean, Evaluation)**

5. All the branches have included in the semester IV-I the management related subject, it may be difficult for the Department of MBA to cater to the load. To examine rearrangement. **(Action : Dean, Academics & HoD, MBA)**

6. Evaluation criteria for physical fitness for sports and games is still Grey, to be finalized **(Action : Dean, Evaluation)**

7. Mobile Technology and Mobile Computing Course are to be shifted from electives to core **(Action : HoD, ECE and HoD, CSE)**

8. Introduce usage of readymade tools in analytics curriculum **(Action : HoD, CSE)**

9. Big Data Analysis should be introduced as core subject in the Department of Information Technology **(Action : HoD, IT)**

10. The electronic contents in the courses should be more digital, and analog electronics to be shortened only for the introduction **(Action : HoD, ECE)**

11. The positioning of computer organization course in the semester after students study digital logic design – to be re-examined. **(Action : HoD, CSE and HoD, IT)**

12. Compilers need not be a detailed subject. More emphasis to be given to platforms and real time operating systems **(Action : HoD, CSE and HoD, IT)**

13. Cameras and Vision should be subjects as vision based applications will further evolve. **(Action : HoD, ECE)**

14. Digital Broad Casting had to be introduced in appropriate semester. **(Action : HoD, ECE)**

15. To examine whether there is enough content for two semester long courses on Power Systems Protection. **(Action : HoD, EEE)**

16. The professional electives of the EEE department should include more advanced courses in electrical engineering also. **(Action : HoD, EEE)**

17. To examine whether online courses in Basic Science and Engineering can also be included in the list **(Action : Dean, Academics and HoD, S&H)**

18. Food Technology Department should include more field training in the industry, and it should be credit based. **(Action: HoD, Chemical Engineering)**

19. The Food Technology syllabus can also be reviewed by more food industry and food research experts (like CFTRI)

**(Action: Dean, Academics and HoD, Chemical Engineering)**

20. Department of Civil Engineering should include more field oriented visits and courses, and they should be credit based. **(Action: HoD, Civil Engineering)**

21. Agricultural Engineering syllabus to get reviewed by Head, Engineering Section of ICRISAT. **(Action: Dean, Academics and HoD, AE)**

22. Bioreactors to be included as electives in the Chemical Engineering Department

**(Action: Dean, Academics and HoD, Chemical Engineering)**

**General:**

1. Proper facilities have to be developed for physical fitness use like Gym etc, especially for use during hot months **(Action: Dean, Student Affairs)**

2. Finishing school concept has to be brought in and implemented in lead departments

**(Action: Dean, Engineering and Management)**

3. It should be examined whether we are doing too much of examinations to be verified with other universities, to be reduced if required **(Action: Dean, Evaluation)**

4. Future recruitments may change and hence future on-campus recruitment may concentrate more on technical content. University should prepare for such change in future **(Action : Dean, Training and Placement)**

5. The implementation of R19 and practicality are important involving students, in the follow-up actions on R19 **(Action: Dean, Academics)**

6. Chancellor suggested that eminent academicians from across the country and from various Deemed to be Universities to be included in the BoS of all the departments

**(Action: All HoDs)**

7. University should evolve from teaching to research, and more emphasis to be put on faculty development **(Action : Dean, Academics and Dean, R&D)**

Dr.M.Y.S Prasad gave the concluding remarks.The external members and special invitees of the Academic Council were felicitated.
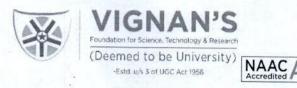
**There being no further points, the meeting was adjourned.**

