



**Visvesvaraya Technological University**  
"Jnana Sangama", Belgaum-590 018, Karnataka State

**VTU STATUTES ON AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES (AMENDED) 2011**  
(Statutes framed under Section 30(2) of (2006 amended) VTU Act 1994)

**1. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT :**

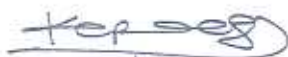
- i. The Statutes shall be called "VTU Statutes on Autonomous Colleges (Amended) 2011".
- ii. These Statutes shall come into force from the date of assent by the Chancellor.

**2. DEFINITIONS :**

- i. "Act" means Visvesvaraya Technological University Act 1994, with amendments assented by the Chancellor from time to time.
- ii. "Academic Senate" means the Academic Senate of the University.
- iii. "Affiliation" means association of a College and its admission to the privileges of the University.
- iv. "Autonomous College" means a College designated as an Autonomous College by the University, as per the Scheme of Autonomous Colleges notified by the Commission from time to time.
- v. "College" means an institution, whether known as such or by any other name, which provides for a programme of study beyond 12 years of schooling for obtaining a Degree conferment from the University to which it is affiliated.
- vi. "Commission" means the University Grants Commission.
- vii. "Council" means the All India Council for Technical Education.
- viii. "Executive Council" means the Executive Council of the University.
- ix. "Faculty" means the teaching staff of the College appointed by following the specified rules of the University and/or the Council.
- x. "Permanent Affiliation" means affiliation of the College and/or Programme(s) of study granted by the University for a minimum period of five years at a time.
- xi. "Principal" means the Principal or Head of a College.
- xii. "Programme or Programme of Study" means a higher education programme for a Degree award by the University, as specified by the Commission.
- xiii. "Registrar" means the Registrar of the University.
- xiv. "Student" means a person admitted to and pursuing a specified programme of study.
- xv. "University" means Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU).
- xvi. "Vice Chancellor" means the Vice Chancellor of the University.

**3. PREAMBLE:**

The University has an accepted system to affiliate Colleges coming under its jurisdiction, oversee the working of the Colleges, act as an examining body and award Degrees on their behalf. The Regulations of the University and its common system, governing all Colleges alike, irrespective of their characteristics, strengths, weaknesses and locations, have affected the academic development of individual Colleges. The Colleges do not



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have the freedom to modernize their curricula or make them locally relevant. Certain Colleges that have the potential for offering programmes of a higher standard do not have the freedom to offer them. In essence, the autonomy proposed for the Colleges is to help them to achieve excellence under the leadership of the University while affording them room and space for individual development. The 1964-66 Education Commission pointed out the exercise of academic freedom by teachers is a crucial requirement for the development of the intellectual climate in our country. Unless such a climate prevails, it is difficult to achieve excellence in the higher education system. With students, teachers and management being co-partners in raising the quality of higher education, it is imperative that they share a major responsibility. Hence, the Education Commission (1964-66) recommended College autonomy, which, in essence, is the instrument for promoting academic excellence.

#### 4. THE STATUTES :

##### 4.1 Eligibility Criteria for Grant of Autonomy:

The following criteria shall form the basis for selecting the Colleges (affiliated/ constituent) for the grant of autonomous status by the University:

- i. Permanent affiliation status for the College as granted by the University;
- ii. The College performing all its academic functions/activities only in one shift.
- iii. Adequately participatory and transparent management structure of the College;
- iv. Ample opportunities provided to faculty/ students to make creative contributions;
- v. Faculty motivation and involvement in promoting innovative reforms;
- vi. A minimum of 10 years standing in the case of private self-financing Colleges;

##### 4.2 Procedure for Grant of Autonomy:

- i. The University may invite applications in prescribed form from Colleges (affiliated/ constituent) having permanently affiliated College status and meeting the eligibility criteria listed under Section 4.1, once in an academic year, for being designated as Autonomous Colleges. The Colleges shall remit the fees specified by the University, along with their applications for grant of autonomous status.
- ii. The applications received shall be processed by a Standing Committee constituted by the Executive Council, consisting of the following:
 

a. Nominee of Executive Council-	Chairperson.
b. Nominee of Academic Senate-	Member
c. Nominee of the State Government-	Member
d. Nominee of the Vice Chancellor-	Member
e. Registrar	Member Secretary
- iii. The proposals of the Colleges recommended by the Standing Committee shall, with the approval of the Academic Senate and the Executive Council, be forwarded by the Registrar to the State Government in the prescribed format for its concurrence.
- iv. The Autonomous status shall be at the institutional level covering Certificate, Diploma, Under-graduate and Post-graduate programmes offered in the Colleges.

