

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING (EC)
[First under UGC 2023 Regulations/MoA]

Date: 29th September 2025, Monday
Time: 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM; Location: Amritapuri

MEMBERS

- Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President
- Swami Ramakrishnananda Puri, Treasurer
- Prof. P. Kolandaivel, UGC Nominee
- Shri K. Srikumar, Senior Advocate & General Counsel
- Shri. Satyananda Mishra, IAS (Retd.), Executive Director
- Dr. P. Venkat Rangan, Vice Chancellor & Chair
- Dr. Maneesha V. Ramesh, Provost for Research, Innovation & International
- Dr. Prem Nair, Group Medical Director & Provost for Health Sciences
- Dr. Bipin Nair, Dean of Life Sciences
- Dr. Sasangan Ramanathan, Dean of Engineering
- Dr. Priya Nair, Faculty
- Dr. S. Lekshmi, Faculty

Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting

Attendance:

All members attended in person except **Dr. Bipin Nair**, who was permitted to participate online from Berlin.

Dr. P. Ajith Kumar, whose appointment as the Registrar and Ex-officio Secretary of the Executive Council is yet to be ratified, also attended.

Opening Remarks:

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome to all Council members by the **Vice Chancellor (VC)**, who chaired the session. The agenda focused on the **University's Governance Structure** in alignment with the **UGC Regulations, 2023**.

Guiding Principles for Governance

The Vice Chancellor outlined four guiding principles set by **The Chancellor, Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma)**:

1. **Compliance with statutory regulations.**
2. **Decision-making through Committees**, to ensure collective wisdom.

3. **Excellence as a key goal**, measured by NIRF and NAAC parameters as Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
4. **Regular audit mechanisms** to ensure optimal resource utilization and minimize wastage.

Research Governance and Pro-Vice Chancellor Re-designation

The Vice Chancellor presented the **constitution of the Research Committee** and the **re-designation of Provost Dr. Maneesha V. Ramesh as Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham**.

She will continue to lead **University-wide Research, Innovation, and International Affairs**, serving as the competent/signing authority for:

- Extramural project grant proposals and reports,
- Seed grants,
- Research-related purchases and expenditures within approved budgets,
- Postdoctoral recruitment,
- Industry-related research collaborations and funding.

Dr. Maneesha presented her credentials, and the EC unanimously approved the ratification.

Suggestions:

- Shri Satyananda Mishra recommended preparing a **detailed description of the Research Committee's initiatives and processes**.
- Prof. Kolandaivel suggested including **representatives from diverse domains** (Science, Engineering, Medicine) and external experts.
- Dr. Maneesha agreed with the above suggestions.

Appointment of Registrar

The appointment of **Dr. Ajith Kumar as Registrar (May 9, 2025)** was considered. The Council approved the ratification, subject to the submission of **credentials (qualification and experience)** as per statutory requirements.

Discussion:

Prof. Kolandaivel, Shri Satyananda Mishra, and Shri Srikumar emphasized that the **Registrar should report to the Vice Chancellor**, as per **UGC Regulation 2023, Clause 23.F.(5)**:

"The Registrar shall be directly responsible to the Vice Chancellor and work under his/her direction."

- Prof. Kolandaivel elaborated on the powers and functions of the Registrar and the Vice Chancellor under the UGC framework.

Finance Committee

The Vice Chancellor presented the **constitution of the Finance Committee** (statutory requirement). The Council ratified the appointments of:

- **Shri N. Vasudevan** as Chief Financial Advisor (CFA),
- **Shivakumar** as Finance Officer and Ex-officio Secretary.

Academic Selection & HR Committee

The Vice Chancellor proposed the **constitution of the Academic Selection & HR Committee** for campuses other than the Healthcare campus.

Key Features:

- Handles appointments of Faculty and Academic support staff.
- **Dean of Engineering, Dr. Sasangan Ramanathan**, re-designated as **Dean of Faculty and Associate Chair** of this Committee.
- Committee processes applications, interviews, and selections, forwarding files for:
 1. **Registrar (Coimbatore campus)** – for record keeping and signature.
 2. **HR Managers (other campuses)** – for record-keeping and signature purposes.

After modifications (if any), appointment letters are finalized, signed by the **Dean of Faculty**, and sent to selected candidates.

- Timeline: **2 working days**.
- Delays are escalated to the **Vice Chancellor**, who enforces the majority decision of the Selection Committee.

Healthcare campuses will continue existing recruitment procedures until revised by the EC.

