

Minutes of 43rd Board of Management Meeting

Date: 24/12/2022 (Saturday) at 10.00 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 43rd MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON 24TH DECEMBER, 2022.

The members of Board of Management met on 24^h December, 2022 at 10:00 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. B.V.R. Chowdari
Sr. Executive Director, President's Office
NTU, Singapore : External Member
2. Prof. H. Devaraj
Former Vice-Chairman, UGC, New Delhi : External Member
3. Dr. T.S. Rao
Former Sr. Advisor, DBT, Ministry of Science &
Technology, New Delhi : External Member
4. Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy
Vice-Chancellor, Andhra University : External Member
5. Dr. Y. Sarat
Director, United Health Systems Pvt.Ltd, Hyderabad : External Member
6. Mr. L. Srikrishna Devarayulu
Vice-Chairman, Lavu Educational Society, Guntur : External Member
7. Dr. E.S. Chakravarthy
Vice-President and Global RMG Head, TCS, Bengaluru : External Member
8. Prof. M. Ramakrishna
Dean, IQAC and Dean, School of Conventional Engg. : Internal Member
9. Dr. T. Ramesh Babu
Dean School of Agri, Food Sciences and Technology and
Director - Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences : Internal Member
10. Dr. K.V. Krishna Kishore
Dean, IT & LIS, I/c Dean - Admission and
HoD, Dept. of Computing and Informatics
Dean School of Computing and Informatics : Internal Member
11. Prof. S. Krupanidhi
Dean School of Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Sciences : Internal Member
12. Dr. G. Srinivasa Rao,
Dean, R&D : Internal Member
13. Dr. D. Vinay Kumar, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of ME : Internal Member
14. Prof. P.M.V. Rao, Dean AAA : Special Invitee

15. Mr. D. Vijay Krishna, Dean - T&P and
Dean School of Law and Management : Special Invitee
16. Prof. Shaik Jakeer Hussain,
Dean - Infrastructure, Planning & Monitoring : Special Invitee
17. Dr. N. Srinivasu
Dean School of Applied Sciences and Humanities : Special Invitee
18. Dr. N. Usha Rani
Dean School of Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engg. : Special Invitee
19. Prof. T.C. Venkateswarlu, HoD, Dept of BT : Special Invitee
20. Prof. Koya Prabhakara Rao, HoD, Dept. of Chemistry : Special Invitee
21. Dr. Praveen Kumar, Director of Law : Special Invitee
22. Dr. Jithendra. Ch, HoD, Dept. of Pharmacy : Special Invitee
23. Dr. K.V. B. Ravindra Babu, I/C HoD, Dept. of English : Special Invitee
24. Mr. N.S.N. Murthy, Finance Officer : Special Invitee
25. Ms. Sk. Shabana Azmi
Counselling Psychologist, Dept. of S&H : Special Invitee
26. Dr. Anjana Devi, Assoc. Prof, Dept. of Biotechnology : Special Invitee
27. Dr. Mainak Biswas, Assoc. Prof, Department of CSE : Special Invitee
28. Dr. Satyajith Sahoo, Asst. Prof, Dept of ECE : Special Invitee
29. Cmde. Dr. M.S. Raghunathan, Registrar : Secretary

Minutes of Meeting of the 43rd Board of Management Meeting

Date: 24/12/2022 [Saturday] at 10:00 a.m.

Item	
	<p>Welcoming the members of Board of Management by the Registrar. The meeting commenced with the remarks of the Chair, Prof. P. Nagabhushan. He welcomed Dr. E.S. Chakravarthy, Vice-President, Global RMG Head, TCS who was newly inducted as external member of the Board of Management. The Registrar formally welcomed all the Board members to the meeting.</p>
1	<p>Confirmation of the Minutes of 42nd Board of Management meeting held in hybrid mode on 21st September, 2022.</p>
43/01	<p>The Registrar read out the salient features of the previous BoM meeting. This ensued discussion on action points assigned in the previous BoM meeting.</p> <p>Responding to the first action point, the Dean, R&D stated that his department was able to recognize the thrust areas of each department as well as core research themes of each school. The thrust areas were confirmed based on the research resources like research labs, publications, credentials of supervisors etc., in all the departments.</p> <p>Responding to the second action point, the Dean, IQAC stated that with the help of external support, IQAC initiated the process of keeping all departments ready on any given day for SSR-NAAC, SAR-NBA and NIRF as per the SOP of accreditation and ranking agencies. He also stated that customization is under process and will be completed by the next BoM meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Y. Sarat advised on the importance of NIRF ranking and enquired on the issues like R&D and perception. He stated that there should be a comprehensive plan and enquired on funding for departments. He stated that every department should perform SWOT analysis and find worthy resource persons to strengthen the university internally. He also advised that there should be more concentration on the Department of CSE which has majority of stakeholders.</p> <p>Prof. B.V. R. Chowdary enquired about the comparison of funding received by VFSTR with that of other counterparts. He also advised that benchmarks should be decided and effort should be put in attaining the benchmarks.</p> <p>Dr. E.S. Chakravarthy advised to compare the parameters of VFSTR with that of other universities and prepare a SWOT analysis. He also advised that every department should develop the culture of its own and include the same in SWOT analysis. He also advised that teaching-learning process should be improvised and perception also to be improved.</p> <p>Prof.P.V.G.D.Prasad Reddy advised to concentrate on perception. He advised to establish an integrated eco-system in the campus. Foreign students, foreign scholars and foreign faculty along with students from outside states should be drawn towards the university. Innovation in university should be improved and society-centric problems should be solved.</p> <p>After this deliberation, the minutes of 42nd Board of Management meeting were approved.</p>

