

Minutes of the 2nd Executive Council Meeting

Date: 23/10/2023 (Monday) at 09.00 a.m.

Venue: Chairman's Board Room, A-Block, VFSTR

Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and Research

Vadlamudi, Guntur

Andhra Pradesh - 522213

MINUTES OF THE 2nd EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23rd October, 2023.

(Physical and Virtual Mode)

The members of Executive Council met on 23rd October, 2023 at 09:00 AM in the Chairman's Board Room, A-Block. Prof. P. Nagabhushan, Vice-Chancellor of VFSTR chaired the meeting. The following members were present:

1. Prof. P. Nagabhushan
Vice-Chancellor, VFSTR, Guntur, A.P. : Chairman
2. Prof. H. Devaraj
Former Vice-Chairman, UGC, New Delhi : Member
3. Dr. Y. Sarat
Director, United Health Systems Pvt.Ltd, Hyderabad : Member
4. Prof. Lalit M Patnaik
Adjunct Professor & NASI Sr. Scientist
Consciousness Studies Program
National Institute of Advanced Studies
IISC, Bengaluru (former Vice-Chancellor, DIAT) : Member
5. Prof. B.V.R. Chowdary (virtual mode)
Sr. Executive Director, President's Office
NTU, Singapore : Member
6. Mr. L. Srikrishna Devarayulu
Vice-Chairman, Lavu Educational Society, Guntur : Member
7. Dr. Yarlagadda Jyothi
(Representing Dr. M. Ramakrishna) : Member
8. Dr. D. Vijayaramu
Dean-Promotion, Collaborations and Faculty Affairs : Member
9. Dr. GSR Satyanarayana
Asst. Prof. Dept. of ECE : Member
10. Prof. Kaki Venkata Rao
HoD, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering : Special Invitee
11. Prof. P.M.V. Rao, Dean AAA : Special Invitee
12. Dr. Praveen Kumar, Director of Law : Special Invitee
13. Dr. M. Karthikeyan, HoD, Dept. of Civil Engineering : Special Invitee
14. Cmde. Dr. M.S. Raghunathan, Registrar : Secretary
15. Mr. N.S.N. Murthy, Finance Officer : Special Invitee

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

1. Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasada Reddy
Vice-Chancellor, Andhra University, Vizag : Member
2. Dr. E.S. Chakravarthy
Former-Vice President and Global RMG Head, TCS, Bengaluru : Member
3. Dr. Anandrup Goswami
Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Chemistry : Member

Minutes of the 2nd Executive Council Meeting

Date: 23/10/2023 [Monday] at 09:00 a.m.

Item			
	Welcoming the members of Executive Council by the Chair and the Registrar. The 2nd Executive Council meeting commenced with welcome greetings of the Chair to all the members of the council. The Chair shared Dusherra wishes to all the members and handed over the meeting to the Registrar. The Registrar welcomed the members of the Executive Council who were present both physically and virtually. He also welcomed the Prof. Kaki Venkata Rao (the new internal member) who took over the charge as the new HoD of the Department of Mechanical Engineering from the erstwhile HoD, Dr. L.S. Raju.		
I	Confirmation of the Minutes of the 44th Board of Management meeting held on 28th August, 2023.		
02/01	The Registrar read out the salient features of the previous Executive Council meeting. Salient points: 1. Students (including scholars receiving Ph.D.s degrees) (1767) in the scheduled 11th Convocation of VFSTRU. 2. Admissions for the academic year 2023-24. 3. Vision document of VFSTRU. After deliberation, the minutes of the 1st Executive Council meeting were approved.		
II.	Actions taken on the decisions of the 1st Executive Council meeting held on 28.08.2023		
Action Point	Action point addressed to	Action Taken	
1. The syllabus of Law should be integrated with that of Engineering courses.	Director, VIL	The following courses were included in the R-20 and R-22 for B.A. LL. B (Hons.) and B.B.A. - LL.B. (Hons.) to integrate legal education with science and technology. a. Basic Computer and IT skills. (20LA006) b. Natural Resources and Energy Law. (20LA055) c. Information Technology, Cyber Security and Law. (20LA056) d. Patent Law and Technology Transfer Laws. (22LA904) e. Trade secret, Trade Mark and Design. (20LA061) f. Air and Space Laws. (20LA062) g. Forensic Science and Law. (20LA065)	
2. Director, VIL should develop courses in Cyber Security in consultation with the Department of Computer Science.	Director, VIL	VIL offers a Minor course entitled "Cyber Law, IPR and Constitutional Laws" to all the Engineering students with the following subjects: a. Constitutional Law (22LW901) b. Copyright, Trademark and Design Law (22LW902) c. Cyber Security and IT Laws (22LW903) d. Patent Act and Technology Transfer Laws (22LW904) e. Right to Information Act (22LW905)	

