Minutes of the Joint Meeting of Core Groups on Student Motivation and Effective Teaching held at 4 pm on 3 April 2013

1. Summary of activities in Februaray-March 2013

   This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

   (However, the activities this semester have been

   - Panel discussion on "Teaching and Learning in Maths Courses"
   - Seminar on "Design of Effective Learning Environments" by Dr Velankar of Infosys
   - Surveys on (a) Student Motivation, and (b) Student Perceptions about specific courses, both being designed and conducted by SOM faculty + students.)

2. A panel discussion on "Why Academics?"

   Prof. N. Limaye outlined the concept of the panel discussion. The panelists would be students and faculty. The panel discussion is expected to cover importance of academics from the viewpoints of students and faculty, and touch upon various issues such as goals of engineering education, career paths of students, research and teaching as professions.

   It was decided to schedule the panel discussion in August 2013.

3. Academic code for students and faculty.

   The outline of the code circulated with the agenda was discussed. (The same is attached as Appendix I.)

   It was felt that the code would be useful for projecting the expectations and guiding principles of academic life in IITB. The form and content of the code was discussed at some length. While having two separate *parallel* codes for students and faculty would be useful, at Prof. V. Sethi's suggestion it was decided to also explore a single integrated code for both students and faculty. DMD explained that he had had some discussions with students about the code. It was decided to discuss it next with the new Gsecs of Academic Affairs.

4. Workshop on Effective Teaching.

   The workshop will include an introduction to engineering education and the components of education—learning, teaching, instructional material and assessment—and their details. It will be scheduled in the week preceding the start of next semester, i.e., around 15 July 2013.

   It was decided to implement it as a half-day activity, possibly with a follow-up advanced workshop after a gap of time. It would be conducted by IITB faculty. Prof. M. Vinjamur offered to coordinate this activity.

5. Planning the activities during April-December 2013.

   This item could not be discussed due to lack of time.

   (However, activities listed in the agenda would be planned. These include:

   - Panel discussion on "Why Academics?"
   - Panel discussions on "Teaching and Learning" in courses of 2 departments
   - Experience-sharing seminars by faculty
   - Surveys of various aspects of courses and their conduct
   - Expert seminars)

Academic Codes for Students and Faculty

Our academic environment is comprised of three segments—faculty, students, and administration. We have a complex situation where each segment of the academic environment has a set of suspicions and complaints against the other segments, and no one knows how to tackle any of them. FAC is committed to organizing dialogs on the primary issues facing us. The dialogs will involve all stake holders and will focus on understanding the reality such that further discussions aimed at proposing solutions could be planned. To seed the dialogs, we will propose some sample partial solutions.

Why a code?

In the meetings of the core groups on student motivation (CGSM) and effective teaching (CGET) on 4 March, we had discueed the objectives of IITs and expectations of the govt and the society. We had also discussed how to project our expectations of students. To seed dialogs on these issues, the idea of a *code* governing the academic activities is proposed. The code is basically a framework of sorts containing a list of do's and donts that is prepared by consensus among a group of students or faculty. The code would adopted by the group, which would then make every effort to propagate it to the entire body of students or faculty. Thus, the implementation would derive from the consensus and peer pressure.

To seed the discussion, a sample code has been enclosed. It should *not* be viewed as a draft that we wish to impose on anyone; we simply want to project it as a sample and say, "Here, take a look. Should we not have something like it?" The codes would actually be developed by a group of students, who could discuss with FAC if they felt like it, and by a group of faculty.

Code for students	Code for faculty
We, the students of IIT Bombay, hereby commit that	We, the faculty of IIT Bombay, hereby commit that

Code for students

We, the students of IIT Bombay, hereby commit that

1. We will be scrupulously honest in all academic matters (test, quizzes, exams, assignment submissions, reports, dissertations and papers)

   - individually, by shunning use of dishonest means in all academic matters
   - collectively, by dissuading others from use of dishonest means

2. We will be sincere towards academics by

   - taking interest in every course we register for
   - taking responsibility of our own learning by developing intrinsic motivation for it
   - participating in active and peer learning

3. We will imbibe the spirit of critical thinking in all endeavours by

   - not being governed by biases
   - studying all aspects of a situation or problem
   - being receptive to alternative ideas
   - developing good communication skills

Code for faculty

We, the faculty of IIT Bombay, hereby commit that

1. We will uphold honesty in all academic matters (test, quizzes, exams, assignment submissions, reports, dissertations and papers)

   - individually, by doing our best to detect and deal with use of dishonest means in accordance with rules
   - collectively, by assisting other faculty in this matter

2. We shall consider quality teaching an important activity and impart effective instruction by

   - acquiring the basics of effective teaching
   - motivating students
   - creating situations for active and peer learning

3. We will inculcate the spirit of critical thinking in our students by

   - emphasizing the principles of critical thinking
   - creating opportunities for critical thinking and providing corrective feedback where necessary
   - requiring good expression and communication of ideas and thoughts in all forms of assessment

Code for students	Code for faculty

4. We will develop social consciousness by
 	
• getting and staying involved in endeavours to improve the quality of life
• avoiding wastage of resources
• respecting others' rights
• avoiding wastage of others' time by being punctual
 	
5. We will make conscious efforts to be useful to society by
 	
• developing interdisciplinary skills
• looking for opportunities for applying our knowledge and skills to solve societal problems
• upholding fairness and justice in all walks of life
	4. We will participate in academic and general administration within the Institute by
	
	• working in department-level and Institute-level committees
	• performing administrative duties for the department and the Institute
	• monitoring effectiveness of procedures and making suggestions for improvement
	
	5. We will make conscious efforts to be useful to society by
	
	• updating our knowledge and expertise in the chosen branch of science and technology
	• by participating in activities such as
	  – solving societal problems
	  – national-level projects or think-tanks in science, technology, and education
	  – networking with educational institutions
	  – writing text books
	  – industrial consultancy