2	Confirmation of minutes of 08th Planning and Monitoring Board meeting held in physical mode on 3rd December, 2022.
43/02	The minutes of 08 th Planning and Monitoring Board meeting were placed before the BoM members for deliberation and approval. After deliberation, the minutes of 08 th Planning and Monitoring Board meeting were approved.
3	Confirmation of the minutes of 32nd Academic Council meeting held in hybrid mode on 10th December, 2022.
43/03	The minutes of 32 nd Academic Council meeting held on 10 th December, 2022 were placed before the members of BoM for deliberation and approval. After deliberation, the minutes of 32 nd Academic Council meeting were approved.
II	Agenda Items for Approval
43/04	<p>i. Extension of R-22 regulations and model syllabus to M.Tech., B.A. LLB (Hons.), B.B.A. LLB (Hons.), M.A. English and M.Sc. Chemistry.</p> <p>Dean, AAA presented that R-22 regulation was a big step towards achieving the vision of VFSTR to produce competitive, internationally accepted, and world class professionals by promoting original thinking, employability, entrepreneurship skills, leadership and research aptitude among the students. These regulations were first introduced for 1st and 2nd B.Tech., 1st year BBA, 1st year BCA, 1st year MCA and 1st year B.Sc. programs followed by many awareness and training programs. On receiving good feedback from students and faculty it was proposed to extend these regulations for other programs from the academic year 2022-23. The programs were M.Tech., B.A. LLB (Hons.), B.B.A. LLB (Hons.), M.A. English, M.Sc. Chemistry and Organic Chemistry.</p> <p>The agenda point was presented by the Dean under the following heads:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vision and Mission of VFSTR 2. Salient features of R-22 3. Programs revised as per R-22 regulations (ongoing academic year) 4. Timeline for content coverage 5. Various activities to implement R-22 regulations 6. Programs proposed to be revised as per R-22 <p>The Dean informed the members that the proposal received the approval of Academic Council members on 10th December, 2022.</p> <p>Prof. H. Devaraj questioned on the outcome of these academic regulations and the Chair responded that the way of delivering the academic content and assessment patterns to students would bring good changes.</p> <p>After deliberation, the proposal to extend these regulations for other programs like M.Tech., B.A. LLB (Hons.), B.B.A. LLB (Hons.), M.A. English and M.Sc. Chemistry and Organic Chemistry from the academic year 2022-23 was approved by the members of BoM.</p>
43/05	<p>ii. Commencement of one-year Post-Graduate Diploma in Biotechnology by the Department of Biotechnology w.e.f. academic year 2023-24</p> <p>Prof. Krupanidhi of Biotechnology presented on this agenda point stating that the one-year Post-graduate diploma is proposed for the B.Sc. Life science graduates in Biotechnology with the courses like Bioprocess Engineering, Genetic Engineering, Immuno-informatics, Microbiology and</p>