**REGISTRAR**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR**

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

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

# MINUTES OF THE 23rd MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL HELD ON 29TH NOVEMBER 2019

The Academic Council of VFSTR met on 29.11.2019 at 11:00 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 |
| 2. | Dr. K. Babu Rao<br>MD, NAVAYUGA Infotech Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad | : External Member |
| 3. | Er. D. Rama Krishna<br>MD, Efftronics, Vijayawada | : External Member |
| 4. | Dr. Shanti Swarup<br>Director of Engg., MathWorks, Hyderabad | : External Member |
| 5. | Dr. K. Satya Prasad, Rector | : Internal Member |
| 6. | Dr. P.M.V.Rao<br>Dean, Academic Registration and<br>Evaluation and Controller of Examinations | : Permanent Invitee |
| 7. | Dr. M.S.S. Rukmini, Dean - Student Affairs | : Internal Member |
| 8. | Dr. D. Vijayaramu<br>Dean, Academics and I/c Dean, Foreign Collaborations | : Internal Member |
| 9. | Dr. K.V.Krishna Kishore<br>Dean, IT & LIS and HoD, Dept. of IT | : Internal Member |
| 10. | Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao,<br>Dean, R&D and HoD, Dept. of EEE | : Internal Member |
| 11. | Dr. V. Ravi Kumar, Dean - Admissions | : Internal Member |
| 12. | Mr. D. Vijay Krishna, Dean - T&P | : Internal Member |
| 13. | Dr. M. Ramesh Naidu, HoD, Dept. of Chem. Engg. | : Internal Member |
| 14. | Mr. A. Narayana Rao, HoD, Dept. of AE | : Internal Member |
| 15. | Dr. N. Ruben, HoD, Dept. of Civil Engg. | : Internal Member |
| 16. | Dr. N. Srinivasu, HoD, Dept. of S&H | : Internal Member |
| 17. | Dr. K. Kalpana, HoD, Dept. of MBA | : Internal Member |
| 18. | Dr. Dr. Jithendra Ch, HoD, Dept. of Pharmacy | : Internal Member |
| 19. | Dr. B. Madhusudhan Rao, Professor, Dept. of MBA | : Internal Member |
| 20. | Dr. A. Sharada, Prof. and Division Head of English, | |

|     | Dept. of S&H                                                              | : Internal Member   |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 21. | Dr. M. Sreenivasulu, Prof. and Division Head of Physics, Dept. of S&H      | : Internal Member   |
| 22. | Dr. P.L.N.Varma, Prof. and Division Head of Mathematics, Dept. of S&H      | : Internal Member   |
| 23. | Dr. B.Seetharamanjaneyulu, Professor, Dept. of ECE                        | : Internal Member   |
| 24. | Dr. N. Usha Rani, Professor, Dept. of ECE                                 | : Internal Member   |
| 25. | Dr. K. Annapurna, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of ECE                              | : Internal Member   |
| 26. | Mr. K. Praveen Kumar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of IT                            | : Internal Member   |
| 27. | Mr. N.S.N.Murthy, Finance Officer                                         | : Internal Member   |
| 28. | Mr. R. Suresh Kumar, Systems Manager                                      | : Internal Member   |
| 29. | Mr. A. Gouri Sankar Rao, Asst. Registrar                                  | : Internal Member   |
| 30. | Dr. K. Prabhakar Rao, Prof. and Division Head – Chemistry                 | : Special Invitee   |
| 31. | Mr. T. Nagendra Kumar, Asst. Prof., Dept. of MBA                          | : Special Invitee   |
| 32. | Cmde. Dr. M.S.Raghunathan, Registrar                                      | : Member Secretary  |

**Leave of Absence**

The following members did not attend the meeting due to various reasons: -

| Name of the member | External / Internal member |
|---|---|
| Dr. V. Madhusudhan Rao, Dean, Engg. & Management | Internal Member |
| Dr. M. Ramakrishna, Dean – IQAC | Internal Member |
| Dr. S. Krupanidhi, Dean, Planning & Monitoring and HoD, Dept. of Biotech. | Internal Member |
| Dr. N. Veeranjaneyulu, Professor, Dept. of IT | Internal Member |
| Dr. K. Hemantha Kumar, Professor, Dept. of CSE | Internal Member |
| Dr. Shaik Jakeer Husaian, Professor, Dept. of ECE | Internal Member |
| Dr. D. Satyanarayana, Professor, Dept. of Mech. Engg. | Internal Member |
| Mr. P.V.S.Sobhan, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of EEE | Internal Member |
| Dr. D. Venkatesulu, HoD, Dept. of CSE | Internal Member |
| Dr. T. Pitchaiah, HoD, Dept. of ECE | Internal Member |
| Dr. L. S. Raju, HoD, Dept. of Mech. Engg. | Internal Member |

**Student participants:**

1. Ms. K. Harika, Reg. No. 171FA04154
2. Ms. U. Mounika, Reg. No. 171FA04181
3. Ms. P. Akanksha, Reg. No. 171FA05321
4. Ms. M. Pravallikadevi, Reg. No. 161FA05393
5. Ms. V. Gayathri, Reg. No. 161FA04204

