



Report on Common Minimum Course Program (CMCP)

Date- 11th October 2024

Venue- Conference Room, UTU Administration

Total no. of Participants- Approx 20

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On October 11, 2024, Provost Dr. Yogeshwar Kosta held a meeting at Hon'ble to address the creation of the Common Minimum Course Program (CMCP). The minutes of the meeting were prepared by Ms. Garima Ajayae. This initiative aims to enhance UTU's academic offerings and ensure they meet industry standards. The recent meeting came on the heels of an initial briefing and a personal interaction session conducted three days earlier. The discussions centered on strategies aimed at bridging skill gaps among students and promoting a digitally literate and technically adept student population. The CMCP is set to launch initially within the ICT Department, with plans for its eventual rollout to additional programs such as engineering, computer applications, and possibly management and commerce. In light of the increasing demand for digital literacy and essential programming skills as outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP), Dr. Kosta emphasized the significance of the CMCP in pinpointing key competencies within ICT that could enhance the educational experience for university students.

The establishment of CMCP arises from noticeable gaps in programming skills and digital literacy among students. This issue is particularly pronounced among those with minimal exposure to digital devices and insufficient foundational knowledge in programming, which are essential competencies in today's educational landscape. The CMCP seeks to unify resources to improve

teaching effectiveness and efficiency, utilizing English as the main language of instruction. A new structured course design framework, known as the Content Anatomy and Design Aspects, has been introduced to steer the curriculum development process. The framework consists of four distinct segments: foundational knowledge imparted by educators, skill development overseen by technicians, applied practices guided by technocrats, and advanced proficiency refined by domain consultants. The implementation of these foundational principles is set to establish a standardized curriculum across all departments, aiming to promote consistent and high-quality instruction.

The CMCP course will utilize only digital resources, including research databases and periodicals, completely foregoing traditional textbooks. The transition to a fully digital platform is set to enable departments to provide content that aligns with their specific expertise, thereby enhancing students' comprehension of various subject areas. The curriculum is divided into two segments: Segment 1 introduces fundamental principles as instructed by educators, whereas Segment 2 emphasizes the development of technical skills, necessitating the involvement of specialized faculty for research and development initiatives. The framework mandates that departments forge collaborations with 20 industry firms for each specialization, organized into key focus areas such as Information & Communication Technology (ICT), data, machine learning, and quantum computing. The program will feature a comprehensive directory of industry contacts available to students, including positions such as CEO, Vice President of Technology, and various other executive roles, aimed at enhancing the educational experience with a focus on industry relevance.

A recent analysis of student engagement has shown that merely a small fraction, around 5%, exhibit a significant interest in research and design disciplines. The institution aims to address the needs of the majority, with specific targets set at 75% of students securing employment in the manufacturing sector and 20% in sales and development roles. The Provost underscored the necessity of

developing a curriculum that connects the foundational skills of Segment 1 with the technical applications found in Segment 2, thereby improving employability prospects for students. UTU is set to conduct a survey among third-year students to evaluate their preferences in research, production, and sales. The findings will be utilized to enhance the curriculum, ensuring it aligns with the career aspirations of the students.

Concerns have arisen regarding retention in workplace placements, as students frequently depart from organizations soon after being hired. This trend poses a potential threat to the university's standing with recruiters. The CMCP is set to deliver specialized course content focused on design, development, and sales, aiming to meet the expectations of both students and employers. The institution plans to implement a segmented curriculum aimed at equipping students with essential attributes such as credibility, employability, and saleability, which are increasingly vital in today's competitive job market. The course content is designed to be accessible and well-structured, ensuring a thorough understanding. Faculty members will guide students through a systematic learning pipeline, progressing from fundamental principles to advanced expertise.

The Provost highlighted the importance of practical training and industrial exposure as essential components of the CMCP. Faculty members are set to participate in a compulsory 10-day training and certification program every six months, aimed at keeping them updated with industry practices and improving their instructional capabilities for students. Students will undergo industrial training lasting at least 60 hours, divided between university settings and actual industry environments. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with participating companies will guarantee a structured engagement throughout the process. The partnership, which combines faculty development with student internships, seeks to prepare UTU graduates with the essential skills needed for a smooth transition into the workforce.

The fourth segment concerning salability within the CMCP outlines provisions that enable students to engage with real-world challenges through consultancy projects. An annual Technical Assistance Forum Day is set to take place, providing students with the opportunity to showcase their innovative research while gaining valuable insights from industry professionals. The initiative aims to build relationships with both local and regional businesses, designating around 15-20% of placements for Class A corporations and 60-70% for competitive local firms. The university is working to establish a cohesive network that integrates emotional engagement with technical proficiency, a strategic move to enhance UTU's presence in both the local and wider industrial landscape.

A collaborative effort involving faculty and students from UTU, alongside senior alumni and industry connections within a 50-kilometer radius, is set to be organized to propel the CMCP initiative forward. Every department has been assigned the responsibility of choosing at least four project designs and prototypes aimed at improving the hands-on learning experience. Furthermore, the initiative aims to promote PhD enrollment among industry professionals, fostering a robust connection between academia and industry, which in turn will establish a pathway for future job placements. A committed team of six proficient students will spearhead the research and production efforts, guaranteeing that the university cultivates future leaders equipped with a solid understanding of both academic and industrial benchmarks.

The CMCP signifies a notable transition from a conventional project-based framework to a product-focused strategy, designed to cultivate faculty as "builders" equipped with consultative skills. Faculty members are urged to take advantage of training opportunities offered through UTU, which will not only boost their visibility but also contribute to the enhancement of UTU's academic

reputation. The initiative is in line with the university's NAAC accreditation objectives, bolstering e-governance and enhancing institutional credibility.

The program mandates that each department head form a team and organize regular meetings to guarantee ongoing progress and alignment. The CMCP aims to facilitate professional development by strategically aligning students with designated roles in 20 carefully chosen companies. The meeting wrapped up with a pledge to synchronize UTU's academic framework with the needs of a swiftly changing job market, aiming to establish the university as a frontrunner in skill-based education and industry collaboration.

