VELS INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ADVANCED STUDIES (VISTAS)

UNIVERSITY ETHICAL COMMITTEE (NON-RESEARCH)

MINUTES OF THE TENTH MEETING

Meeting No.: UEC/10/2024-25
Academic Year: 2024–2025

Date

16 April 2025

Time

11.00 A.M.

Venue

MGR Block

Chairperson

Member Secretary

Members Present

The Chairperson welcomed all members to the Tenth Meeting of the University Ethical Committee (Non-Research). The quorum being present, the meeting commenced. The Member Secretary presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) of the previous meeting, highlighting the successful implementation of cyber security awareness programmes, digital ethics workshops, AI ethics orientation sessions, and data protection initiatives across the University.

Agenda

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ninth Meeting.
2. Review of the Action Taken Report (ATR).
3. Review of Green Campus initiatives implemented across the University.
4. Discussion on Environmental Ethics and Sustainable Development.
5. Review of Energy Conservation, Water Management, and Renewable Energy initiatives.
6. Evaluation of Waste Management, Plastic-Free Campus, and Recycling practices.
7. Promotion of Green Audit, Environmental Awareness, and Sustainable Campus Activities.

8. Review of institutional contribution towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
9. Alignment with **NAAC**, **NIRF**, **IQAC**, Green Audit, Environmental Audit, and **QS World University Rankings**.
10. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.

Proceedings of the Meeting

The Chairperson emphasized that environmental sustainability is an integral component of ethical governance and institutional responsibility. Members agreed that higher educational institutions have a significant role in promoting environmental awareness, sustainable resource utilization, and responsible citizenship among students and employees.

The Committee reviewed the Green Campus initiatives undertaken during the academic year, including tree plantation drives, campus landscaping, energy-efficient lighting, rainwater harvesting, water conservation measures, paperless administration, digital documentation, and eco-friendly campus practices. Members appreciated the active participation of students, faculty members, NSS volunteers, and administrative staff in these initiatives.

The Committee deliberated on Environmental Ethics and emphasized the need to integrate environmental responsibility into teaching-learning processes, extension activities and community engagement programmes. Departments were encouraged to organize seminars, workshops, awareness campaigns, and environmental education programmes to promote ecological responsibility among students.

The Estate and Maintenance Department presented a report on Energy Conservation initiatives. Members reviewed the installation of LED lighting systems, preventive maintenance of electrical equipment, optimization of air-conditioning systems, and energy-saving practices adopted across the campus. The Committee recommended exploring renewable energy sources such as rooftop solar power systems to further reduce the University's carbon footprint.

The Committee also reviewed Water Management practices, including rainwater harvesting systems, wastewater recycling, efficient irrigation methods, leak prevention measures, and responsible water utilization. Members emphasized the importance of conserving water resources through regular awareness campaigns and monitoring mechanisms.

The Waste Management report was presented, highlighting segregation of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, biomedical waste disposal, e-waste management, recycling practices, composting initiatives, and plastic-free campus campaigns. Members recommended strengthening source-level waste segregation and organizing periodic environmental cleanliness drives involving students and faculty.

The Committee discussed the Green Audit and Environmental Audit conducted by the University. Members appreciated the systematic assessment of environmental performance

and recommended periodic audits to monitor improvements in energy efficiency, waste reduction, biodiversity conservation, water management, and sustainable infrastructure.

The Chairperson emphasized that environmental sustainability contributes significantly to institutional excellence and international recognition. Members agreed that Green Campus initiatives, environmental stewardship, and sustainable institutional practices directly support institutional performance under **NAAC**, **NIRF**, **IQAC**, Green Audit, Environmental Audit, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and **QS World University Rankings**.

Resolutions Passed

The Committee unanimously resolved to:

1. Strengthen Green Campus initiatives across all Schools and Departments.
2. Promote Environmental Ethics through curriculum integration, awareness programmes, and community outreach.
3. Enhance Energy Conservation and Water Management practices throughout the University campus.
4. Implement comprehensive Waste Management, Recycling, E-Waste Management, and Plastic-Free Campus initiatives.
5. Conduct annual Green Audit and Environmental Audit to monitor institutional sustainability.
6. Encourage renewable energy projects and sustainable infrastructure development.
7. Organize regular environmental awareness programmes involving students, faculty, and staff.
8. Align environmental sustainability initiatives with **NAAC**, **NIRF**, **IQAC**, Green Audit, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and **QS World University Rankings**.

Action Points

Sl. No.	Action Item	Responsibility	Timeline
1	Organize Green Campus awareness programmes	NSS Unit & IQAC	Every Semester
2	Conduct annual Green Audit and Environmental Audit	Green Campus Committee	Annually

Sl. No.	Action Item	Responsibility	Timeline
3	Strengthen waste segregation and recycling practices	Estate Office & Housekeeping	Continuous
4	Promote rainwater harvesting and water conservation measures	Engineering & Maintenance Department	Continuous
5	Prepare a roadmap for renewable energy implementation	Estate Office	July 2025
6	Submit environmental sustainability reports	IQAC & Green Campus Committee	Every Semester

Expected Outcomes

The Committee expects the following outcomes:

- Enhanced environmental awareness and ethical responsibility among students, faculty, and staff.
- Improved campus sustainability through efficient utilization of natural resources.
- Reduction in energy consumption, water wastage, and environmental pollution.
- Effective implementation of waste segregation, recycling, biomedical waste management, and e-waste disposal.
- Strengthened Green Campus culture supporting environmental conservation and sustainable development.
- Improved institutional documentation supporting environmental compliance and quality assurance.
- Enhanced institutional performance under **NAAC**, **NIRF**, **IQAC**, Green Audit, Environmental Audit, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and **QS World University Rankings**.

Conclusion

The Chairperson appreciated the active participation of all members and emphasized that environmental sustainability is both an ethical obligation and a strategic priority for the University. Members unanimously resolved to continue strengthening Green Campus initiatives and integrating sustainable practices into academic, administrative, and extension activities to support long-term institutional excellence. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by the Member Secretary.

Prepared by

Member Secretary

Reviewed and Approved by

Chairperson

Date: 16 April 2025