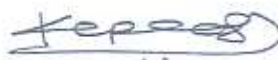




- v. The right of autonomy shall not be conferred once and for all. It has to be continuously earned by the College. The status of autonomy shall be granted initially for a period of six years.
- vi. Each Autonomous College shall, with the approval of its Academic Council, formulate an appropriate mechanism to evaluate its academic performance, improvement of standards, and assess the extent and degree of success in the utilization of autonomy. Self- evaluation of autonomy shall be made annually.
- vii. The University shall confer the status of autonomy upon a College that is permanently affiliated, with the concurrence of the State Government and the Commission, with the latter being obtained within one year from the date of notification by the State Government.
- viii. In the absence of concurrence being received from the Commission, the College shall revert to the non-autonomous status.
- ix. The validity period for the Autonomous status of the College, shall be reckoned from the date of its concurrence by the Commission.

#### 4.3 Procedure for Monitoring, Evaluation and Continuation of Autonomy:

- i. There shall be two external evaluations of the functioning of the Autonomous College, the first at the end of four years and the second at the end of six years. The latter evaluation shall determine the continuance or revocation of the autonomous status.
- ii. The University shall review the functioning of autonomy in an Autonomous College at the end of the fourth year with the help of a Committee of Experts constituted by the Vice Chancellor for the purpose. The committee shall consist of the following:
  - a) One Nominee of the University - Chairperson
  - b) One Nominee of the Commission - Member
  - c) One nominee of the State Council for Higher Education or of the State Government - Member  
(where such State Council does not exist)
  - d) Two Experts from outside the State- Members nominated by the University
  - e) Registrar - Member Secretary.
- iii. Towards the end of the sixth year, the Commission shall conduct a review with the help of a Committee to be constituted by the Commission. In the event of delay in the Review Report and renewal of autonomy, the College shall continue to enjoy autonomy with the entitlement of benefits, fiscal or otherwise, so conceived under the Scheme, unless the Government or the University by special order withholds such continuation. The Autonomous College shall submit the proposal in the prescribed form, duly forwarded by the University for the extension to the Commission, six months prior to the date of expiry of the autonomy tenure.
- iv. Autonomous Colleges, which have functioned satisfactorily for a period of six years, may be considered by the University for extension of autonomous status in units of six years. In the event of the availability of evidence confirming decline in standards in an Autonomous College, it shall be open to the Commission and the University to revoke the autonomous status of that College after careful scrutiny, and mutual consultation



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and due notification to the management. In such cases, the students already admitted under autonomous scheme shall be allowed to complete the course under autonomous status.

- v. All the Autonomous Colleges shall get their eligible programmes regularly accredited by an Agency approved by the University to maintain their accreditation validity.
- vii. The decision of the Executive Council regarding continuation or otherwise of autonomous status shall be communicated to the State Government. Where the autonomous status is continued beyond six years, there shall be a periodical review at the end of each unit of six years. It shall be necessary for all such colleges to send annual self-evaluation reports to the University regularly.
- viii. In addition, the University shall have the right to review the functioning of an autonomous college as and when deemed necessary.

#### 4.4 Freedom Available for Autonomous Colleges:

Autonomous Colleges shall be free to:

- i. Determine and prescribe its own courses of study and syllabi, and restructure and redesign the courses to suit local needs, while adopting the University pattern in general. The course contents and pattern shall be formed in such a manner as to enable considerable flexibility in the students' learning and to avoid the existing staff being rendered surplus. And under unavoidable circumstances, they shall be re-deployed.
- ii. Evolve transparent procedures and methods of assessment of students' performance, conduct of examinations and notification of results, while following the Statutes, Ordinances and Guidelines of the University pertaining to the award of the Degrees/Diplomas.
- iii. Use modern aids of educational technology to achieve higher standards and greater creativity, while arranging for instructions to students, and,
- iv. Promote healthy practices, such as, community service, extension activities, neighborhood programmes and projects for the benefit of society at large.

