

**Central University of Tamil Nadu
(Established by an Act of Parliament)
Thiruvarur**

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Academic Council of the Central University of Tamil Nadu held on Saturday, the 7th May 2011 at Chennai.

The Fourth Meeting of the Academic Council of the Central University of Tamil Nadu was held on Saturday, the 7th May 2011 at Chennai. The following members attended the meeting :

1. Prof. B.P. Sanjay, Vice Chancellor, CUTN, Chairman
2. Dr. (Smt) Vibha Dhawan
3. Prof. Surinder S. Jodhka
4. Prof. Laiq Ram Verma
5. Prof. A.R. Venkatachalapathy
6. Prof.(Ms) Atiya Habeeb Kidwai
7. Prof. Valerian Rodrigues
8. Prof. Vinodh Pavarala
9. Prof. K. Thyagaraju
10. Shri V.K. Sridhar, Registrar and Secretary

Leave of absence was granted to the following members :

1. Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri
2. Prof. K.B. Powar
3. Prof. Gopal Malaviya
4. Prof. Probal Das Gupta
5. Prof. S. Parasuram
6. Prof. D. Balasubramaniam
7. Prof. Jai Rup Singh
8. Prof. Mohamed Obaid Siddiqui
9. Prof. D.R. Goel
10. Prof. Pradeep Sahni
11. Dr. (Smt) V. Nirmala
12. Justice N.N. Mathur

The Vice Chancellor welcomed all the members to the Fourth Meeting of the Academic Council. He briefed the members about the various academic activities of the University. He mentioned about the advertisement for faculty positions and informed the members that the response

received by the University so far has been encouraging. He further added that the University is making efforts to ensure that the faculty positions in the University are made attractive by perquisites like start up grant, relocation allowance, etc. He stated that the University is strictly following University Grants Commission norms. The University is awaiting the visitor's nominees and the selection process will consist of presentation and personal interview. He also made a mention about the UGC's plans to permit the newly formed Central Universities to have upto 20 Departments each with 7 faculty with 1 Professor, 2 Associate Professors and 4 Assistant Professors. He briefed the members on the infrastructure development. The land allotted by the State Government admeasuring 520 acres is being secured by compound wall around the campus and this work is almost nearing completion except the grand entrance which is under discussion with the Architects. The Library building is being developed as signature building. In the first phase, hostels to accommodate 200 boys and 200 girls is getting ready and the faculty accommodation comprising of 60 houses for Assistant Professors is likely to be ready by August/September 2011. He added that the University is making a proposal for setting up a Kendriya Vidhyalaya as its contribution to the neighbourhood. He mentioned that there is a remarkable improvement in the students at the current juncture compared to when they entered the University. The students are progressing well and they are coming out of their defiant shell organizing several programmes and cultural activities. He hoped to hold the next meeting in Thiruvavur in the midst of academic activities. The Chairman welcomed Prof. D.K. Srivastava, Director, Madras School of Economics, who is attending the meeting at the invitation of the University. The Madras School of Economics is working in close collaboration with the Central University of Tamil Nadu for the 5 year Integrated and two year M.Sc. programmes in Economics.

After briefing by the Chairman, the agenda was taken up.

Agenda Item No.2 : Confirmation of Minutes:

The Academic Council considered the minutes of the third meeting. The Committee noted that no comments were received on the minutes circulated among the members of the Council.

Decision : The Academic Council resolved that the minutes of the Third Meeting of the Academic Council held on 21st August 2010, be confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 3 : Action taken on the minutes of the previous meetings of the Academic Council:

(i) **Action arising out of the Agenda item No.4 in the second meeting of the Academic Council relating to Memorandum of Understanding with Arvind Eye Hospital :**

The Chairman briefed the members about the difficulties involved in going ahead with the proposed programme in collaboration with the Arvind Eye Hospital and hence he wanted that the proposal may be treated as dropped. He mentioned that alternate avenues were explored. He briefed the Council about the discussions he had with Dr. Balasubramaniam, Director, L.V. Prasad Eye Institute in this regard. Based on these discussions, it was decided that instead of tertiary level programmes, the University may go in for an incremental programme in optometry. Since L.V. Prasad Eye Institute is a well established institution, he sought approval of the Academic Council for taking this proposal ahead.

