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

UNIVERSITY ETHICAL COMMITTEE (NON-RESEARCH)

MINUTES OF THE TENTH MEETING

Meeting No.: UEC/10/2025-26
Academic Year: 2025–2026

Date

15 April 2026

Time

11.00 A.M.

Venue

Board Room, Administrative 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 and informed the Committee that Digital Citizenship programmes, Cyber Security awareness campaigns, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics workshops, Information Security audits, and Data Protection awareness sessions had been successfully conducted across the University.

Agenda

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ninth Meeting.
2. Review of the Action Taken Report (ATR).
3. Review of Environmental Sustainability initiatives across the University.
4. Discussion on Green Campus initiatives and sustainable institutional practices.
5. Evaluation of Resource Conservation measures including energy, water, and paper management.
6. Review of Waste Management, Recycling, and Plastic-Free Campus initiatives.
7. Discussion on Climate Responsibility, Carbon Footprint Reduction, and Environmental Awareness.

8. Strengthening Environmental Ethics through education, and community participation.
9. Alignment with **NAAC**, **NIRF**, **IQAC**, Green Audit, Energy Audit, Environmental Audit, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 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 both an institutional responsibility and an ethical commitment. Members agreed that universities play a significant role in promoting environmental stewardship, sustainable resource management, climate responsibility, and ecological awareness through education,

administration, and community engagement.

The Committee reviewed the **Green Campus Initiatives** implemented during the academic year. Reports indicated the successful conduct of campus tree plantation drives, biodiversity conservation programmes, herbal garden maintenance, landscaping activities, rainwater harvesting, campus cleanliness campaigns, and Green Day celebrations. Members appreciated the University's continued efforts to maintain an environmentally sustainable campus.

The Committee reviewed measures adopted for **Resource Conservation**, including electricity conservation, water management, paperless administration, digital documentation, energy-efficient lighting, sensor-based electrical systems, and responsible utilization of institutional resources. Members recommended expanding digital workflows to minimize paper consumption and improving awareness among students and staff regarding resource conservation.

The Committee discussed **Waste Management** practices adopted across the campus. Reports highlighted effective segregation of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, biomedical waste disposal, e-waste management, laboratory waste disposal, recycling initiatives, composting activities, and plastic reduction campaigns. Members appreciated the University's compliance with environmental regulations and recommended strengthening awareness programmes on responsible waste disposal and recycling.

The Committee reviewed the outcomes of the **Green Audit**, **Energy Audit**, and **Environmental Audit** conducted during the year. Members examined audit observations relating to energy efficiency, water consumption, carbon emissions, renewable energy utilization, campus biodiversity, and waste reduction practices. It was recommended that departments implement audit recommendations through measurable action plans and periodic monitoring.

The Committee discussed institutional efforts to address **Climate Responsibility**, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, encouraging sustainable transportation, promoting

renewable energy, minimizing single-use plastics, improving water conservation, and integrating environmental sustainability into academic curricula. Members also encouraged faculty to undertake interdisciplinary research on climate change, environmental protection, renewable energy technologies, and sustainable development.

The Committee emphasized the importance of integrating **Environmental Ethics** into teaching, extension activities, NSS programmes, student clubs, and community outreach. Members recommended organizing awareness campaigns on environmental laws, biodiversity conservation, sustainable lifestyles, climate action, and responsible citizenship involving students, faculty, alumni, and local communities.

The Chairperson highlighted that environmental sustainability and Green Campus initiatives are major quality indicators under **NAAC**, **NIRF**, **IQAC**, Green Audit, Energy Audit, Environmental Audit, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and **QS World University Rankings**. Members emphasized maintaining comprehensive documentation of plantation drives, environmental awareness programmes, audit reports, energy conservation measures, waste management records, and sustainability initiatives for accreditation, ranking, and institutional quality enhancement.

Resolutions Passed

The Committee unanimously resolved to:

1. Strengthen Green Campus initiatives across all Schools and Departments.
2. Promote environmental sustainability through resource conservation and responsible institutional practices.
3. Enhance waste management, recycling, biomedical waste disposal, and plastic-free campus initiatives.
4. Implement the recommendations of the Green Audit, Energy Audit, and Environmental Audit.
5. Promote climate responsibility through renewable energy, carbon footprint reduction, and sustainable transportation initiatives.
6. Integrate Environmental Ethics into academic programmes, NSS, and extension programmes.
7. Maintain systematic documentation of sustainability initiatives, environmental audits, and compliance reports.
8. Align all environmental sustainability initiatives with **NAAC**, **NIRF**, **IQAC**, Green Audit, Energy Audit, Environmental Audit, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and **QS World University Rankings**.

Action Points

Sl. No.	Action Item	Responsibility	Timeline
1	Organize campus-wide environmental awareness programmes	NSS Unit & IQAC	Every Semester
2	Conduct Green Audit, Energy Audit, and Environmental Audit	Estate Office & External Auditors	Annual
3	Implement resource conservation measures across all departments	Estate Office & Heads of Schools	Continuous
4	Strengthen waste segregation, recycling, and e-waste management systems	Estate Office & Environmental Committee	Continuous
5	Submit annual sustainability and environmental compliance reports	Member Secretary	June 2026

Expected Outcomes

The Committee expects the following outcomes:

- Strengthened Green Campus culture and environmental responsibility across the University.
- Improved resource conservation through efficient use of energy, water, and paper.
- Effective waste management, recycling, and plastic-free campus implementation.
- Reduced environmental impact through sustainable institutional practices.
- Increased awareness among students and staff regarding climate responsibility and environmental ethics.
- Comprehensive documentation supporting accreditation, environmental compliance, quality assurance, and institutional rankings.
- Enhanced institutional performance under **NAAC**, **NIRF**, **IQAC**, Green Audit, Energy Audit, Environmental Audit, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and **QS World University Rankings**.

Conclusion

The Chairperson appreciated the valuable contributions made by all members and emphasized that environmental sustainability is a shared responsibility requiring active participation from every stakeholder. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening Green Campus initiatives, promoting environmental ethics, and integrating sustainable practices into academic, administrative, and community engagement 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: 15 April 2026