



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

**Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Academic Council of the Central University of Tamil Nadu held on 21.08.2010 at Chennai.**

The Third meeting of the Academic Council of the Central University of Tamil Nadu was held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2010 at Chennai. The following members attended the meeting.

1. Prof.B.P.Sanjay, Vice Chancellor, CUTN, Chairman.
2. Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri.
3. Prof. K.B.Powar.
4. Dr. (Smt).Vibha Dhawan.
5. Prof. Surinder S.Jodhka.
6. Prof.Gopal Malaviya.
7. Prof.L.R.Verma.
8. Prof.A.R.Venkatachalapathy.
9. Prof.Probal Das Gupta.
10. Prof. Atiya Habeeb Kidwai.
11. Dr. V.Nirmala.
12. Prof. K.Thyagaraju.
13. V.K.Sridhar, Registrar and Secretary.

**Leave of absence was granted to the following members.**

1. Prof.S.Parasuraman.
2. Prof.Valerian Rodrigues.
3. Prof.Vinod Pavarala.
4. Prof.D.Balasubramaniam.
5. Prof. Jai Rup Singh.
6. Prof. Mohamed Obaid Siddiqui.
7. Prof.D.R.Goel.
8. Prof. Pradeep Sahni.
9. Justice.N.N.Mathur.

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed all the Members for the third meeting of the Academic Council and particularly those members who attended the meeting for the first time. He briefed the members about the establishment of the University and formation of the first Executive Council and Academic Council by the Ministry of Human Research Development. He also informed the members that the Finance Committee and the Building Committee have since been formed. The Academic Programs of the University have started in right earnest with a symbolic launch of an MA Program in English Studies in November 2009. Though this Program was started late, it has since been synchronized, from the 3rd Semester, with the rest of the Programs launched by the University in the Academic Year 2010-11.

(2)

The State Government gave 516 acres of land in two revenue villages namely Neelakudi & Nagakudi separated by a canal which brings the Cauvery water into the system. The land is demarcated into various zones. The University has volunteered to comply with GRIHA 4 Star norms. It is also a norm advised by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) as well. Incidentally, the CUTN Project is the first large scale Project being taken up for GRIHA norms and therefore it has been identified as a pilot Project. The University has visualized establishment of 30 Schools and the land is planned to be utilized fully including set back space for future expansion. The University went for National level open competition for enlisting the Architect. M/s Space Matrix, ([www.spacematrix.com](http://www.spacematrix.com)) an Architectural firm with International presence was selected from out of 15 firms who made the presentation. The construction work has been entrusted to Central Public works Department (CPWD). Work has already commenced and it is expected that hostel buildings will be ready for occupation by middle of March 2011. A sub division of CPWD has been opened in Thiruvarur headed by an Executive Engineer.

The Central University of Tamil Nadu worked with other newly formed Central Universities namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kashmir, Kerala & Rajasthan and launched the first ever Common Entrance examination for admission to the Central Universities (CUCET). The examination was held in 30 centers and more than 6,000 students took the exams spread over two days. Both qualitative and quantitative instruments were used in the tests. The Counseling and further admission was left to the respective Universities. The Vice-Chancellor hoped that other Central Universities too may join this effort in future. If all Central Universities, both old and new, come together, it will be a momentous step as it will offer a wide variety of subjects / programs across the length and breadth of the country.

While briefing the Academic Council members, the Chairman informed that in the current Academic year (2010-11), 3 Integrated M.Sc programs in Mathematics, Physics & Chemistry and M.A. in English were launched by the University. The response for programs in M.A. Tamil and PG Diploma programs in Eco – criticism and Regional studies was less than adequate and therefore, their launch was deferred. However, some of the components of Eco criticism is being incorporated as value added inputs in the integrated programs.

The Chairman also mentioned that the efforts of the University for collaboration with other Universities and Institutions are continuing. Mentoring relationships are being forged with institutions like Madras School of Economics, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Central Institute of Classical Tamil etc. The Chairman made a power point presentation covering various aspects like the temporary campus, land, area allocation, work in progress etc.

After the Chairman's briefing, the Agenda for the meeting was taken up.

(3)

**Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes**

The Academic Council considered the minutes of the second meeting. The Committee noted that no comments were received on the minutes circulated among the members of the council. During the meeting, suggestion was received from one of the members regarding incorporation of the names of members who could not attend the meeting. They could be listed as having been given leave of absence. This point was noted.

**Decision:**

The Academic Council resolved that the minutes of the Second Meeting of the Academic Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2010, be confirmed.

**Item 2: Action arising from previous Meetings**

i) Action arising out of agenda item III in the second Academic Council meeting:- This item relates to M.A. program in Regional Studies.