Decision : The Academic Council resolved that approval be given to work with L.V. Prasad Eye Institute and to authorize the Chairman to take further appropriate steps in this direction, including launching of a B.Tech. Programme in Optometry.

(ii) **Action arising out of Agenda item No. 6 in the third meeting of the Academic Council:**

This relates to Regional Studies Programme. The Chairman mentioned that the issue is alive and has to be crystallised into an academic programme. The Chairman added that one possibility is not to box it within the Academic calendar and try to launch the programme sometime in January 2012. He also mentioned that Social Science will be the core and Regional Study will be grounded by the faculty of this group/centre. The issue was discussed at length in the meeting. Prof. Valerian Rodrigues mentioned that while Prof. G. Aloysius has written extensively on the concept of region, this concept is not acceptable across the board. He raised the issue as to how do we go about conceptually figuring out what is the "Region". Once this is done, then we can bring in different disciplines so that resources could be drawn from them. According to him,

going with the concept of Social Sciences as the broad umbrella with "Regional Studies" organized under this will have its own problems. He suggested defining the concept of "region" by a larger committee and to back this committee with necessary administrative support. Prof. Atiya Habeeb Kidwai also raised the issue as to whether we should ground the students in Social Sciences who applied their learning to "region" or ground them in Regional Studies and apply it in other areas of Social Sciences. Prof. Jodhka mentioned that the issue is larger. He felt that prioritizing Regional Studies over Social Sciences may also avoid regioning the University to local context. Intervening, the Vice Chancellor mentioned that our concept of region, culture, etc., is not intended to be localized. What should come first and what supports each other is a subject matter of the Expert Committee. He added that the Committee will be enlarged based on the names suggested by the members and the larger committee can examine the entire issue afresh.

Decision : Based on the suggestions from Members, a Committee was constituted with Prof. Valerian Rodrigues as Convenor and with Prof. Atiya Habeeb Kidwai, Prof. Manikumar, Prof. Surindar Jodhka, Prof. A.R. Venkatachalapathy, Prof. G. Aloysius and Prof. Lakshmi Subramanian as Members. The Committee will study the issue of the perspectives of Social Sciences Education, Research and Development in the context of Regional Studies. The Committee will submit the first set of recommendations by September 15, 2011.

(iii) **Action arising out of Agenda Nos. 9, 11 and 12 of the Third Meeting of the Academic Council:**

This relates to establishing Mother Teresa Chair and matters relating to partnership avenues for Oil and Mineral Exploration. The Chairman briefed the members about the early efforts made by him in this direction. However, given the current direction of the University, he felt that the efforts of the University will be more concentrated in some of the areas already initiated and matters relating to these areas will be pursued when additional departments are established.

Decision : The information was noted by the Academic Council.

Agenda Item No. 4 : Report on the Academic activities of the University:

The Chairman briefed the members on the academic activities of the University in general and with specific reference for the period from 1st September 2010 to 31st March 2011. He mentioned that all academic programmes of the University are reviewed with Expert Committee on matters like methods of testing, instructions for testing, etc. He briefed the members about the recent Expert Committee meeting for the Science Programmes. The members appreciated the detailed report presented by the University. However, during the course of discussion, the members also suggested the following :

- i) The information may be given month-wise with cumulative figures in the parenthesis.
- ii) A note may be presented on the criteria used for internal valuation for the benefit of the Academic Council members.
- iii) The number of internal examinations and the marks and the weightage for each of the examination may be presented. The Academic Council advised that the University, following the best practices elsewhere, may develop a format for student feedback.

Decision : The information was noted by the Academic Council.