2

**Proceedings**

Dr. M.Y.S. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, VFSTR, greeted and welcomed the external and internal members as well as the special invitees to the meeting. Briefing the members on the meeting's agenda, the Vice-Chancellor informed the members that the focus of 23rd Academic Council Meeting would be on the commencement of four new P.G Programmes i.e., M.A (English), M.Sc. (Chemistry), M.Sc (Mathematics) and M.Sc. (Physics) and two U.G Programmes B.A LL.B (Hons) and BBA LL.B (Hons) from the Academic Year 2020-21. He then invited the Chancellor, Prof. Ramamurthy Naidu, to make his opening remarks. He informed the members that certain items on the agenda must be discussed in detail and sought suggestions and support from the external members on the subject of commencement of new Programmes and their feasibility. He also informed the members about revision of B.Sc. and B.Pharmacy Programmes. Dr. Prasad, briefed the Council on the events that had taken place in VFSTR since the last Academic Council Meeting on 26-07-2019.

In his initial remarks, Dr. K. Babu Rao, opined that timely execution and delivery is critical for processes and work in the industry and suggested that people working in the academia should also work with the same kind of expediency and speed. Mr. D. Ramakrishna, opined that the faculty must focus on the latest trends and the changing dimensions of technologies and how new technologies such as IOT, Machine Learning and AI were impacting the world and suggested that it could be not only brought into curriculum but allied areas could also be pursued in research. Dr. Santhi Swarup advised the introduction of online courses for the students. Also, he felt that if faculty members could first undergo these courses, they could design some assessment tests to check the learning of the students in the courses. If students could enroll for more number of courses through the NPTEL and SWAYAM platform, he felt it would improve the scope for experimental learning in relevant and emerging areas. Mr. Ramakrishna felt that these online courses could be followed up by some small projects to provide the students some hands-on, on the technologies learned. He also said that it is heartening to see VFSTR growing very fast, and suggested that the university should be guided with a long term plan to develop and distinguish itself on some clear thrust areas in the next 5-7 yrs. The long term academic goal should be to think of reengineering some real world products in the future.

I.  **Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting.**

Minutes of the 22nd Academic Council meeting held on 26-07-2019 was placed for confirmation. The Chair invited comments from the members on the Minutes of 22nd Academic Council Meeting, with no comments, members confirmed the minutes.

II. **Actions taken on the decisions of the previous meeting.**

A report of the action taken on the decisions of the previous meeting held on 26.07.2019 was placed for information.

1.  **Compare R19 syllabus with other deemed to be Universities:** Dean, Academics responded that a total of 170 credits are to be acquired by a student for successful

completion of degree. He presented a chart comparing the credit system of premier engineering universities of the region like SRM, Chennai, VIT, Chennai, SASTRA, Manipal, GITAM and KLU. Dr. Santhi Swaroop reiterated that both students and faculty should register and pursue courses on emerging technologies and their applications in Coursera. Dean, Academics responded that online courses through NPTEL, SWAYAM & Coursera were already being pursued by many students and faculty members of VFSTR.

2.  **Identify deemed to be Universities and verify the credits awarded to online courses in those deemed to be Universities:** Dean, Academics answered that a total of 9 credits are awarded out of 170 credits for NPTEL courses. A total of 12 credits were being obtained for NPTEL courses in VIT, Vellore while Amrita University and BITS, Pilani did not have any provision to offer credits to online courses. Mr. Rama Krishna advised that the course and content relevance should be carefully studied before recommending it for students, as sometimes the content may be very basic and not really add to their learning.

3.  **Concentration on III Yr. students who have backlogs:** Speaking on this point, Dr. Santhi Swaroop advised that students with backlogs should be given additional help from first year instead of waiting until third year. The HoD of S&H responded by pointing out to the members that remedial classes for slow learners and backlog classes were being conducted for students right from their first year.

4.  **Encouragement to faculty publishing papers in international conferences outside the country:** Dean, R&D responded to this point by explaining the financial support to the publishing faculty to extent of 50% of the registration fee and airfare. He also mentioned that 70$ per day is granted to these faculty attending and publishing papers in international conferences. He presented the details of faculty members who had availed this provision from VFSTRU.