	<p>Fermentation Technology, Bioanalytical Techniques, Vaccinology etc. He also stated that after the completion of this course, the students acquire credits equivalent to B.Tech. Biotechnology and thus these students would be eligible for M.Tech. in Biotechnology. He also stated that a survey proved that 20,000 students taking B.Sc. course and M.Sc. students were not taught industry related skills in their course and this course would be very useful to them.</p> <p>Concerning this point, Prof. H. Devaraj questioned on the placement prospects of this course to which Prof. Krupanidhi responded that the nature and goodness of the course was discussed with Dr. Krishna Ella, M.D and Chairman of Bharat Biotech who assured that diploma students were preferred by the industry.</p> <p>Dr. H. Devaraj advised that this course should be started as a life science course after B.Sc.</p> <p>Dr. T.S. Rao advised that “Smart Manufacturing” course should be added in the diploma as that course had much demand in industry.</p> <p>Dr. E. Chakravarthy stated that placement potential should be the driver behind launching a course to which Dr. T.S. Rao responded that the diploma course should be viewed as a crash course offered in finishing school to join the industry.</p> <p>The Chair stated that it was the perception in industry that, unlike the B.Tech. and Ph.D. candidates, the students with diploma courses would reduce the attrition rate in the industry. The Chair stated that the less fortunate B.Sc. students would be inducted into industry through this course and the course is proposed after discussion with industry sources. The Chair offered clarity on the LTP structure of this diploma course and assured the members of the placement for the students of diploma.</p> <p>Dr. Chakravarthy queried on the support needed from industry; training the trainer programs, value addition to the student on taking his course and the expertise of teachers handling this course.</p> <p>To this query, Dr. Y. Sarat opined that the course would not be redundant as VFSTR has initiated this course with lot of human, infrastructural and financial resources. He advised on conducting research on the possibilities of absorption of students by industry.</p> <p>Prof. Chowdary opined that through this course, skilled manpower would be supplied to industry.</p> <p>The members of the BoM approved the commencement of one-year diploma course in Biotechnology.</p>
43/06	<p>iii. Commencement of Ph.D. program in Pharmaceutical Sciences w.e.f. academic year 2022-23.</p> <p>HoD, Pharmacy presented on this point under the above heads:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Details of institutions with Ph.D. in Pharmacy. 2. Ph.D. admissions in the academic year 2022-23 in Andhra Pradesh. 3. Details of research scholars in VFSTR with PG in Pharmacy. 4. Details of research infrastructure available. <p>The Chair opined that this program will be successful with a tie-up with two industries and the Department of Pharmacy should have a liaison with Department of Chemistry in its operation of the doctoral program.</p> <p>In this regard, Prof. H. Devaraj advised not to enrol internal candidates into the program as they can be a fiscal encumbrance to the university in the form of HTRA. The Chair responded that part-time scholars would be hailing from industry with 5-6 admissions from industry and 2-3 fellowships</p>

	<p>per year. The Chair stated that since the budget for this program will be drawn under the head of R&D and there shall be no separate burden on the university in the case of internal candidates.</p> <p>After deliberation, the BoM members approved the commencement of Ph.D. program in Pharmaceutical Science.</p>
43/07	<p>iv. Outcomes of SRB and URB</p> <p>Dean, R&D presented on this agenda point as given below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Composition of SRB 2. Identifying the thrust areas 3. Progress of research in schools <p>The Chair advised that twenty-five best experts from URB should be invited and they should be offered good financial benefits. They should be given targets concerning the guidance of research in VFSTR and should be sought assistance in obtaining projects for which there should be financial reinforcement.</p> <p>The outcomes of SRB were approved by the members after deliberation.</p>
43/08	<p>vi. M.Tech. by Research and MBA by Research regulations</p> <p>Dean R&D presented on this agenda points under the following heads:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preamble 2. Categories of admission (Internal and External) 3. Admission process 4. Coursework for candidates 5. Conduct of coursework 6. Coursework assessments 7. Duration of the program 8. Publication of research findings 9. Honourable exit 10. Re-joining after honourable exit <p>Dr. E. Chakravarthy questioned whether good intelligence was done on this decision. Dean, R&D responded that they had received information from industry sources that many employees in industry do not have M.Tech. degrees and they desired to have one. He added that under this plan, the candidate has also the chance to slide into Ph.D. after the completion of M.Tech.</p> <p>Dr. E. Chakravarthy advised that there should be an MoU with industry for the success of this program.</p> <p>After deliberation, the regulations were approved.</p>
III	Agenda Items for Information
43/09	<p>i. Appointment of Deans of Schools</p> <p>Dean, PCF presented on this agenda point. The members suggested to go for the change in the nomenclature of, "School of Conventional Engineering".</p>
43/10	<p>ii. Status of research activities and details of faculty acquiring Ph.D. from 01-01-2022.</p> <p>Dean, R&D presented on this agenda point explaining the status of research in VFSTR and the details of faculty who acquired doctoral degrees from 01-01-2022.</p>
43/11	<p>iii. Counselling of Students</p> <p>Ms. Shabana Azmi Shaik presented on this best practice in VFSTR bringing out the number of students she had counselled and the outcomes of that counselling.</p>