5. There should be improvement and modification of the standards of counselling with active participation of the departments during counselling for admissions.	Dean, Admissions	For the upcoming 2024-25 admissions counselling process, a phase of exclusive counselling for branches in less demand was planned to create awareness about the opportunities in different engineering disciplines for parents as well as prospective students. From every department, one admission coordinator, preferably senior faculty will address the availability of infrastructural facilities, expertise of the faculty, career-oriented training for assured placements as well as the opportunities for higher education. The coordinators will arrange department visits for interested parents to showcase their department labs and achievements. In addition to the above, one department specific brochure will be made available to parents. Enclosure - II (Pg. no. 25-26)
6. Departments offering M.Tech. programs should choose the right specializations and offer these programs in collaboration with industry.	HoDs of concerned departments.	The action taken report on this action point will be presented in the next meeting of the Executive Council.

III.	Agenda Items for Discussion and Approval
02/02	i. Details of students eligible to receive degrees during the 11th Convocation 2023 - Presented by Dean, AAA. The Dean stated that, in the 1st Executive Council meeting, approval was accorded to award degrees for 1767 students including P.hd. scholars. This number increased to 1825 with the addition of 58 students (inclusive of scholars) after their promotion in the supplementary exams (for students) and successful completion of the scholars' defence after the 1st Executive Council meeting. The Dean presented that 59 scholars distributed across the branches would receive their doctoral degrees in the 11th Convocation. The Dean presented that in the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th convocations, the number of students inclusive of scholars, who received and shall receive their degrees was 1569, 1866, 1821, 1842 and 1825 respectively. The Dean also presented that total 48 awards would be bestowed to students for their exemplary performance in academic and extra-curricular activities. The Registrar mooted this point, regarding the award of degrees to the eligible students and scholars, for the approval of the Executive Council. The Council gave its approval, for the above-said award of degrees, after deliberation.

02/03	ii. Chief Guest of the 11th Convocation and conferment of Honorary Doctorate degrees (Honoris Causa) to Guests of Honour - Presented by the Chief Coordinator of the convocation. The Chief Coordinator of the 11th Convocation informed that the convocation would commence at 1:30 PM on 23rd October, 2023 at the university campus. A total 1825 students would receive their degrees out of which 1266 students receive their degrees in person while the rest of the above-said number would receive their degrees in absentia. The Chief Coordinator also informed that Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman would grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. A committee was constituted to select three eminent personalities reputed for their distinguished contribution in their fields of work, and the committee recommended the following personalities for the award of Honoris Causa: - Dr. P. Subba Rao Pavuluri Founder, Ananth Technologies, Hyderabad - Dr. S.P. Vasireddy Executive Chairman, Vimta Labs Ltd. Hyderabad - Ms. Koneru Humpy Padma Shri Awardee - 2007 and Indian Woman Grand Master (Chess) The Chief Coordinator further informed the members that Dr. Subba Rao and Dr. S.P. Vasireddy would be awarded Doctor of Science and Ms. Koneru Humpy would be awarded Doctor of Letters in this 11th Convocation. The proposal to award the honorary doctoral degrees to the above-said Guests of Honour was mooted by the Registrar before the Executive Council. The Council discussed the same and gave its approval.
02/04	iii. Establishment of Off-Campus Centre at Hyderabad - Presented by Assoc. Dean, IQAC. Dr. Y. Jyothi, Assoc. Dean IQAC presented the status of establishment of VFSTR Off Campus Centre at Hyderabad. The Dr. Jyothi stated that the proposals for commencing B.Tech. (7 courses), Bachelors degree (4 courses), PG programs (7 programs) Ph.D. (6 programs) were sent for the approval of UGC pending inspection. The intake of students will be 1500. Prof. Patnaik enquired on the existence of any other Off campus centres under Vignan. She presented that 60 seats for Pharmacy were also sanctioned. Forty-one faculty will be recruited which maintains the Student - Teacher ratio at 1: 18. The inspection by UGC shall be in the month of November. This centre shall be known as Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and Research - Off Campus Centre. The Registrar mentioned that the EC Members had earlier given their Approval-In-Principle for the proposal. He sought the formal approval from the members. After deliberation, the proposal was approved.

