Why does UVCE require autonomous status?

UVCE was the first engineering college established in the state of Karnataka and has produced some of the best engineers in the country in the last 100 years of its existence. But over the years, the college has been neglected. As a Government Engineering College, it has the potential to shine among the state's engineering institutions. With the students being selected only through CET, merit has never been a major concern. The vision of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar and Sir M Visvesvaraya to establish a "regional institution" for nurturing the talented students has been carried on from past 100 years, and now it should be taken ahead in a better way by making it autonomous.

In the current education world and the prevailing ecosystem, with high-quality infrastructure and proper visibility & guidance, UVCE can become an enabling environment for excellence.

The major concerns are:
- Lack of infrastructure is glaringly visible and is one of the most important problems to be tackled
- There is a severe lack of faculty. Since there are around 70 faculty positions vacant, the faculty-student ratio takes a hit.
- There are no administrative powers with the college authorities nor are there substantial financial grants. This leads to a vacuum in leadership and accountability and no finances for upgrading the physical and instructional infrastructure.
- The students lack exposure to latest technological advancements which are emerging at a very fast pace.

All the above issues can be tackled with proper planning and administrative control, which can be achieved via Autonomous status.

Vision

To transform UVCE into an autonomous institution (Centre of Excellence) for innovative technical education, R&D and international collaboration which will create the next generation of technology leaders for Karnataka and India.

Autonomous ecosystem to be planned and created

The path towards moulding leaders and innovators of tomorrow can be achieved in a creative and interdisciplinary atmosphere alone and UVCE has the potential to develop such an ecosystem for the students if it is given autonomy.

With autonomy, UVCE will have the opportunity to plan and create such a thriving and successful ecosystem and regulate and manage the finances and all other administrative matters of the institution. With autonomy, freedom to add modern inter-disciplinary courses, new learning methodologies will help in improving the reputation of UVCE, thus creating a hub for technological and research advancements.

The present administrative setup of the college needs to be modified on priority if the challenges in administration are to be tackled. A committee including government representatives, faculty, educationists and eminent alumni should be formed and should be asked to submit a feasible proposal within a fixed time frame. The academic and administration responsibilities need to be clearly defined in this proposal. The governance needs to be independently and autonomously monitored by a Governing Council constituted for the same purpose.

An action plan including timelines for fund raising, infrastructure upgrade, faculty hiring and priority areas of R&D needs to be prepared.

Next Steps

If an institution needs to thrive and create bright minds, the right environment is needed in order to propel such activities and proper planning is required for achieving these:

Short-Term Plan (Next 1 year):

- Formation of committees with experts to prepare a road map for both building the institution and also develop a curriculum as per the industry standards for the future. This needs to be time-bound.
- Create a solid foundation for the future plans - academically as well as institutionally. Take necessary measures the same.
- Building a strong alumni network to help and support the initiatives.

Long Term Plan (Next 5-year):

- Develop a vision to become the best Engineering institution in the state within a fixed time-frame.
- High-quality full-time and adjunct faculty recruitment.
- Develop plans for significant level of fund raising through endowments and donations.
- Develop an eco-system to collaborate with industries for technical collaboration and build practical applications to solve real-world problems. This will also be helpful to improve the quality standards of students.
- Plan on the real-estate, infrastructure needed and budget required to improve the standards of the college.