

Minutes of the Meeting

31st Meeting of the Executive Council (EC)

Held on: 20-09-2025 (Saturday) at 9.30 am.

Venue: Conference Hall, MGR Auditorium, HITS Campus.

Hon'ble Chancellor Dr. Anand Jacob Verghese presided over the meeting. Members Present:

S. No.	Name of the Member	Designation	Position
1.	Dr. Ashok George Verghese	Pro-Chancellor	Patron
2.	Dr. Aby Sam	Executive Director	Member
3.	Dr. Susan Verghese	Director, Hindustan College of Arts and Science, Padur, Chennai.	Member
4.	Mr. Enid Verghese Jacob	Deputy Director	Member
5.	Dr. S Ganesan	Vice-Chancellor (Interim)	Chairperson
6.	Dr. Rajeev Ahuja	Director, IIT Ropar, Rupnagar, Punjab.	External Expert Member
7.	Dr. C. Emmanuel	Director, Academic and Research, Gleneagles Global Health City, Chennai.	External Expert Member
8.	Dr. C. Kezi Selva Vijila	Controller of Examinations	Member
9.	Dr. Angelina Geetha	Dean, Academics	Member
10.	Ms. P. C. Devisree	HOD & Associate Professor, SPADE	Member
11.	Dr. David T. Easow	Head, Christian Studies	Member
12.	Dr. Muthukumar Subramanian	Registrar	Ex-Officio Secretary
13.	Dr. N Alagumurthi	Head, Dept. of Mechanical Engg., Puducherry Technological University, Puducherry.	UGC Nominee

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Leave of absence granted to the following members:

S.No.	Name of member	Designation
1	Dr. Annie Jacob	Director, KCG College of Technology, Karapakkam, Chennai.
2	Dr. V. N. Rajasekharan Pilla	Former UGC Chairman & Former Vice Chancellor of IGNOU.

1. Welcome address by the Vice-Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor - Interim Dr. S. Ganesan welcomed Hon'ble Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor, Management members, External Members Dr. Rajeeva Ahuja, Director IIT Ropar, Dr. C. Emmanuel, Director, Gleneagles Global Health City, Chennai, Dr. N Alagumuthi, Head, Dept. of Mechanical Engg., Puducherry Technological University, Puducherry, UGC Nominee and other council members to the 31st Meeting of the Executive Council.

The Vice-Chancellor briefed the attendees on the meeting's agenda.

2. Address by the Hon'ble Chancellor.

Hon'ble Chancellor extended a warm welcome to the members of the Executive Council (EC).

Thanking the past members who completed their terms, Dr. S. P. Thyagarajan, Former Vice Chancellor of Madras University, and Dr. S. N. Hegde, Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore, for their significant contributions to the Executive Council meetings and providing various strategic plans for the development of the University and for the smooth functioning, and also further thanked Dr. S. N. Sridhara, ex-Vice Chancellor, and Dr. R.W. Alexander Jesudasan, Pro Vice Chancellor.

Chancellor welcome the Chief Guest, H.E. Alem Tsehaye Woldermariam, Ambassador of Eritrea and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, India, and Mr. Rajesh Nambiar, NASSCOM President and followed by Dr. Abraham Varughese, Director, Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), and Dr. C. Emmanuel, Director, Academic and Research, Gleneagles Global Health City, Chennai for the 16th Convocation.

The Chancellor informed that the Institution deems it a great honour to offer Doctor Honoris Causa (Honorary Doctorate) every year to renowned persons with National and International recognition.

During the last Convocation (15th), the distinguished personalities, Nobel Laureate Sir Andre Konstantin Geim, were the chief guests, Mr. Nambi Narayanan, Former Aerospace Scientist, and Dr. Veeramuthuvel Palanivel, Director of Chandrayan-3 mission, ISRO, were honored with Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa).



For this year Convocation (16th), H.E.Alem Tsehaye Woldermariam, Ambassador of Eritrea and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, India, and Mr. Rajesh Nambiar, NASSCOM President, Dr. Abraham Varughese, Director, Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) under the DRDO, and Dr. C. Emmanuel, Director, Academic and Research, Gleneagles Global Health City, Chennai, are to be honored with Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) in the 16th Convocation ceremony. He welcomed the council members to grace the 16th Convocation function.

The Chancellor informed that Dr. S Ganesan was appointed as Vice Chancellor-in-charge in place of Dr. N Sridhara, as of 30th Jun 2025, and ratified the resolution. Further, he had conveyed that the next two days, the Vice Chancellor interview will be conducted by the Search Committee as per the UGC guidelines and norms, consisting of distinguished personalities and a UGC nominee.

3. Confirmation of minutes of the 30th Meeting of the Executive Council held on 14-09-2024.

The Registrar presented the minutes of the 30th Meeting of the Executive Council held on 14-09-2024, which were circulated to all the members.

The Registrar highlighted the following items approved by the members.

- a. The proposed list of Programmes introduced both on-campus and off-campus in AY 2025-26.
- b. Students' Intake for the respective programmes is placed.
- c. Cluster the Schools and Departments and rename SAHS TO SoHS:

 The School of Liberal Arts and Applied Sciences (SLAAS) has been divided into two schools as given below.
 - i. School of Liberal & Creative Arts (SLiCA)
 Departments: Economics / Political Science / Languages / Fashion Design / Visual Communication / Fine Arts / Social Work / Christian Studies / Commerce.
 - ii. School of Basic and Applied Sciences (SBAS)

 Departments: Mathematics / Physics / Chemistry / Computer Science /
 Computer Applications / Food Technology / Psychology / Physical Education /
 Aviation Science.

and

iii. The School of Allied Health Sciences (SAHS) has been renamed as the **School of Health Sciences (SoHS)** with the following Schools / Departments.



