



Date : 19th May, 2015

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND MONITORING BOARD HELD ON 06.05.2015

The Planning and Monitoring Board of VFSTR University met on 06.05.2015 at 11:00 a.m in the conference hall of Guest House. Dr. C. Thangaraj, Vice-Chancellor, chaired the meeting. The following members were present.

Members Present:

Dr. L. Rathaiah	Chairman	Special Invitee
Dr.K.Ramamurthy Naidu	Chancellor, VFSTRU	Special Invitee
Sri. L. Srikrishna Devarayalu	Member, BoM	Special Invitee
Prof. Ramamoorthy	Prof. (Retd.), IIT Madras	Special Invitee
Prof. D.N.Reddy	Chairman, Recruitment and Assessment Centre, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi	External Member
Ms. Annapurna	Chief Human Resource Officer (CHRO), Bangalore	External Member
Dr. Balaji M. Sreeramulu	Vice-President & Head, Human Resource, PA Software Bangalore	External Member
Dr. V. Madhusudhan Rao	Dean, E & M	Internal Member
Dr. B.Seetharamanjaneyulu	Dean, Academics	Internal Member
Dr. P M V Rao	Dean, Evaluation	Internal Member
Dr. Avireni Srinivasulu	Dean, R & D	Internal Member
Prof. K.V.Krishna Kishore	Dean, LIS & IT Services	Internal Member
Mr.Mohammed Shujauddin	Associate Dean Placements	Internal Member
Dr. M. Ramakrishna	HoD, Dept. of Mechanical Engg.	Internal Member
Commodore. Dr. M.S. Raghunathan	Registrar & Dean, Gen. Admin.	Member Secretary
Dr.R.Venkata Nadh	Dean, Admissions	Special Invitee
Dr. M. Venkata Rao	Dean, IQAC	Special Invitee
Mr. R. Sambaiah	Director, Extension Activities & Finance Officer, VFSTRU	Special Invitee
Ms. Alla Ratna Malathi	Head - Training Cell	
Mr. M. Bhanu Praveen	Assistant Registrar	Special Invitee

Proceedings:

At the outset of the meeting, Dr. L.Rathaiah, Chairman of VFSTR University, heartily welcomed all to the meeting. He spoke about the vision and the mission of the university and stated that Planning and Monitoring Board has a very key role to play in the growth of the university by taking it in the right direction. "Direction by experts is a major thing for any institution", he said. He highlighted to make VU one of the best sought after places in the field of Technical education in the national arena. Dr. Rathaiah requested all the external experts to give their constructive criticisms and suggestions in different fields for the growth of the institute. At the same time, he urged university faculty members to reflect and accept all the criticisms and suggestions in the right spirit for betterment. He also suggested that it must be seen that the meeting is held in the weekend, so that it does not clash with the daily work of people associated with it.

The Chancellor, Dr. K.Ramamurthy Naidu formally welcomed all the delegates once again to the meeting. He also reemphasized on the crucial role of the Planning and Monitoring Board in guiding the University on the right path in every field. He also invited suggestions and opinions from all the members to handle new challenges and demands for the growth of the university. He informed about the new policy of the Ministry of HRD that is now members will be selected with due consultation with UGC for University Managing Committee and Finance Committee. However, he suggested that it would be made compulsory that the Planning and Monitoring Board (PMB) sits at least once a year without any excuse.

Then the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. C. Thangaraj warmly welcomed everybody and gave a brief introduction of Prof. D.N.Reddy. He also urged all others present, to introduce themselves to create a familiar feeling in the meeting. The Vice-Chancellor stated that the main purpose of inviting three HR delegates is to get ideas about new training and skill needs for the present market by which students can be more employable and prove themselves to be holistic human beings. Then he put forth the action taken report on the suggestions in the previous Planning and Monitoring Board meeting and asked for the approval of those actions. All the actions were unanimously agreed upon followed by a power point presentation of the present status of university and agenda points.