#### 5. GOVERNANCE OF AN AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE:

Each Autonomous College shall have the following Statutory Bodies/Committees to ensure proper management of its academic, financial and general administrative affairs.

- a. Governing Body
- b. Academic Council
- c. Board of Studies
- d. Finance Committee

The College shall, in addition, have other Committees such as Planning and Evaluation Committee, Grievance Appeal Committee, Examination Committee, Library Committee, Students Welfare Committee, Extra-Curricular Activities Committee, Academic Audit Committee and such other Committees needed for effective implementation of policies of the College.



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### 5.1 Governing Body :

The constitution of this Body shall be according to the structure given below.

#### a. Constitution of Governing Body: Private Management Aided/Un-Aided Autonomous Colleges:

Number	Category	Nature
5 members	Members of the Management	Nominated by the Trust or Management as per the constitution or Byelaws, with the Chairperson or President as the Chairperson
2 members	Teachers of the College	Nominated by the Principal based on seniority and on rotation basis
1 member	Educationist or Industrialist	Nominated by the Management
1 member	Commission Nominee	Nominated by the Commission
1 member	Council Nominee	Nominated by the Council
1 member	State Government Nominee	Academician not below the rank of Professor or State Government official of the Directorate of Technical Education/ State Council of Higher Education, nominated by the State Government
1 member	University Nominee	Nominated by the University
1 member	Principal of the College	Ex-officio Member Secretary

#### b. Governing Body: Government Autonomous College

Number	Category	Nature
3 members, one of them to be the Chairperson	Educationist, Industrialist, Professional	Nominated by the State Government. Persons of proven academic interest with at least PG level qualification
2 members	Teachers of the Colleges	Nominated by the Principal based on seniority and on rotation basis
1 member	Commission Nominee	Nominated by the Commission
1 member	Council Nominee	Nominated by the Council
1 member	State Government Nominee	Nominated by the State Government
1 member	University Nominee	Nominated by the University
1 member	Principal of the College	Ex-officio Member Secretary

#### c. Governing Body: University Constituent Autonomous College

Number	Category	Nature
3 members, one of them to be Chairperson	Educationist, Industrialist, Professional	Nominated by the University. Persons of proven academic interest with at least PG level qualification
2 members	Teachers of the Colleges	Nominated by the Principal based on seniority and on rotation basis
1 member	Commission Nominee	Nominated by the Commission
1 member	Council Nominee	Nominated by the Council
1 member	State Government Nominee	Nominated by the State Government
1 member	University Nominee	Nominated by the University
1 member	Principal of the College	Ex-officio Member Secretary

**Term of Members:** Two years, except for the Commission/ Council nominees, whose term shall be six years. The concerned Authority shall fill up any vacancy arising for any reasons whatsoever for the remaining period.

**Meetings:** At least two times a year. Quorum for the meeting shall be one half of the members. However, if there is no quorum for the meeting convened up to half an hour, then the meeting shall stand adjourned to the next convenient day fixed. In the adjourned meeting, if there is no quorum for up to half an hour, then the members present shall themselves constitute the quorum and conduct the meeting.