Agenda Item No. 5 : A report of the odd semester results of the University for Academic Year 2010-11:

The Committee perused the detailed results and the analysis presented by the University. The Council complemented the University for presenting the detailed analysis of the results. The Council noted the efforts made by the University in ensuring scholarship payments for SC/ST students and placed on record its appreciation to the University staff and faculty.

Decision : The information was noted by the Academic Council.

Agenda Item No. 6 : Admission for the Academic Year 2011-12:

The Chairman briefed the members about the proposed admission process for the Academic year 2011-12. He mentioned that the University is part of the Central Universities Common

Entrance Test (CUCET-2011). As in 2010, seven newly formed Central Universities have come together on a common platform to offer over 70 Under Graduate , Integrated, Post Graduate and Research Programmes to benefit the students community. The details of the CUCET was presented by the Chairman and the same was noted by the members.

Decision : The Academic Council noted the contents and approved launching of M.Sc. (Life Science) Programme.

Agenda item No. 7 : Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) and launching of M.A. Programme in Classical Tamil:

The Chairman briefed the members on the issue of academic collaboration with the Central Institute of Classical Tamil. In pursuance of the decision taken in the third meeting of the Academic Council, the Curriculum Committee was formed by the CICT with two of our academic council members viz. Prof. Probal Das Gupta and Prof. A.R. Venkatachalapathy as members. The Chairman requested Prof. Venkatachalapathy to brief the Council. Prof. Venkatachalapathy mentioned that the Tamil Studies is in a state of flux and the present programme was conceived with a view to develop a set of students with some core competency. He mentioned that CICT tends more towards linguistic competencies than on literature. He stated that in the deliberations efforts were made to balance it to the maximum extent. The proposed syllabus includes literature, grammar , linguistics, classical life and languages of the world and one non-Tamil Dravidian language. Set of electives are also broad. During the course of discussions, Prof. Valerian Rodrigues thought it would be good to spell out what will come under "Indian Philosophy". He also mentioned that the Classical Tamil is treated more like a fortress by the Linguists and he felt that the linkage of classical Tamil with other language and literature need to be studied. Prof. Venkatachalapathy clarified the issues to the members.

Decision : The Academic Council approved the proposal to launch the M.A. Programme in Classical Tamil Studies and the draft Memorandum of Understanding.

Agenda item No.8 : Approval for launching Integrated and stand alone M.Sc. programmes in Economics with Madras School of Economics (MSE).

The Chairman briefed the members about the collaboration entered into with Madras School of Economics (MSE), as per the approval given in the Second Meeting of the Academic Council held on 3rd April 2010. The Chairman mentioned that the formal Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Madras School of Economics on 7th March 2011. In accordance with the MoU, it is proposed to launch a 5 year Integrated M.Sc. (Economics) Programme and 2 year M.Sc. programmes in General Economics and Financial Economics.

At the request of the Chairman, Prof. D.K. Srivastava, Director, Madras School of Economics, briefed the members about the Integrated M.Sc. programmes in Economics and Post Graduate Programmes viz. M.Sc. (General Economics) and M.Sc.(Financial Economics). During the course of discussions, the members pointed out certain things. Prof. Valerian Rodrigues wondered why 2 M.Sc. Programmes and why not one programme with 2 specialisations. He also felt that the suggested readings list is loaded with foreign scholars. He also raised the issue of clash of interest when students from two different streams are taken in (with the first batch of M.Sc. Integrated (Economics) students competing with lateral entry students). Prof. Atiya Habib Kidwai also mentioned that some of the references are dated and some of the radical voices are not reflected in the references. The members also raised the issue of research being concentrated more in the MSE than in the university. Prof. Srivastava while clarifying, the issue on research, mentioned that, CUTN's intent on developing the Economics Department will be key to this question. He felt that with the resources of the University and with the support and interaction of MSE, the research capability will develop in CUTN and MSE is not a substitute for this. On the issue of two programmes, he mentioned that the way the subject has evolved, it is not possible to give adequate coverage only through electives. The way the course is structured, some minimum core economic papers are built in and there will not be sufficient time for the grooming needed for a professional course like this if specialization route is taken. On the issue of references, he mentioned that while Indian authors are included in this list, the evolution of economics is faster in the western countries such that the journals, publications, books, etc., have evolved much better as compared to India. He also added that the teachers are free to suggest any reference and normally it is much more extended and the syllabus is only a framework reference. On the issue of clash of interest, the Chairman mentioned that as per