Discussion of the agenda:

I. Activities during 2014-15

1. Introduction of PG Courses

- i) M.Tech. in Agriculture Engineering (with Specialization in 'Farm Power & Machinery').**
- ii) Automobile Engineering**
- iii) Computer Science & Engineering (Specialization in Data Science).**

The Vice-Chancellor stated that the above three PG courses would be offered by the University from the coming academic year 2015-16. Prof D.N Reddy enquired about the students eligible for agriculture engineering, to which the Vice-Chancellor replied that

students of B.Tech. Mechanical, bio-technology and agriculture engg can opt for this PG course as it's an inter-disciplinary course.

Prof. Reddy also suggested that the curriculum should be properly framed to see that students get placed.

Regarding M.Tech in CSE, Prof Reddy opined that other branch students should be given a chance to opt for M.Tech, CSE provided they qualify through GATE, as no longer computer Science is restricted to only CSE branch but it's taught in other branches of Engineering as well. To his query regarding the framework of the course, the Vice-Chancellor replied that it's a two year course in (theory course for) two semesters, including seminars, workshops and choice based minor programmes, followed by one year project work.

Introduction of UG Courses:

a) Petroleum Engineering from the academic year 2015-16.

b) Biomedical Engineering from the academic year 2015-16

Regarding his query for the justification of the introduction of the above two new courses, the Dean Admissions explained to Prof Reddy that Students' potential is more in Kerala, Gujarat, Assam and A.P states. Recently A.P state government announced Petroleum corridor in and around Visakhapatnam. After thorough discussion in Board of studies meeting it is recommended to start the Petroleum Engineering programme. Only three colleges are offering B.Tech. Petroleum Engineering programme in A.P. All seats were filled in all three colleges offering Petroleum Engineering programme in A.P. Career prospects are quite attractive in petroleum sector as petroleum companies have great influence and offer attractive salaries to employees. So, the market survey gives a green signal for the course.

Prof. Reddy then suggested to visit Petroleum University, Ahmedabad to have a thorough study of the department and its curriculum before framing syllabus for the course.

The Chancellor also reaffirmed on the same and suggested to visit Petroleum institute and to know why they could not run this course, by which lessons can be learnt from their mistakes. He also stressed upon the industrial association to see that students get placed once they complete the course.

Ms Annapurna suggested to integrate Petroleum Engineering with Chemicals; to which Dean admissions replied that petro-chemical engineering is meant for downstream oil refinery whereas demand is high for upstream oil services. Hence, it would not be wise to offer petrochemical engineering at this stage. Prof Reddy also reaffirmed the same opinion.

Then, the Member BoM, Mr L. Krishnadevarayalu informed "A workshop on career on Petroleum Engineering is going to be conducted soon to create awareness among parents and students." Prof Reddy opined that parents must be satisfied with three main questions i.e. 1) Employment 2) M.Tech Programme and 3) avenues for going abroad.

Then, the same kind of discussions also went on regarding bio medical engineering and Prof. Reddy mentioned that it's not altogether a new course. Still proper study and care is required in framing curriculum as it's an interdisciplinary course giving opportunities for mechanical, computer science , ECE and medical students.

New courses suggested:

Soon after, the chancellor asked the external members if they would like to suggest some new courses for the next academic year.

Ms Annapurna suggested to introduce Transport and Logistics engineering as the future perspective in this area is bright. Mr. Balaji recommended to offer E-Commerce as an elective subject as there is high demand. Prof. Reddy suggested an elective course in IBL.

Convocation:

The Vice-Chancellor intimated that the university has so far conducted two convocations in which judges were the chief guests.

He told that the first Convocation of the University was held on 03.08.2013. 1157 students who passed out B.Tech., M.Tech., MBA and MCA exams received degrees. Justice N.V.Ramana, Judge, High Court of Andhra Pradesh was the Chief Guest. 9 students in different branches were awarded Gold medals

As per the advice of the Chairman VFSTR, certain special medals were presented to the outgoing students for their outstanding performance in fine-arts, social services, games & sports etc...

An Honorary Doctorate Degree was also presented to Sri. Ravuri Bharadwaja, a telugu writer and recipient of Gnanapeeth award whose contribution was widely recognized.