**Functions:** Subject to the existing provisions in the Bye-laws of respective Colleges and Rules laid down by the State Government, the Governing Body of Autonomous Colleges shall have powers to:

1. Adopt the fees and other charges payable by the students of the College as fixed by the Government / University in this regard from time to time.
2. Accept endowments, institute scholarships, fellowships, studentships, medals, prizes and certificates on the recommendation of the Academic Council.
3. Approve the starting of new programmes of study with the concurrence of the University, leading to Degrees and/ or Diplomas
4. Lay down service conditions and emoluments as per the Council norms, traveling allowances for teaching and non-teaching staff in the College, consistent with the University Statutes/ Ordinances/ Regulations/ Rules/Guidelines and other State Government provisions.
5. Lay down the procedure for selection/recruitment of teaching, non-teaching staff and for appointing them in the College, consistent with the University Statutes / Ordinances / Regulations / Rules/Guidelines.
6. Regulate and enforce discipline among the members of teaching and non-teaching staff in accordance with the Rules/ Procedures/ Guidelines laid down in this regard.
7. Invest funds belonging to the College in approved securities, as it shall, from time to time, think fit or in the purchase of immovable property.
8. Transfer or accept transfer of any movable or immovable property to the College.
9. Entertain, adjudicate upon and if thought fit, constitute a Committee to advise and/ or recommend methods to redress the grievances of staff members of the College.
10. Delegate administrative, managerial and financial powers to the Principal and other functionaries in the College for its smooth functioning.
11. Approve the Annual Report of the College, and
12. Perform such other functions and constitute Committees, as may be necessary and deemed fit for the proper development and fulfill the objectives for which the College was established.



## 5.2: Academic Council :

**Constitution:** The Academic Council shall consist of the following:

- i. Principal of the College - Chairperson
- ii. All the Heads of Department in the College - Members
- iii. Four teachers of the College representing different levels of teaching staff by rotation on the basis of seniority of service in the College to be nominated by the Principal - Members
- iv. Not less than four experts from outside the College representing such areas as Alumni, Industry, R and D labs, Technical Education to be nominated by the Governing Body -Members
- v. Three Nominees of the University -Members
- vi. A faculty member nominated by the Principal-Member Secretary.

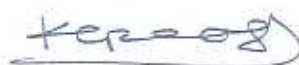
In the absence of the Principal at any meeting of the Academic Council, the Principal in-charge shall be the Chairperson of the Academic Council for that meeting..

**Term of Members:** The term of the nominated members shall be two years.

**Meetings:** The Member Secretary shall, with the approval of the Principal convene the meetings of the Academic Council at least once in a year and on such other occasions as may be necessary. He/She shall, with the approval of the Principal prepare the Agenda for the meeting. One half of the members shall constitute the quorum. However, if there is no quorum for up to half an hour, then the meeting shall stand adjourned to the next convenient day fixed. In the adjourned meeting, if there is no quorum for up to half an hour, then the members present shall themselves constitute the quorum and conduct the meeting.

**Functions:** Without prejudice to the generality of function mentioned, the Academic Council shall have powers to:

1. Scrutinize and approve the proposals, with or without modification, of the Boards of Studies with regard to courses of study, academic regulations, curricula, syllabi and modifications thereof, instructional and evaluation arrangements, methods and procedures relevant thereto, provided that where the Academic Council differs on any proposal, it shall have the right to return the matter for reconsideration to the Board of Studies concerned or reject it, after giving reasons to do so.
2. Adopt the Regulations regarding the admission of students consistent with the University/ Government norms to different programmes of study in the College.
3. Frame Regulations consistent with the University norms/ Guidelines for the conduct of examinations and initiate measures for improving the quality of teaching, students' evaluation and student advisory system in the College.
4. Approve the list of successful candidates for conferment of Degrees by the University.
5. Make provision for sports, extra-curricular activities, and for the proper maintenance and functioning of playgrounds and hostels.



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6. Recommend to the Governing Body proposals for the starting of new programmes of study at the College.
7. Recommend to the Governing Body institution of scholarships, studentships, fellowships, prizes and medals, and to frame norms for awarding of the same.
8. Advise the Governing Body on its suggestions pertaining to academic affairs.
9. Encourage the faculty members to undertake Collaborative Research, Sponsored Research, Industrial Consultancy, Continuing Education and related activities, and,
10. Perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Governing Body.