III.  **Agenda items for Approval**

1.  Commencement of new programmes from the next Academic Year 2020-21

    A.  **M.A (English)**

    Prof A. Sharada, Head, Division of English, presented the proposal of the M.A (English) programme. She presented the feasibility of the course in VFSTR and shared details of the findings of the survey conducted by the English department, where she compared the course structure being followed in different institutions and the limitations they have in offering the MA. Further, she informed members about the course content and number of credits allocated for each course where in Choice based credit system is being offered to provide more flexibility. She also mentioned about orientation of courses towards employment opportunities. She briefed the members of how the curriculum had been designed taking the support of eminent experts like Prof. T. Nageswara Rao, of the English and Foreign Languages University and Dr. Susmita Pani of Ravenshaw University, Cuttack. Further, she informed the members that the proposed syllabus had been vetted by two more subjects experts, Prof. M.Vedasharan

4

of EFLU, Hyderabad and Prof. M. Suresh Kumar of Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur. Dr. Shanti Swarup advised that, the criteria for the selection of the students should be stringent to see that only competitive students are admitted into the programme. He also suggested project samples from IT companies may be useful for documenting writing errors and training students on the writing skills.

**Outcome:** The Council strongly recommended the commencement of the Programme from the academic year 2020-21

B. **M.Sc. (Chemistry)**

Dr. Koya Prabhakara Rao, presented the proposal for the start of M.Sc (Chemistry) from the academic year 2020-21 in VFSTR. He explained the demand and feasibility of the course highlighting the specializations, fee structure and course structure. He mentioned that Choice based credit system is being implemented to provide more flexibility. He also informed the members that the thorough review of syllabus had been carried out in consultation with various stakeholders and the suggestions made by the external BoS members were also included in the revised syllabus. Further, he briefed about the infrastructure required, and course outcomes. Dr.Koya also mentioned that majority of courses in the programme are oriented towards industrial needs. Mr. D. Ramakrishna suggested that the nomenclature of M.Sc. Chemistry should be changed in order to capture the attention of the stakeholders. He also pointed out that the Programme should focus on specializations. The council opined that, an upskilling course may be initiated.

**Outcome:** Based on the presentation and discussion, the Council approved the Programme.

C. **M.Sc. (Mathematics)**

Dr. Varma, Head, Division of Mathematics, made a presentation on the proposal of M.Sc in Mathematics & Computing Programme in VFSTR from academic year 2020 – 2021. He informed the members of the Council the significance of the Programme by highlighting the Programme objectives and outcomes. He also briefed on the course structure and details of the syllabus including the suggestions made by the external BOS members Dr. Y.N. Reddy, Professor, Department of Mathematics, NIT Warangal, Dr. S. Sreenadh, Professor, Department of Mathematics, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati and Dr. E.D. Boobalan, Data Scientist, ZakApps Software Pvt. Ltd., Chennai. Further, he informed the members the requirements of the course and number of credits and electives in each semester. Dr.Varma mentioned that the curriculum follows choice based credit system and will serve the needs of academia and industry.Er. D. Ramakrishna suggested, having Data Science Course which has a huge demand and such courses be initiated in the syllabus and must be revised every year.

**Outcome:** Based on the presentation and discussion, the Council approved the Programme.

### D. M.Sc. (Physics):

The division Head made a presentation on M.Sc. Physics from the academic year 2020 – 21. He informed the members that there is a need to introduce M.Sc. Physics in VFSTR, focusing on the objectives and specializations of the Programme and the resources available the in the department. He informed the members that BOS meeting was held on 23rd Nov 2019 to initiate the programme and inputs were sought from academia and industry personnel prior to initiation of the programme. He also presented the proposed programme structure following Choice based credit system(CBCS) and open electives, and specializations such as Material science and Photonics. The council opined that course syllabus should incorporate relevant engineering subjects and also encourage job potential and its relevance in research. Vice Chancellor suggested that there should be focus on two areas viz. Sensors and Lithium Ion Batteries.

**Outcome:** Based on the presentation and discussion, the Council approved the course.

2. **Commencement of Law programme from the next Academic Year 2020-2021:**

Dean, Academics, Dr. Vijay Ramu presented the proposal of B.A LL.B (Hons) and BBA LL.B (Hons) from the next academic year 2020-21. He informed the members that there is a need to empower aspiring youth in this region on the subject of law with a view to make them understand different subjects in law profession. He also highlighted 10 law programs at international and national level have been analyzed in order to get the best outcome of the proposed law programmes. He emphasized that majority of the law programmes do not have Honors degree and therefore it is the need of the hour that the VFSTR should initiate the honors program. He also informed the council that eminent people from various universities like Prof. Y. Sathyanarayana, Former VC, Damodaram Sanjivayya, National Law University, Vishakapatnam and Prof. G. Subramanyam, Former VC, GITAM University, Vishakapatam were involved in this process.

