

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU**  
(Established by an Act of Parliament)  
**THIRUVARUR**

**Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Academic Council of the Central University of Tamil Nadu held on 03.04.2010 at Thiruvavarur.**

The second meeting of the Academic Council of the Central University of Tamil Nadu was held on 03.04.2010 at Thiruvavarur. The following members attended the meeting:

1. Prof.B.P.Sanjay. Vice chancellor, CUTN. Chairman
2. Prof. S.Parasuraman.
3. Prof. Valerian Rodrigues.
4. Prof. Gopal Malaviya.
5. Prof. L.R.Verma.
6. Prof. A.R.Venkatachalapathy.
7. Prof. Vinod Pavarala.
8. Prof. Probal Das Gupta.
9. Prof. Atya Habeeb Kidwai.
10. Dr. V.Nirmala.
11. Prof.K.Thyagaraju.

2. In his opening remarks, the Vice Chancellor, welcomed the members and expressed his happiness that the members had readily agreed to attend the meeting at Thiruvavarur and he acknowledged the interest shown by them.

3. He informed the members that a few presentations will be made on behalf of advisory groups on Physics, Mathematics and Humanities (Regional Studies), Arvind Eye Hospital, Madurai and Madras School of Economics and by Dr.T.S. Radhakrishnan on Nuclear Studies. The formal agenda of the Academic Council will be taken up for discussion after the presentations.

4. Prof.R.Ramachandran, IISER, Pune, in his presentation on science studies informed that the advisory group felt that the a CUTN should start integrated MSc programmes with an exit option after 4 yrs with BS degree. This is in line with the recommendations of the Indian Academy of Science and National Science Academy. Since basic knowledge of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics are to be acquired by students of all branches of science, the programme should be designed to teach the basics in all these four branches of knowledge for 2-3 semesters to all students of science group. The core subjects could be taught in semesters 4-8; Semester 9-10 to be earmarked for specialization. He emphasized the need to have good laboratory and right kind of faculty for the success of integrated programmes.

5. The second presentation was made by Dr.Krishna Das, Chief Medical Officer of Arvind Eye Hospital, Madurai. He explained that in the field of Eye-Care administration there is an enormous need for skilled personnel in assist ophthalmologists, optometricians and to help in post operational eye-care. The Arvind Eye Hospital is already training students from disadvantaged sections of the society and is issuing certificates to the trained students. There is a need for collaboration with the University. He also added that this activity of training the students is done by the Hospital as a service to the community.



6. The third presentation was made by a Team consisting of Prof.G.Aloysius, Jamia Millia Islamia, Prof.Lakshmi Subramanian, Jamia Millia Islamia and Prof.K.A.Manikumar, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. The Team pointed out that the term 'region', though interpreted in several ways, serves as an analytical tool to understand multidimensional social phenomena. This PG programme will enrich the field of social sciences. The Team emphasized the importance of regional studies and that the regional studies would depend on the local resources one of which is the language spoken in the region. The regional studies would open up research on changes in rural society, the agrarian structure etc. On the issue of employment avenues for the students who complete the PG programme in regional studies, the Team felt that there will be no dearth of opportunities to the students who would have a better Social Sciences based understanding of issues.

7. The fourth presentation was by Prof.M.S.Santhanam, IIT, Kanpur. He informed the AC that he supported the approach of integrated MSc programme where in importance is given to all four disciplines of science in the first two semesters.

8. The fifth presentation was by Prof. D.K.Srivastava, Director, Madras School of Economics, Chennai. He outlined the details of academic activities undertaken by the Madras School of Economics. He informed that the MSE is looking forward for a collaborative arrangement with the Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur. The Anna University is presently giving affiliation to its programmes on a year to a year basis. The MSE is looking forward for a long term and stable relationship with CUTN.

9. The sixth presentation was by Prof.T.S.Radhakrishnan, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam. He emphasized the need to introduce a programme on Nuclear Science which is relevant to the region.

10. After these presentations, the formal agenda of the meeting was taken up for discussion.

11. At the outset, the Vice Chancellor presented the progress in various activities of CUTN, including building the new campus for the University. He briefed the members of the selection of Architect, the priority assigned by the University for building two Hostel blocks one for boys and one for girls and also residential blocks for the faculty. The CPWD has already awarded the contracts for these three buildings and the 'Bhoomi Puja' for the same is scheduled to be held on 05.04.2010. An ecological and geological study is also being conducted by the Architect to ensure that the danger of flooding etc is avoided.

#### I Approval of Minutes of first Meeting of AC

The Academic Council confirmed the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Academic Council held on 12.09.2009.