**Decision:**

As per Chairman's request this item was taken up for discussion separately.

ii) Action arising out of agenda item IV in the second Academic Council meeting:- This item relates to launching of a joint program of CUTN with Arvind Eye Hospital, Madurai. The Committee formed by the Academic Council for this purpose, met on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010 at the Arvind Eye Hospital in Madurai. The Academic Council noted that Arvind Eye Hospital, as part of its yeomen service in the field of eye care, has developed paramedical human resource as a support force to the doctors. The hospital has already embarked on several training / structured courses in the field of clinical ophthalmology, clinical courses, management courses and paramedical courses. However, the paramedical area has largely remained an uncertified field. As CUTN and Arvind Eye Hospital both share a common vision in community outreach and community servicing, their working together will serve a noble cause of extending affordable eye care to a large population of the country. The ongoing efforts of the Arvind Eye Hospital will be given a course framework and suitably structured in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), for which, Academic Council has already given its consent. The Memorandum of Understanding (being drafted) will be placed before the Academic Council as soon as it is ready for signature.

**Decision:**

The information was noted by the Academic Council.

(iii) Action arising out of agenda item V in the second Academic Council meeting:- This item relates to signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with the Madras School of Economics. The Chairman informed the members that the MOU is being fine tuned and once it is finalized, it will be placed before the Academic Council for information, as the Council has already cleared this item in principle.

**Decision:**

The information was noted by the Academic Council.

**Item 3: Introductory Remarks of the Chairman.**

The introductory remarks of the Chairman were noted by the Council Members.

**Item 4: Admissions to the University for the Academic year 2010-11**

The Academic Council noted the information presented by the University. The members, while appreciating the information given, suggested adding information in respect of gender. They also raised the issue of reduction in the final admission as compared to the number of candidates who enrolled for the entrance test. The Chairman cited the number of engineering colleges that have mushroomed in the state, as one reason for lack of adequate response to integrated programmes. Further, the fact about the Central University has not sunk in as yet among the local population. Common programs among the Central Universities has also contributed to reduced interest. It is hoped that the Central Universities all India Character, affordable fees etc will probably result in better enrollment next time around. This will be further strengthened by way of counseling, education camp, road shows etc.

**Decision:**

The information was noted by the Academic Council.

**Item 5: Results for the second Semester M.A program in English.**

The Academic Council noted the results.

**Item 6: Observation of Executive Council on "Regional studies" program**

The Chairman briefed the members about the rationale in preparing a program in regional studies. He mentioned that about 12 experts met and prepared a comprehensive program. The Chairman also briefed the members about the concern of the Executive Council as to whether the course prepares the students to pursue higher education or for employment. During the course of discussions, some members felt that regional studies is part of the Social Science package. They felt that definition of the word "Region" itself becomes important. Some members felt that Regional Studies is more specialized and hence something more generic/basic like Development studies need to come first. They also suggested broad based knowledge in regional studies but with focus on a chosen subject like History/Geography/Sociology etc. They, thus suggested a MA degree in sociology/History etc with the specialization in parenthesis. They felt that nomenclature is not all that important as long as the inputs are good.

The Chairman mentioned that he had observed inadequacies in the Social Science and humanities teaching in the University system and wanted to address some of these through a comprehensive program. Such program will be based on areas/ inputs of the guides. What should be the seeding set of Departments – should it be History, Political Science, Sociology etc? We need to prioritize. He emphasized the need to work on the broad spectrum of Social Sciences. He further stated that the option is to see whether the program can start from research and come down to teaching or start with teaching program and graduate to research as is the current trend.

(5)

He added that the University has an open mind and will also be able to offer a few fellowships in M.phil and Ph.D. for research program in regional studies, if it is appropriate. The students will have to write a "Statement of Purpose" and the same will be circulated to Faculty. If the Faculty accept the student, the university will work on the mentoring relationship-course work/directed study etc. - and devise a suitable incentive package for the faculty.

**Decision:** The Committee on Regional studies may be amplified to work further on the suggestion of the Academic Council. The Committee may be requested to submit its recommendation in 4-6 weeks.

**Item 7: Academic Collaborations:**

A) The State Government of Tamil Nadu is very conscious about Development of Tamil language. The Central University, being in Tamil Nadu, ought to reflect this and do its bit in developing a program in Tamil. With this intent, the M.A Program in Tamil was advertised by the University. However, the response was not adequate.

The University subsequently networked with Central Institute of Classical Tamil([www.cict.in/](http://www.cict.in/)) as it has a different set of scholastic inputs and specific mandate for study and promotion of Classical Tamil. A meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010 in Chennai with Tamil Scholars and in the meeting it emerged that a mere study of M.A Tamil is not good enough and it needs to be enlarged bringing in value added inputs in linguistics, ancient Architecture, culture etc. The Committee has suggested a P.G Degree program in Classical Tamil studies. A Committee is being constituted to put the curriculum in place and the same will be placed before the Academic Council for approval. The Chairman mentioned that the levels of interaction are compatible as Central Institute of Classical Tamil is an institution under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Prof.Venkatachalapathy, who is helping the University in this initiative, further added that this coming together of CUTN & CICT will result in a quantum leap in Tamil studies. The proposed Post Graduate Program in Classical Tamil is not merely focused on Tamil but will also focus on one another Dravidian language, Classical language and literature of the world etc. He also mentioned that enrolment in Tamil in U.G and P.G Program has increased and there are lot of opportunities – both for research as well as employment. The Chairman added that the University will also network with Tamil University and Tamil Virtual University at the appropriate juncture.

