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**Minutes of the First Academic Council Meeting**  
**Of the Central University of Tamil Nadu**  
**Held on September 12, 2009 at the**  
**Syndicate Room, Centenary Building,**  
**University of Madras, Chepauk Campus,**  
**Chennai 600 005**

First Meeting of the Academic Council was held on September 12, 2009 at the University of Madras when the following Members were present:

Prof.B.P.Sanjay	Chairman
Prof.S.Parasuraman	Member
Prof.A.R.Venkatachalapathy	Member
Prof.Vinod Pavarala	Member
Prof.D.Balasubramanian	Member
Prof.Atiya Habeeb Kidwai	Member
Prof.K.Thyagaraju	Member
Prof.Valerian Rodrigues	Member
Prof.Gopal Malaviya	Member
Prof.D.R.Goel	Member
Prof.Mohd.Obaid Siddique	Member
Prof.L.R.Verma	Member

Initiating the Meeting Prof.B.P.Sanjay, Vice Chancellor welcomed the Members and Members were introduced to each other. Vice Chancellor made a power point presentation about the establishment of the University and appointment of the VC and the developments taken place since then.

The Members while recognizing the support extended by the State Government in providing rent free accommodation for the temporary campus and also taking necessary steps for handing over bulk of the land assured for the development of main campus also noted the steps taken by the VC in adapting the building for academic and administrative purposes.

Gopal Malaviya highlighted the need for starting and nurturing an academic programme in performing arts given the location of the University in the rich artistic and cultural milieu of the State. While endorsing this, Prof.Balasubramanian raised the question as to whether the University was working towards developing a USP for its programmes. How will the CUTN be different he asked. He felt that caution was needed in not lapsing into the usual chasing of the IT/BT and Nano programmes. There was enormous scope for understanding and studying endangered flora and fauna of the region. Very few scholars in this area were around and their expertise can be tapped to see whether some programmes could be developed. He wanted to know why a MPhil programme at all? A view that was subsequently echoed by a few other members as well. Diploma programmes are not needed for a University while mentoring relationships are being sought with a few national institutions, he felt that linkages with foreign

universities could also be established taking advantage of umbrella institutional set ups for such collaboration.

Prof.Goel was interested to know why systemic approach to disaster management programme highlighted specifically the lack of use of technology. Prof.Thyagaraju wanted the University to recognize the need for Pharmacy education and appreciated the move towards integrated programmes. Prof.Vinod Pavarala appreciated the consultation process the University had adopted with various stake holders and also discussion with experts in formulating a few programmes for launch this year. He agreed with both Prof.Balasubramanian and Gopal Malaviya for a good programme in Music/performing arts and referred to broad area of musicology and school aesthetics. He endorsed the concern with regard to Mphil programmes. With regard to media, while agreeing with the VC's perception of wanting to go slow he said that comprehensive integrated approach in Social Sciences was something he felt could be pursued. The concern for locating good faculty was reiterated while recognizing the difficulties. Other Members appreciated the basic framework in the University intending to develop its programmes under three broad school frameworks – school of social sciences and humanit school of basic and applied sciences and school of mathematics and computer sciences.

Prof.Thyagaraju, while endorsing the framework offered his help with regard to basic sciences. The discussion on regional studies focused on the viability of the programme not so much with regard to the rationale but more with regard to its acceptance by other social science disciplines for higher studies by the studies graduating with a post graduate in regional studies. The PG diploma in eco criticism was discussed at length. A few members were concerned about negative connotation and wanted a label that could be positive. The Vice Chancellor explained that the programme had been developed by a scholar who had considerable experience in working out the inputs including his association with for a that have articulated the contours of the programme. Prof.Vinod indicated that the programme could have a component of journalism and media as they were integral to programmes in environment and ecology.

Prof.Kidwa in particular, appreciated the regional studies programme.

Subsequently, the outlines of the four programmes to be offered were discussed and approved.

In short, the agenda items taken up and the approval of the AC are as under:

**Agenda Item No.1 & 2: Formal welcome and introduction and briefing the Members about the establishment of the University**

**Members appreciated the start up efforts of the Vice Chancellor**

**Agenda Item No.3:** Rationale for three broad institutional frame works for Basic and Applied Sciences & Mathematics and Computer Sciences:

**AC Members approved the proposal as an appropriate framework to develop academic programmes**

**Agenda Item No.4:** Launch of a few academic programmes – non-laboratories, non-equipment based courses:<sup>1</sup>

**AC Members approved the proposal**

**Agenda Item No.5:** Suggestions for attracting good faculty for substantive posts and short term teaching assignments etc.

**AC Members approved the course of action and appreciated the VC's approach and reiterated that best talent should be attracted and utilized through the optimum use of resources for the University**

**Agenda Item No.6:** Plan for next year integrated programme with exit options at:

First Degree Level – three years/four years

Hons – exit option after four years

Masters – additional year course work plus research

M.Phil~~e~~ and Ph.D in subjects where needed or relevant

There is a possibility of a uniform four year BS with movement

covering 5<sup>th</sup> year Masters as well commensurate with any specific proposal that the smaller subject experts may come up.

**AC approved the plan for the next year integrated programme with exit options as proposed.**

**Agenda Item No.7:** Suggestions for other programmes/approaches to schools/centres etc. Based on location and advantages/disadvantages

**AC is in full agreement with the approach suggested**

**Agenda Item No.8:** Consideration and modalities for mentoring relationships with few universities and institutions that have responded positively

**AC approved the approach**

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<sup>1</sup> It may be pointed out that the Courses discussed and approved at the AC are indicative and they will be suitably modified by the Course Instructors/Coordinators based on requirements and their specifications

**Agenda Item No.9: Authorising the Chairman to appoint small working groups/consultants/academicians for developing various programmes and details for implementing the academic programmes:**

**AC Members welcomed the idea and authorized the Chairman to go ahead with the proposal**

**Agenda Item No.10: Other academic issues of crucial importance to new Universities**

**These issues were discussed with a positive note.**

Concluding the Academic Council Meeting, Prof.B.P.Sanjay, Vice Chancellor thanked all the Members whole heartedly for making the meeting a grand success and looked forward for such vibrant meetings ahead in building the Central University of Tamil Nadu through their able guidance.