Suggestions & Decisions:

- Prof. Kolandaivel recommended **co-opting external and domain experts** for each discipline.
- He further clarified that UGC mandates the **Vice Chancellor as Chair** of this Committee, with **appointments/promotions up to Associate Professor delegated to the Dean of Faculty as VC's nominee**.
- Shri Satyananda Mishra supported this view.
- Shri Srikumar confirmed that this aligns with current practice.
- **The EC unanimously approved.**

Non-Academic Staff HR Committee

- Chaired by a designated officer at each campus.
- At **Coimbatore**, the **Registrar** will be a member and one of the two signatories on appointment and promotion letters. The other signatory will be Dr. Sasangan Ramanathan.
- **EC unanimously approved.**

HR & Careers Portal Reconfiguration

The Vice Chancellor proposed restructuring the **Amrita Careers Portal and HR Office** into four divisions:

1. Non-academic Staff HR,
2. Research HR (managed by Pro-VC, Dr. Maneesha),
3. Academic Faculty & Staff HR,
4. Senior Faculty & Executive HR (Professors, Deans, Principals, Directors).

EC unanimously approved.

Registrar's Central Role

The Vice Chancellor highlighted that the **Registrar's functions are pivotal** for maintaining records and compiling extensive data required for **NIRF ranking and NAAC accreditation**. Duties and responsibilities are detailed in the **UGC Regulation 2023**.

- To be the custodian of the records, the common seal, and such other property of the institution deemed to be University as the Executive Council shall commit to his or her charge;
- To issue all notices convening meetings of the Executive Council, the Academic Council, and any Committees appointed by those authorities;
- To keep the minutes of all the meetings of the Executive Council, the Academic Council, and any Committees appointed by those authorities;
- To conduct the official correspondence between the Executive Council and the Academic Council;
- To supply to the Chancellor copies of the agenda of the meetings of the authorities of the institution deemed to be University as soon as they are issued and the minutes of such meetings;
- To represent the institution deemed to be University in suits or proceedings by or against the University, sign powers of attorney and verify pleadings or depute his or her representative for the purpose;

- To perform such other duties as may be specified in the rules of the institution deemed to be University or as may be required from time to time by the Executive Council or the Vice Chancellor, as the case may be;
- To enter into an agreement, sign documents, and authenticate records on behalf of the institution deemed to be University;
- To make arrangements to safeguard and maintain the buildings, gardens, office, canteen, cars and other vehicles, laboratories, libraries, reading rooms, equipment and other properties of the institution deemed to be University; and
- To conduct the official correspondence on behalf of the authorities of the institution deemed to be University.

Corporate & Industry Relations (CIR) for Placement

The last item on the agenda concerned **Corporate & Industry Relations (CIR) and Placement activities**.

The Vice Chancellor noted that the **Registrar has been tentatively overseeing CIR functions**. However, assigning **placement responsibilities for approximately 5,000 students** to the Registrar would constitute a **significant additional workload requiring substantial time and commitment**. This responsibility was therefore **provisionally assigned to the Registrar**, subject to further review.

Concluding Remarks

- **Shri Srikumar** emphasized that all University actions must be carried out strictly **within the regulatory framework** and that any bylaws adopted must be **fully aligned with UGC Regulations 2023**, without deviation.
- **Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri** stated that the **roles and responsibilities of all functionaries should be clearly defined** and formally circulated as **Job Descriptions (JDs)**.
- **Prof. Kolandaivel** observed that the University should proceed with the **implementation of the approved governance decisions**, and in the event of any challenges, these may be revisited and modified in the next meeting.

Closing

The meeting concluded with a formal **vote of thanks** from **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham** to: **Prof. Kolandaivel** (UGC Nominee),

- **Shri Satyananda Mishra, IAS (Retd.)**,
- **Shri Srikumar, Senior Advocate**,

followed by a prayer:

“Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu.”



EC Committee Members

Name	Designation	Signature
Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri	President	
Swami Ramakrishnananda Puri	Treasurer	
Prof. P. Kolandaivel	UGC Nominee (Former Vice Chancellor, Periyar University, awarded NAAC A++)	
Shri K. Srikumar	Senior Advocate & General Counsel	
Shri. Satyananda Mishra, IAS (Retd.)	Executive Director	
Dr. P. Venkat Rangan	Vice Chancellor	
Dr. Maneesha Sudheer	Provost	
Dr. Prem Nair	Group Medical Director & Provost, Health Sciences	
Dr. P. Ajith Kumar	Registrar	
Dr. Bipin Nair (attended through online)	Dean of Life Sciences	
Dr. Sasangan Ramanathan	Dean of Faculty	
Dr. Priya Nair	Faculty	
Dr. S. Lekshmi	Faculty	