**Decision:** The Academic Council authorized the Vice – Chancellor to proceed further in the matter and to work out a suitable Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Central Institute of Classical Tamil and to launch a PG Program in Classical Tamil studies.

B) The Chairman mentioned that as part of its efforts to forge mentoring relationships, the University has identified Centre for the Study of Culture and Society ([www.cscs.res.in](http://www.cscs.res.in)) (CSCS) for a possible collaboration at two levels:-

(6)

i) Incubation of Integrated Science programs:- To expose questions and methods of interdisciplinary research to Science students covering History and Philosophy of Science as well as in Science – Technology – Society studies.

ii) M.Phil Program:- One year M.Phil with compulsory courses covering a range of interdisciplinary areas in Social Sciences and humanities under the broad umbrella of cultural studies.

A presentation was made by Mr.Ashish Rajadayaksha, Deputy Director, Centre for the Study of Culture and Society. He mentioned that they are working with Indian Institute of Science, IISER Pune and Thiruvananthapuram. He also briefed the Academic Council members about the proposed collaboration. The Chairman added that the proposed M.Phil Program will be a response based initiative. The Centre for Study of Culture and Society faculty would be invited as Adjunct Faculty. The mentoring relationship with the student would be decided between the Faculty and student. It could be directed study or more intensive personal contact. The student can use the contingency support for travel.

**Decision:**

The Academic Council approved the teaching and research relationship proposed with Centre for the Study of Culture and Society.

**Item 8: Letter from Dravidian Linguistics Association**

The Academic Council discussed the letter from Dravidian Linguistics Association. Some members felt that a small group can be created initially for diasporic teaching / Research. They also suggested creating an interface with the diaspora for providing a technology platform so that the computational expertise could be used for language teaching & research. The Academic Council felt that whatever steps the University might take in this direction, should not be confused with the on going efforts for starting a program in Classical Tamil. In the proposed scheme, good linguistics grounding should be there and it can, perhaps, move to a Department in the next 5-10 years. Linguistics will also add value to Classical Tamil. This small group/initiative can eventually evolve in to Tamil studies and / or mesh with the Classical Tamil studies and work in tandem.

**Decision:**

The Academic Council decided that a small consultative group may be formed by the University with representation from Academic Council comprising of Prof. ProbalDas Gupta and Prof.Venkatachalapathy. Further action can be initiated based on the out come of these consultations / recommendations.

(7)

**Item 9: Mother Teresa Chair**

The Academic Council discussed the letter received from the Ministry of Human Research Development on establishing a Mother Teresa Chair. During the course of discussion, some of the probable areas suggested by the members are:-

1. Disaster Studies
2. Disability Studies
3. Social exclusion / discrimination
4. Integrated Coastal Management & Migration
5. Migration of labor to the state of Tamil Nadu
6. Study of Victimology
7. Post disaster, humanitarian interventions.

**Decision:**

The Academic Council authorized the Vice-Chancellor to take steps as may be appropriate and in a field as may be decided by the University, in establishing a Chair.

**ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.**

**Item 10: Course contents for 1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

An item containing the details of Course Contents for the first semester for the subjects of Physics, Chemistry, Maths, English and Social sciences for the Integrated M.Sc Programs, was tabled at the time of the meeting. In all there will be 21 credits for the first semester. All the five courses will be taught to all the students irrespective of their specialization. Number of lectures and details of books were also presented.

**Decision:**

The Academic Council noted the information.

**Item 11: Centre for Disaster Management**

The Vice-Chancellor briefed the members about the need to study issues relating to National and man-made disasters and suggested setting up a centre for Disaster Management to cover related issues/subjects like:

- Disaster Management
- Refugee studies
- Internally displaced persons
- Climate change and
- Environmental Crisis.

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The focus will be on "Social dimensions" alone, initially. An advisory committee with relevant stake holders and consultation with National level agencies, will precede the formation of the centre.

**Decision:**

The Academic Council authorized the Vice-Chancellor to take steps, as may be appropriate, in setting up a centre for Disaster Management and Humanitarian efforts.

**Item 12: Studies in Oil & Mineral Exploration**

The Vice-Chancellor underlined the importance of initiating suitable Studies in the field of "Oil & mineral exploration" given its overall importance for the Country's economy and the activities centered around the geographical area in which the University is located.

**Decision:**

The Academic Council authorized the Vice-Chancellor to take steps, as may be appropriate, in initiating discussions, exploring partnership avenues and all other steps as may be necessary.

**Item 13: Urgent Academic decisions**

The Vice-Chancellor mentioned that many times several urgent decisions on Academic issues have to be taken and as the Council meets no more than 2-3 times a year, he requested authorization of Council to take these decisions, on its behalf.

**Decision:**

The Academic Council authorized the Vice-Chancellor to take decisions on all Academic issues and to report them in the following meeting.

The Meeting ended with a note of thanks to the Chair.