the MoU, only 30 students in integrated M.Sc. pass out and they get dispersed over the two M.Sc. programmes of MSE. This aspect coupled with the higher intake in the PG Programme will ensure that lateral entry can take place without affecting the interests of the students of CUTN. He further added that the Economics Faculty/Department will stabilize and they will work in close association with the Faculty of MSE. The Universities' research priorities will be determined by our faculty.

Decision : The Academic Council approved the launch of 5 year Integrated M.Sc. Programme in Economics and 2 year M.Sc. programme in General Economics and Financial Economics.

Agenda item No. 9 : Perusal of the recommendations and action on the report of the Expert Committee constituted by University Grants Commission (UGC):

The Chairman informed the members that in the meeting of the Vice Chancellors of the 15 newly established Central Universities on 13th October 2009, a decision was taken to set up 3 Expert Committees on the following issues :

1. To harmonize academic programmes in the newly established Central Universities.
2. To identify areas for uniform provision in Ordinance and to suggest draft ordinances with respect to faculty, students and others, and
3. To study academic curriculum for the programmes and suggest ways and means to avoid duplication.

The Committee on Ordinance submitted its recommendations. This matter was discussed by the Academic Council. The Chairman informed the members that the University will adopt the ordinances as and when it becomes necessary and as per its needs.

Decision : The Academic Council authorized the Chairman to adopt the ordinances related to academic matters as may be deemed fit.

Any other item with the permission of the Chair:

Agenda item No. 10 : Improving the Language skills of students selected for the Integrated Programmes of the University:

The Chairman observed that several students who have joined the Integrated Programmes in the University have come from rural/semi-urban areas and without sound grounding in the English language. The language skill to some extent, affects the academic progress of the students as the medium of instruction is English. Therefore, the Chairman added, the University thought of a Programme to provide intensive coaching in the language, communication and academic skills. This coaching will precede formal academic session. It would be made compulsory for all the students who are admitted to the Integrated Programmes of the University. The structure of the course ("Enrich your Language") has been designed with the help of Experts. The course is meant to be spread across two months with four hours of classroom interaction per day, five days a week totaling 160 contact hours. This may be altered to suit the ground conditions in the University. The Academic Council welcomed the idea and complemented Vice Chancellor for taking this excellent initiative.

Decision : The Academic Council approved the programme and authorized Vice Chancellor to take steps as may be appropriate.

Agenda item No. 11 : Minutes of the Subject Expert Committee Meeting:

The Chairman placed before the Academic Council, the minutes of the Subject Expert Committee meeting held on 16th and 17th April 2011. This meeting was primarily for the Integrated Science Programmes. The meeting was attended by Prof. Bhimasankaram, Prof. T. Amarnath, Prof. L. Jones, Prof. S. Kumaresan, Prof. Sane, Prof. Santhanam and Prof. Sengadir. The Chairman explained the highlights of the decisions taken therein.

Decision : The information was noted by the Academic Council.

Agenda item No. 12 : Approval for New Programme in Journalism & Mass Communication:

The Chairman briefed the members about the plans of the University to launch a programme in Journalism & Mass Communication. However, given the variety and nature of the discipline, the Academic Council felt that it would be useful to form a Small Committee to go into the whole issue and submit its recommendations to enable the University to launch a new programme in the next Academic Year.

Decision : It was decided to form a Committee with Prof. Vinod Pavarala as Convenor. Other members will be decided by the Convenor. The Committee shall submit its report by the first week of December, 2011.

The Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.