### 5.3: Boards of Studies:

**Constitution:** Each Board of Studies shall consist of the following:

- i. Head of the Department concerned –Chairperson
- ii. At least five faculty members at different levels, covering different specialization to be nominated by the Academic Council – Members
- iii. Two subject Experts from outside the College, to be nominated by the Academic Council –Members
- iv. One Expert from outside the College to be nominated by the Vice Chancellor from a panel of six recommended by the Principal of the College - Member
- v. One representative from industry/ corporate sector/ allied area relating to placement, to be nominated by the Academic Council- Member
- vi. One postgraduate meritorious alumnus, to be nominated by the Principal- Member

The Chairperson, Board of Studies, may with the approval of the Principal of the College, co-opt as Members:

- (a) Experts from outside the College, whenever special courses of studies are to be formulated;
- (b) Other members of staff of the same faculty;

The Governing Body of the College, in consultation with the Academic Council, shall have the power to constitute such number of Boards of Studies as it deems fit, keeping in view the types of courses/ subjects offered. In addition, there shall be a Joint Board of Studies to be chaired by the Principal with the Chairpersons of all the Boards of Studies as Members.

**Term of Members:** The term of the nominated Members shall be two years.

**Meetings:** The Principal of the College shall draw up the schedule for meetings of the Boards of Studies for different Departments. The meeting shall be scheduled as and when necessary, but at least once a year. One half of the members shall form the quorum for a meeting. The Joint Board of Studies shall also meet once in a year to discuss common academic issues.



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**Functions:** The Board of Studies of a Department shall

1. Prepare syllabi for various courses, keeping in view the objectives of the College, interest of the stakeholders and the State/National requirements, for the consideration and approval of the Academic council;
2. Suggest methodologies for innovative teaching, learning and evaluation techniques;
3. Suggest panel of names of experts to the Academic Council, for appointment as Examiners,
4. Coordinate research, teaching, extension and other academic activities in the Departments; and
5. Any other functions that may be assigned by the Academic Council.

#### **5.4: Finance Committee:**

The Finance Committee shall advise the Governing Body on all matters connected with the finances of the College. The constitution of the Finance Committee shall be as given below:

#### **Constitution:**

- a. Principal of the College - Chairperson;
- b. One member of the Governing Body, to be nominated by its Chairperson - Member;
- c. One senior Faculty of the College, to be nominated on rotation by the Principal - Member
- d. Officer in-charge of Finance- - Secretary.

**Term of Members:** The term of nominated Members shall be two years.

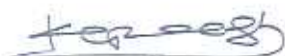
**Meetings:** The Finance Committee shall meet at least twice a year. One half of the members shall form the quorum for a meeting.

**Functions:** The Finance Committee shall consider the budget estimates relating to the grants received/receivable from the Commission/Council/ Government/other agencies and income from fees collected for the activities to undertake the scheme of autonomy and the Audited Accounts for the above.

## **6. GENERAL MATTERS:**

### **6.1 Starting of New Courses:**

- a. An Autonomous College shall be free to start Diploma (undergraduate and postgraduate) or Certificate courses without the prior approval of the University. Diplomas and Certificates shall be issued under the seal of the College.



- b. An Autonomous College shall be free to make changes in their Scheme of instruction, curricula and syllabi of its existing Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes with the approval of the Academic Council of the College. Such courses shall fulfill the minimum standards prescribed by the University / Commission/Council in terms of number of hours, curricular content and standards, and the University shall be duly informed of such proceedings.
- c. An Autonomous College shall also be eligible to start new programmes of study at Undergraduate and Postgraduate levels, with the approval of the University and the Council.
- d. The University shall have the right to review all the new courses of an Autonomous College. Where there is evidence of decline in standards or quality, the University may, after careful scrutiny, and in consultation with the Commission and the Council, either help modify them, wherever possible, or cancel such courses.

## 6.2: Examination System:

6.2.1: In order to ensure high academic standard of the Autonomous College and to avoid victimization by either teachers or students of any group, there shall be various alternatives to the internal examination system. Both internal and external examiners shall evaluate students' performance in the examinations.

### 6.2.2: Board of Examiners:

The Principal in consultation with the Academic Council shall constitute the Board of Examiners for the programme. Each Board shall be responsible for all matters connected with planning and conduct of examinations and evaluation. The Board shall also have powers to review and finalize the examination results and to take remedial measures wherever considered necessary. The Board shall analyze the performances of students and report its findings to the Academic Council and the Governing Body for their consideration and necessary action, if any.