The Council strongly recommended the proposal of law programme for commencement from the academic year 2020-2021. However, the council recommended taking the suggestions of Prof. Dr. A. Lakshminath, former Vice Chancellor and an expert in Law after going through the curriculum of National Law University, Bangalore and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

3. **Revision of UG Programmes**

The revision of B.Sc. and B.Pharmacy Programmes was presented before Academic Council for discussion and approval.

(i)    **B.Sc. Programme**

Prof. P.L.N.Varma, Division Head for Mathematics presented the details of the revised B.Sc Curriculum following Choice Based Credit System (CBCS). He mentioned that they have adopted Learning Outcome Based Curriculum Framework of UGC. He explained that the curriculum was revised based on stakeholders feedback. He mentioned that the numbers of credits were reduced from 160 to 145. He also mentioned that the syllabus comprises training for PET and BEC with credits. Physical Fitness, Sports and Games, NCC and NSS were given credits. Prof. Varma mentioned that Web Technologies and Artificial Intelligence courses were introduced in to the syllabus. He also mentioned that Calculus course is introduced in the first semester to facilitate the better learning of Differential Equations.

As the Chair enquired about the removal of computer science fundamentals and its effect on the learning of Artificial Intelligence, the HoD mentioned that by the time the B.Sc. students reach final year, they complete course in programming. Dr.Varma presented the semester wise course structure for which Dr. Shanti Swarup appreciated the same as comprehensive.

**Outcome**: The revised B.Sc. Curriculum, Structure and Regulations were approved by the members.

### (ii) B. Pharmacy Programme

HoD, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences presented the details of the revised B.Pharmacy Curriculum with inclusion of 21 courses as electives. Already the existing B.Pharmacy Curriculum is following Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and inclusion of these elective courses would add more choice. The courses were incorporated based on stakeholders feedback to enhance skills in allied fields.

**Outcome**: The revised B.Pharmacy Curriculum was approved by the members.

## 4. Revised Examination Manual

Dr. P.M.V. Rao, Dean Evaluation, made a presentation on the exercise carried out by the institution towards the revision of the examination manual. He opined that there would be three formats in the exam manual, classifying (I) Examination manual (Confidentiality of Exam), (II) Formats (Application) and (III) Applications (Instructions). He added that all these are included in the new manual, and a section on the special arrangements available for physically challenged students. In this regard, comments were sought from all the members by end December 2019. It was agreed that the draft copy of the manual would be circulated to all for further comments. In case no comments are received within the mentioned time, revised manual would be considered as approved.

IV. Agenda items for ratification

    Nil

V. Agenda items for information

Following items were presented for information of the members and all the points were duly noted.

### a) Status of research activities

Dean, R&D briefed the members on the research activities that had happened during the year 2019. He informed the members that the number of papers published in SCI, SCOPUS and UGC Index journals had been significantly increased. During the 2019, 333 faculty members attended the conferences and four projects were sanctioned by the Government agencies worth of 121.6 lakhs and two laboratories were established.

### b) Faculty members who have acquired PhD since the last Academic Council meeting held on 26/07/2019.

Seven faculty members from the various departments have been awarded PhD since 26/07/19.

A report on the visit of senior faculty, which included the five Deans to NTU Singapore during 06/10/2019 to 10/10/2019 was given by Dean Academics, where he shared that the visit had been most productive. He expressed satisfaction that important links had been established for future collaborations for academic exchange like internships, as well as Research

The following action plans were arrived at during the meeting:

| S.No | Action Point | Action to be taken by |
|------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1 | A thorough review should be conducted on the syllabi, content and outcomes of M.Sc. (Chemistry), M.Sc. (Mathematics) and M.Sc. (Physics) courses to be commenced from the next Academic Year 2020-21. | HoDs concerned |
| 2 | No of faculty publications and quality of the papers to be further increased through identification of thrust areas department wise. | Dean, R & D |
| 3 | Faculty and students to be encouraged to participate in 'trade-fairs', along with conferences | Dean, R & D |
| 4 | Remedial classes to be conducted for all backlog students from I Yr. to III Yr. | All HoDs |

The agenda items for information were placed before the members and the members took note of it. **There being no further points, the meeting was adjourned.**

**REGISTRAR**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR**

8