- Department of Pharmacy
- College of Nursing
- Departments: Physiotherapy / Optometry / Allied Health Sciences.

The Minutes were confirmed by the members.

4. Confirmation of Action Taken Report on the 30th Meeting of the Board of Management held on 14-09-2024.

The Registrar presented the ATR where new courses were an Honors in Drone Technology, UAV courses including UAV & Design principles, Aerodynamics, Path Planning, and related courses mentioned in detail at the ATR report.

Thrust areas identification, like AI/ML applications, Renewable energy, and Biomedical devices. An IPR awareness program was conducted, and to set up a Product development committee to evaluate the feasibility, scalability, and societal impact of filed patents.

The ATR was confirmed by the members.

5. Items for ratification:

Outgoing Vice Chancellor's resignation – Dr. S. N. Sridhara served as Vice Chancellor for 4 years and 6 months. He has resigned due to health reasons and was relieved on 30th June 2025. Interim Vice Chancellor appointment – Dr. S. Ganesan, Dean, School of Basic and Applied Sciences, took over as Vice Chancellor – Interim on 1st July 2025.

These items are approved by the members.

6. Items for approval:

a. Award of Degrees at the 16th Convocation ceremony scheduled on 20-09-2025.

Vice Chancellor (Interim) to sign on degree certificates and award the Ph.D., P.G., and U.G. degrees, including Rank holders, in the place of the Vice Chancellor.

This is approved by the members.

b. COE presented the list of Ph.Ds., P.G., and U.G. degrees under various faculties of the University.

Sl. No.	School Name	UG Graduand	PG Graduand	Total
1	SET	717	32	749
2	SPADE	109	19	128
3	SBAS	384	235	619
4	SLiCA	139	10	149
5	SOHS	16	0	16
6	SOL	59	6	65
7	SOM	106	285	391



	Total	1530	587	2117
8	PhD			57
9	CODE	23	287	310
10	Supplementary*			48
				2532

- A. Vice Chancellor Interim remembered that during the last year, 15th Convocation, a total of 1598 Students were awarded, including Ph.D., P.G., and U.G. degrees.
- B. Award of Honoris Causa to eminent personalities at 16th Convocation.
- C. The Vice-Chancellor moved the resolution to award the Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) to the following personalities: -
 - 1. **H.E. Alem Tsehaye Woldermariam,** Ambassador of Eritrea and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, India
 - 2. Mr. Rajesh Nambiar, NASSCOM President,
 - 3. **Dr. Abraham Varughese**, Director, Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) under the DRDO
 - 4. **Dr. C. Emmanuel,** Director, Academic and Research, Gleneagles Global Health City, Chennai

The Council members approved the above items and also the issuance of degrees to 2,532 (Two Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty-Two) graduands.

c. Faculty members appointed for various schools for the AY 2025-26.

The Registrar presented the list of 81 (Eighty-One) faculty members appointed for the current academic year 2025-26, including the vacancy of resigned members citing health reasons.

The Council members approved the faculty recruitments for the AY 2025-26.

d. Minutes of the Meeting

i. The Registrar presented the minutes of the 42nd Meeting of the Academic Council held on 26-10-2024 and the 43rd Meeting of the Academic Council held on 21-06-2025.

These Minutes were approved by the Executive Council members.

7. Any other items with the permission of the Chair.

Dr. S Ganesan, Vice Chancellor – Interim, welcomed Dr. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Academic External Expert and Former UGC Chairman & Former Vice Chancellor of IGNOU and Vice-Chancellor of Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai; Dr. N Alagumurthi, Head, Dept. of Mechanical Engg., Puducherry Technological University, Puducherry, as UGC Nominee.



Dr. S Ganesan, Vice Chancellor – Interim, introduces Dr. Angelina Geetha, *Dean Academics*; Dr. David T. Easow, *Head, Christian Studies*; Dr. C. Kezi Selva Vijila, *COE*; Ms. P. C. Devisree, *HoD, SPADE; and* newly inducted members to the council.

The recent inauguration of the **Cyber Physical Systems Laboratory** (CPSL), in partnership with **iHub - AwaDH**, **IIT Ropar**, National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), DST, Government of India, and TANCAM, was notified to the members.

One more initiative for the benefit of the students, where the MoU was signed with the Tamil Nadu Centre of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing (TANCAM), Spoke Centre.

Dr. S Ganesan, Vice Chancellor – Interim, conveyed that for the AY 2024-25, Scholarships were issued to 6419 Students, amounting to Rs 49 Crores.

Dr. Susan Verghese enquired about the status of the Off-Campus courses starting date. The Registrar conveyed that the details have already been submitted to UGC, and we are following up for further updates.

Dr N Alagumurthi, UGC Nominee, shared some of the suggestions related to

- i. Suggested to mention the UGC Act/Rules related to the Vice Chancellor's Interim appointment.
- ii. Also, he suggested that Faculty recruitment needs to be considered from 1st July to 30th June as an Academic Year. If any faculty leaves the Institution in between, their services will not be counted for NBA Audits or NIRF rankings. Hence, suggested to manage both Recruitments/Exits in line with the Academic Year.
- iii. He indicated that the HITS website needs to be updated with the latest information.

Dr. Muthukumar Subramanian Registrar