Second Convocation :

The Second Convocation of the University was held on 17.08.2014. 851 students who passed out B.Tech., M.Tech., MBA, MCA and BBM exams of 2013-14 received degrees. Justice Jasti Chelameswar, Hon'ble Judge, Supreme Court of India was the Chief Guest and the Guests of honor were Padmasree Dr. M.Y.S. Prasad, Director, SDSC - SHAR, Sriharikota and Padmasree Dr. Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad, Vice-Chairman, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan. Top 10 students in different branches were awarded the Gold Medals. Parents of the Medal winners were also honored.

Padmasree Dr. M.Y.S. Prasad honored with an honorary D.Sc. Degree by the University for his invaluable Contributions in Space Technology.

Exam Results:

Then the Vice-Chancellor gave brief data about the University results for 2014-15.

Prof. D.N reddy asked about the Evaluation system and detain percentage which were answered by Mr. PMV Rao, Dean evaluation. He replied "the evaluation system is very strict and every year almost 3-4% of students get detained due to various reasons. However, they don't lose one year as they have chances to write summer supplementary examinations.

To another question of Prof.Reddy, whether there is any provision for dissatisfied students, Mr. Rao told that everything was done in a transparent manner. A student could go through his answer script by appealing for recheck.

Ms. Annapurna suggested to give some share to life skills also in the evaluation process if there is no such provision yet to build up and boost up students personality and behavior.

Admissions:

Then the Vice-Chancellor presented the statistics of admissions which kindled some constructive discussions.

As Prof. Reddy wanted to know the reasons of poor admissions in Chemical, Mr.L. Krishnadevarayalu revealed that Job environment and quality of faculty are responsible for that.

Prof. Reddy suggested to close down a course for the specific year if there is less than 50% admission to that course and to take feedbacks of final year students for improving the course.

Prof. Rammurthy suggested to ask faculty members to visit industries to find lacunae in curriculum, demands in market and update things to attract more students to various courses.

Mr Balaji emphasized upon a strong Alumni Association and their employment details as alumni are the promoters of their alma mater.

Then Prof. Reddy asked about the qualifying criteria for V-SAT and the Dean Admissions told that a student who has appeared for V-SAT is eligible for admissions provided s/he has secured 60% marks in intermediate and minimum 35 (qualifying mark out of 125) in V-SAT.

To his another query regarding intake of admissions, the Dean, admissions answered 60% students are admitted through VSAT, 10% through EAMCET, 10% JEE and the rest 20% through management quota.

Then Prof. Reddy also enquired about the provision for quota, to which the Vice-Chancellor mentioned the new reservation policy - In accordance with the new reservation policy, 15% of the seats are reserved for scheduled castes (SC), and 7.5% of the seats are reserved for scheduled tribes (ST) and another 27% has been reserved for the other backward classes (OBC - non-creamy layer). In each of these categories horizontal reservation is given for special categories viz., Physically Handicapped - PH (3%), Children of Armed Forces Personnel - CAP (2%), National Cadet Corps - NCC (1%), Sports and Games (½%). In addition, a reservation of 33 1/3% of seats is in favour of women candidates in each category (OC/SC/ST/OBC). Reservation for women shall not be applicable if women candidates selected on merit in each category exceed 33 or 1/3%.

He, then, also mentioned the new fee waiver policy to the board.

Then Mr Sambaiah, told that 40 international students have been given admissions this year and it's expected almost 100 next year. Prof Reddy also suggest to encourage admissions from North East India to have a cross cultural ambience in the varsity.

Prof. Ramamoorthy suggested to have +2 level national competitions in summer, so that students from all corner would come to know about the university. Mr Krishnadevarayalu, replied that it would not be a good idea as students in Andhra Pradesh hardly get any summer vacation.

Faculty Recruitment:

During the discussion on this topic the VC first made the board know that a total number of sixty one candidates were recruited for faculty position through campus interviews held in various IITs, NITs, IIIT (Hyderabad) and IMT (Hyderabad) through their Placement Cells. 45 candidates have accepted the offer and likely to join in the Mid June 2015.