The Board of Examiners may appoint Sub-Committees to assist in discharge of its functions.

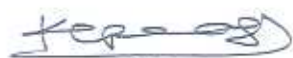
## 6.3: Award of Degrees through the University:

Every Autonomous College shall hold its own Graduation Ceremony after completing the prescribed period of the programme of study to confer the Degrees/ Diplomas/Certificates on the students who have been certified to have passed the concerned examinations. Such Degrees shall be issued by the University bearing the seal and signature of the Vice Chancellor with the mention of the name of the concerned Autonomous College.

The students of Autonomous Colleges shall be eligible for ranks, medals, prizes etc., awarded by the concerned Colleges only and not of the University.

The Autonomous Colleges shall be free to institute medals for meritorious students. The value and other terms shall be decided with the approval of appropriate Bodies in the College.

The University shall award Degrees to the students evaluated and recommended by each Autonomous College. The Degree Certificates shall be in a common format devised by the University. The name of the College shall be mentioned in the Degree Certificate.





Autonomous Colleges that have completed three units of six year terms shall be free confer the Degrees under their title with the seal of the University.

#### 6.4: Other Matters:

##### 6.4.1: Staff Council:

There shall be a Staff Council in the Autonomous College, consisting of all the teaching staff as members and the Principal as Chairperson. The Staff Council shall meet at least twice in a semester to discuss the academic issues and bring their proposals, if any, to the notice of the Governing Body of the College.

##### 6.4.2: Board of Appointments:

The Governing Body shall appoint well qualified teachers on the recommendation of a Board of Appointments duly constituted by it for every subject. The Board shall consist of:

- a. Chairperson of the Governing Body - Chairperson
- b. One Nominee of the University - Member
- c. One Nominee of the SC/ST/OBC nominated by the Vice Chancellor  
-Member
- d. One Nominee of the Council - Member
- e. Two subject Experts of the rank of Professor from outside the College, nominated by the Principal from the Panel approved by the Academic Council  
- Members
- f. Principal - Member Secretary

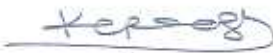
The posts shall be widely advertised as per the University/Government policies and the qualifications shall be as laid down by the Council/ University, from time to time .

##### 6.4.3: Miscellaneous Matters:

1. The admission of students to courses of studies offered by the Autonomous College shall fulfill the minimum qualifications laid down by the University/ Council for the course of study concerned, subject to Rules of reservation for candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Backward Classes as laid down by the State Government from time to time.
2. Copies of the proceedings of the Academic council and the Governing Body shall be sent to the University within four weeks of the meeting for information and record.
3. Organization of special need-based short-term courses under Continuing Education programmes of the College shall be an important activity of the Autonomous Colleges. Such courses shall be planned to benefit the students/staff of the Colleges, besides outsiders who may enroll for them.
4. The time spent by teachers on Collaborative/Sponsored Research projects and extension work shall be counted for reckoning their workload, as prescribed by the University/Council.



5. An Autonomous College shall prepare a calendar for meetings of various Bodies to ensure that the implementation of the recommendations made by them is not unduly delayed for reasons of non-convening of such meetings.
6. A wide variety of courses may be evolved in modules, so that students may opt for them according to their convenience. Such courses may help them acquire additional credits.
7. All Autonomous Colleges shall carry out continuous assessment of students' work during each semester.
8. Teacher evaluation in Autonomous Colleges shall include periodical self-evaluation, institutional assessment of teachers' performance, students' feedback and research appraisal and other suitable forms of teaching appraisals.
9. Autonomous Colleges in a given region may explore networking opportunities for mutual benefit by taking up cooperation / collaboration in chosen areas such as management skills, National service, service projects, inter-collegiate/intra-collegiate sharing of expertise and human resource for teaching and evaluation processes.
10. Choice Based Credit System and credit transfer among Colleges in general and Autonomous Colleges in particular shall be suitably adopted.




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Chancellor