43/12	<p>iv. Details of Placement Dean, TPI presented this agenda point stating that a total of 1385 students (2022 passed out batch) from all streams and branches of VFSTR were placed making the placement percentage as 85. Of the students belonging to 2023 passing out batch, 1000 students were already placed as on date. The Dean stated that 1000 students received 1250 offer letters. The Chair directed the Dean, TPI to present the numbers with actual strength of the intake when he presents the placement details in the future meeting.</p>
43/13	<p>v. Participation in QS-I GUAGE ranking and ABET accreditation Dean, IQAC presented on this agenda point stating that QS I-GUAGE is a custom-designed rating system for Indian universities and colleges and the process and review of results were under the purview of QS Intelligence Unit, London. He mentioned that evaluation will be done in four stages and accreditation proposal of VFSTR was submitted for evaluation on 30th November, 2022. He also presented that ABET is a non-profit, ISO 9001 certified organization that accredits college and university programs in applied and natural sciences, computing, engineering and engineering technology. He mentions that this accreditation makes the university more attractive to foreign students.</p>
43/14	<p>vi. Faculty Assessment Test on R-22 regulations Dean, PCF presented that with the aim to inculcate R22 practices among faculty, students and parents, an assessment test was conducted for faculty on 9th December, 2022. The Dean informed that all the faculty took part and fared well in the assessment test.</p>
43/15	<p>vii. Status of start-up Grant-in-Aid given to 30M Genomics Ltd. Dean, PCF stated that a team of 30M Genomics was working in the field of Pharmacogenetics and Prenatal Genetic Testing. He stated that currently lab validation and preclinical validation was completed for the proposed technology.</p>
IV	<p>Agenda Items for Ratification</p>
43/16	<p>i. Commencement of M.Sc. Organic Chemistry course with intake of 30 students with effect from the academic year 2021-22 The HoD of the Department of Chemistry stated that M.Sc. Chemistry program in 2020 was started with the approval of 23rd Academic Council and 35th Board of Management (BoM). Based on the feedback received from various stakeholders including industries and also demand for the M.Sc. Organic Chemistry from student community, M.Sc. Organic Chemistry program was commenced. The M.Sc. Organic Chemistry program was designed in such a way that the students of both M.Sc. Chemistry and M.Sc. Organic Chemistry would have common first year courses and from the second year, the students with special inclination towards Organic Chemistry can learn more specific and advanced topics in Organic Chemistry to obtain degree in M.Sc. Organic Chemistry. The HoD stated that the proposal was ratified in the 32nd Academic Council meeting held on 10th December, 2022. The members of the Board of Management ratified this proposal.</p>

43/17	<p>ii. Recruitment of faculty since the last BoM held on 21-09-22</p> <p>The Registrar stated that after ten recruitment drives conducted since the last BoM, 53 candidates got selected and 20 candidates accepted the offers. Five candidates joined the duties and fifteen were yet to report.</p>
43/18	<p>iii. List of teaching and non-teaching staff joined and relieved since the last BoM held o 21-09-22</p> <p>The Registrar presented the details of teaching and non-teaching staff joined and relieved since the last BoM held on 21-09-22</p>

The following action points were pronounced during the 43rd Board of Management meeting.

S.No.	Action Point	Action point addressed to
1	A presentation in tabular format on the data related to performance of VFSTR in various parameters of NIRF should be made in the next meeting.	Dean, IQAC
2	A sub-committee comprising external members and internal members of BoM along with selected faculty to be constituted to examine into various issues pertaining to areas of improvements, road map for the next 05 years etc..	Dean, IQAC
3	Outcome of R-22	Dean - AAA
4	Vision Document of VFSTR to be presented	Dean, P&M
5	A formal report from industry should be obtained to support the one-year diploma course in Biotechnology. Also, the course should be conducted with faculty from the Industry.	HoD, Biotechnology
6	All the existing hierarchy of URBs, SRBs should be restructured.	Dean, R&D
7	Discussion on 5G and 6G technology as one of the thrust areas of research should be brought up in the next BoM.	Dean, R&D
8	One expert faculty in AI & ML should be appointed in the Department of CSE.	Dean, School of Computing and Informatics
9	Starting a School of AI & Data Science	
10	Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences with 100% enrolment from Industry only	Dean, School of Biotech. and Pharmaceutical Sciences and HoD; Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences

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

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27-12-22

REGISTRAR

VIGNAN'S FOUNDATION

FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

(Deemed to be University)

VADLAMUDI-522 213

GUNTUR (DISTRICT), A.P. INDIA

RAJ
28/12/22

VICE-CHANCELLOR

VIGNAN'S FOUNDATION

FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

(Deemed to be University)

VADLAMUDI-522 213

GUNTUR (DISTRICT), A.P. INDIA