To Prof. Reddy's query about recruitment process, Dr. V Madhusudhan Rao, Dean - E&M answered that it's a three tier process comprising written test, Demo and interview.

To another query about student faculty ratio, the Vice-Chancellor replied that it's 13/1 at present. Prof. Reddy said that as per UGC norms it's 15/1, provided all the faculties are pay scale salaried. Consolidate salaried faculty members won't be counted under this purview.

The Vice-Chancellor mentioned that majority of the staff members get Scale based salary whereas some get consolidated payment.

Then, Prof. Reddy wanted to know what policies have been implemented by the University to retain Faculty members. The Dean - E&M answered that a bond is obtained from faculty and they are also encouraged for higher studies provided they are willing to work for 4 years after research work.

Faculty Development:

The Vice-Chancellor presented before the board that a ten days Faculty Development program on "Open Source Environment for Web Application Development" under Faculty Development Academy of VFSTR was conducted in association with OpenKITE from 12th May to 21st May 2014 at Shamshabad, Hyderabad. Twenty Two faculty members attended the program.

He also mentioned about The Faculty Induction Programme (FIP-2015) that continued from 05.03.15 to 20.03.15. Various in house trainers including the Chairman, the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, the Dean - E&M and other deans enlightened the new faculties for better class management and teaching learning practices.

Placement:

In a special note regarding placements, the Vice-Chancellor quoted that the University placement cell continuously works on placing of students in suitable jobs. Out of the final year students of 2013-14 and 2014-15, 423 students are placed in 33 companies and 5 companies are about to announce the list of selected students very soon

Infrastructure (Campus Development, New Building, IT, Estate Management)

New Buildings:

The Vice-Chancellor was happy to announce that 'A' block (BHUVANA VIJAYAM) has been occupied during the Academic Year 2014-2015. Few Deans and administrative staff have occupied the new block

Library :

The artistically designed octagonal shaped library with more than 60,000 volumes, audio- visual materials & about 2831 national & international journals, is indeed a rich repository of knowledge facilitating prospects for future research. The Library building is completely air-conditioned with a seating capacity of about 600 students. A separate enclave is provided for research students.

To a query of Prof. Reddy if all the journals are physically available, the Vice-Chancellor quoted that most of them were e- journals and a whopping amount of 36 lacs is spent per annum only for magazines.

He also informed "The IT team has developed an application to capture and store the details of infrastructure staff and students of VFSTRU. Maintenance of all buildings has been carried out by a team led by Estate Officer with adequate maintenance staff earmarked for each building.

The Registrar, Dr. M.S.Raghunathan mentioned that the entire campus is Wi-Fi enabled including hostel premises.

Lab Equipments:

The Vice-Chancellor also cited that Garment Manufacturing Technology (GMT) Lab has spent around Rs.4 lakhs for purchase of equipment.CPT lab has spent around Rs. 5 lakhs for the argumentation of infrastructure. Metallurgy & Materials science lab is equipped with equipment worth Rs.13 lakhs and CAD & CAM lab is enriched with CNC mill worth Rs. 10 lakhs.

All the class rooms are provided with LCD projectors.

Then Prof Reddy wanted to know if Production models are available in the CAD/CAM lab, to which Mr. Ramakrishna, HoD, Mechanical Engg. told that in Mechanical Lab only desk top models are used.

Campus living

STAFF WELFARE:

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following points regarding staff welfare

- Ø **Birth Day gift to employees:** W.e.f 13-MAR-15, irrespective of their length of service, all employees of Vignan University has been presented with a birthday greeting card and one kg of sweets on their birthday as per the DOB available in the database.
- Ø Free Medical Checkup conducted for all staff above 40 years .

Ø Medical Insurance for all employees is being processed as per the guidelines of the management.

Prof. Reddy Suggested to provide residential facility to the faculty members to get better services. The Chancellor also laid emphasis on the issue saying that as per UGC guidelines 25% of the staff should live on the campus. However, he also pointed that most of the faculty members don't agree to live on the campus as it's away from city.