IV	Agenda Items for Information
02/05	i. ABET Peer Team and NBA observer visit between 9th and 11th October 2023 for accreditation of five programs namely BT, CSE, ECE, EEE and Mechanical Engineering - Presented by Dr. Jyothi, Associate Dean, IQAC. Dr. Jyothi, Assoc Dean IQAC informed that until then only 75 institutions in India have ABET accreditation and with this effort, VFSTRU shall be the first institution in Andhra Pradesh that would be accredited by ABET. Ten members of the ABET Team formed into three commissions such as EAC, CAC and ANSAC conducted the ABET accreditation process from 09-Oct 2023 to 11-Oct-2023. NBA observer Dr. Shyam Sunder Pattnaik was also the part of the team. Dr. Y. Jyothi stated that Mechanical Engineering was likely to get accreditation for six years while the Department of Biotechnology (with one concern) was on the path of eligibility for accreditation. Dr. Jyothi explained to the members that the Department of ECE was given one year of time for standardisation and in a period of 30 days the department shall clear the concerns related to course design. The Department of EEE had concerns regarding course execution according to which the PEOs of the department were matching with the Student Outcomes for which PEOs should be refined. The Assoc. Dean stated that the Department of CSE has the issue of weakness in curriculum where there was an overlook of professional ethics in teaching - learning process. The global and local impact of the course was pointed by the team. Similar to the Department of EEE, the Department of CSE had PEOs similar to the Student Outcomes and ABET expects outcome attainment of students in every program. She mentioned that the ABET Team responded positively on the areas like infrastructure and HR. Pro. Pattnaik stated that the industry demands shall be keenly observed and respected for the design and execution of any course. Dr. Sarat responded that the inputs given by the ABET Team should be noted and implemented. The Assoc. Dean also mentioned that in coming months, the response from ABET shall be positive and they had provisionally sent an email of satisfaction. The Chair directed the Assoc. Dean to send a mail of appreciation to all the concerned. Prof. H. Devaraj advised on the achievement of brand equity for VFSTRU. The Chair responded that the outgoing students shall build the brand equity of the institution. When Dr. Y. Sarath advised for the strengthening of alumni association suggesting the advantage that could be derived from the professional connections, the Chair responded that students still need time to stabilize professionally. Prof. H. Devaraj enquired on the locations of the students' placement for which the Chair responded that they were placed in cities like Benguluru and Chennai. Prof. Devaraj also stressed on the point to build alumni relations which would help in the funding process if nurtured properly. Dr. Sarath also supported the idea stating that youngsters work hard and their inputs should be welcomed.
V	Agenda Items for Ratification
02/06	Superannuation of non-teaching staff and terms of conditions for their reengagement - Presented by Dean CPF. The Dean CPF presented the point stating the proposals for the administration of superannuating non-teaching staff for the ratification of the Council. The Council ratified the agenda after deliberations.

VI	Table Agenda
02/07	Grant of gratuity to employees of VFSTR. The Chair mooted this agenda point stating that a specially constituted in-house committee recommended that gratuity should be given to employees of VFSTRU. He stated that the recommendations should be referred to Finance Committee for further action. In this regard, he also directed that a more inclusive sub-committee with Dr.Y.Sarat, EC Member as chairman with Shri. L. Srikrishna Devarayulu, Member of EC, Dr. D.Vijay Krishna, Dean T&P, Mr. N.S.N. Murthy, Finance Officer and Registrar to look into this aspect to reach a logical conclusion.

The following action points were pronounced during the 2nd Executive Council meeting.

Sl.No.	Action Point	Action point addressed to
1.	The meetings of finance committee should not have a gap of more than six months.	Finance Officer
2.	A sub-committee comprising with Dr.Y.Sarat (Chairman), Finance Officer, Registrar, Dr. D.Vijay Krishna, Dean T&P and Shri. L. Srikrishna Devarayulu, Member of EC, should look into the grant of gratuity for the employees of VFSTRU.	Finance Officer

Having discussed all the agenda points, the meeting was adjourned.


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