#### II Introduction of 5 yrs integrated course in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics

On the introduction of 5 yrs integrated courses in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics with the exit option after 4 yrs with a B.S degree, the VC informed the members that, he has already taken up the matter with UGC and a copy of his letter to UGC has been circulated to members as part of Agenda. VC clarified that it is expected that a student who gets admitted to a programme in a particular branch of science would continue in the same branch even after attending the common courses in the first two semesters. Sliding to another branch of science in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year may have



legal implications particularly on quota of admission etc. However exceptions could be dealt appropriately. Prof. Valerian Roderigues felt that if a student exits after 3 yrs, since there will be common courses for 2-3 semesters; the student would not be gaining specific knowledge in any branch of study. VC clarified that the expectation is that all the students who join the integrated course would opt to exit only after 5 yrs of study. The 5 yrs course will include all standardized courses, with enough flexibility and credibility.

The AC approved the proposal to start integrated 5 years Programme in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics with exit option in accordance with extant UGC regulations for the first degree.

### III Introduction of M.A. (Regional studies)

The AC in its first meeting held in 12.09.2009 had already approved the introduction of M.A. in Regional studies.

Prof. Kidwai mentioned that Geographical Studies and study of Earth Science should be included in the regional studies. Prof. Malaviya suggested inclusion of Marine Technology, Marine Archeology and Coastal Studies. Both these suggestions were agreed.

The Vice Chancellor indicated that this will be a flagship programme of CUTN. There will be a whole set of faculty whose background and sensitivity to regional studies will steer the programme. The cohesiveness of the group of faculty could be ensured by Board of the School. However, it is necessary to seek UGC's approval for treating this programme as interdisciplinary programme. UGC will be requested to issue a policy directive or guideline to all Universities on the eligibility of students completing M.A. (Regional Studies) from CUTN for admission to PhD programme in the Department of Social Sciences of other Universities.

The AC felt that there are enough employment and education avenues for students of Regional studies.

The programme was approved. A committee consisting of Prof. Rodirgues, Prof. Kidwai and Prof. Manikumar was constituted to consider the outline and give further advice on teaching.

### IV Arrangement with Arvind Eye Hospital

Prof. Rodirgues pointed out that though the programme is aiming at employment of vulnerable sections of society, the CUTN has no larger vision on its role in the field of medicine. Prof. Malaviya wanted to know as to who decides the syllabus. Prof. Venkatachalapathy welcomed such collaboration for the certificate course. Prof. Parasuraman felt that approval of UGC/Government should be obtained.

VC clarified that community outreach and community servicing is one of the objectives of the university. Before approving an MOU with Arvind Eye Hospital, the university will obtain the opinions of domain experts but the University is willing to walk an extra mile to ensure collaboration which enhances its service to community.

It was decided that a committee consisting of Prof. D.Balasubramanian, Prof. Thyagaraju and Prof. Malaviya and two representatives of Arvind Eye Hospital may be formed to study all



aspects of collaboration. Thereafter the CUTN may finalize the MOU. Accordingly, Prof.D.Blasubramanian has been briefed and requested to chair this committee that will be formalized by VC soon.

V. Collaboration with MSE:

Prof. Kidwai pointed out that the programmes of MSE are not giving adequate importance to General Theoretical Economics. The fee structure of MSE also needs to be looked into. Education should be pluralistic and should not be market driven. Prof. Verma pointed out that access and equity should always be the guiding factors for CUTN. Prof. Venkatachalapathy suggested that the arrangement should be for a short term of 5-7 yrs.

VC assured that he would look into the concerns.

The AC approved in principle the proposal to enter in to an MOU with the MSE for a period of 10 yrs with a provision of Midterm review.

VI. Library Committee

Formation of an empowered library committee consisting of Prof. Venkatachalapathy, Prof. Vinod Pavarala, Prof. Thyagaraju and Prof. S.S. Jodhka singh was approved.

VII.

VC presented the outline of the draft statutes and ordinances on administration and academic matters. These drafts will be further pruned in pursuance of the recommendations of the subcommittee constituted by UGC and overall guidance of UGC. The University shall finalize the amendment to statutes and ordinances and obtain the approval of members of Academic Council and Executive Council by circulation before forwarding them to ministry.

Academic Council approved the above proposal.

VIII.

VC informed the Academic Council that student intake in each programme will be 30 and the critical minimum will be 5. Pending recruitment of faculty, the programmes would depend on visiting faculty, contract faculty and retired teachers. The next academic year will start on August 2, 2010. Formal orientation on August 4, 2010. Clases from August 9, 2010. This was approved by Academic Council.

12. VC once again thanked the members for their participation and useful contribution in the meeting. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.