It was suggested that the Registrar would explore avenues for creating Campus Living.

The Chancellor suggested first to have a survey of the willingness of the faculty and then to proceed with infrastructure building.

HR Policy :

To the query of the Vice-Chancellor regarding the HR policy, the asst. Registrar Mr. M. Bhanu Praveen told "The draft of HR Policy has been prepared encompassing all service rules and put up for further additions / alterations, if any, before promulgation"

Mr. Balaji suggested to prepare a full shaped HR policy and to share it with all the faculty members through intranet.

Activities Planned for 2015-16:

The Vice-Chancellor presented the academic Calendar and the Dean - E&M clarified all the doubts of the external members regarding that.

Dr. V. Madhusudhan Rao, Dean - E&M also stated that Development of a centralized system had been devised for regular accreditation (NAAC / AICTE / NBA / ABET).

MoU's with Foreign Universities:

During the discussion on the above Point, Prof Reddy wanted to know the purpose of the MoU, to which the Vice-Chancellor replied that it's mainly to exchange of ideas and sharing knowledge among staff and students .then he mentioned the following MoUs.

- a) MoU with Florida International University, USA is under process. It will take another three weeks. It is waiting for the clearance from their Finance Department.
- b) MoU with Columbus State University, USA is under process. Next week we will get a MoU draft from them.
- c) MoU with Korean Universities is on the anvil.

Vignan's Mahotsav:

In a hearty manner the Vice-Chancellor mentioned about the extravaganza of Vignan's Mahotsav, a huge gathering of about 15,000 students and quoted, "You must see to believe it."

The Registrar mentioned that it has been resolved to split this mega event into two parts- the first part for all technical events and literary events coinciding Engineer's Day(15 September) and the second part for sports, cultural and other events in the month of December or January.

The Registrar also pointed that a staggering amount of 43 lacs was spent in Mahotsav- 2k15.

Budget for the Financial Year 2015-16:

Then the Budget for the financial year 2015-16 was presented by the Finance Officer. He satisfied all the queries of the board members and requested the Registrar to give him a clear picture of the future recruitments so that budget allocation in that ground would be much clear.

Other items with the permission of the Chair:

A) Opening Practice Schools and new training for placements:

Mr Balaji suggested to introduce Business & Client Facing Communication Skills, Networking Skills and Conflict Resolution skills to cope up with future for the student.

He also told, "Don't have training sessions; have learning sessions which are handy and leave long impression."

Mrs. A. Ratna Malathi, Head - Training Cell, mentioned that the suggested training programmes are provided through soft skills learning sessions and BEC certificate preparation classes. However, more care would be taken to roll out new programmes.

It was suggested to have Campus to Corporate training programme for all the final year students.

The Vice-Chancellor strongly recommended the point and stated first there should be a workshop on this programme for all the staff members who can disseminate the same information and knowledge to all the students in the most effective manner.

He also suggested the formation ^{Industry} Board of Institute and Interaction (BOII) for better industry - institute net working.

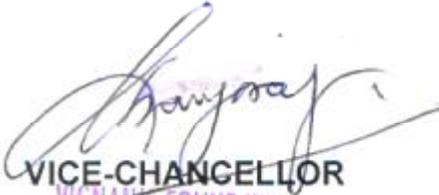
Prof. Ramamoorthy stressed upon industrial association and creating a new directorate for Faculty Development.

Then Prof. Reddy wanted to know if Student Access Cards were availed by the students, to which the Member - BoM, Mr.L.Srikrishnadevarayalu replied that the work was in progress.

The Vice-Chancellor also mentioned about new internship programme with collaboration with University of Singapore, in which two students form ECE dept. have been selected to undergo as interns for a duration of two months.

Finally, the Registrar cordially proposed the vote of thanks to all the board members for their august presence and valuable suggestions throughout.


REGISTRAR
VIGNAN'S FOUNDATION
FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
Declared to be Deemed University U/S 3 of UGC Act 1956
VADLAMUDI-522 213.
-A.P. INDIA -


VICE-CHANCELLOR
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