**FARM-2010 Report**

**Summary**

**Faculty Academic and Research Meet**

14-15 September, 2010

held on IIT B Campus

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* Thanks to the Director and Deans for their support.
* Thanks to all for participating. (List of online Registration : APPENDIX A)
* The processes that led to FARM-2010 are compiled at http://www.casde.iitb.ac.in/teaching/

**Introduction**

* This report is a summary of the last step of the process that comprised the meet, and inquired into the question : “What Systems and Processes will be helpful in materializing our dreams for teaching and learning in the Institute?”
* In response to this process, 19 themes emerged from the 6 Groups of participants. The following is a compilation of the essence of the themes as communicated by the members of the 6 groups.
* The intent here has been to retain the responses in their “raw”est possible form to maintain the spirit of individual expression. These are to be now shared and discussed in the larger IIT B faculty body.
* The "pull" towards writing recommendations/conclusions that could be expected from such a meeting, has deliberately been avoided to allow the ownership at the level of each and every in the faculty body through further discussion and sharing. With this spirit, this compilation of thoughts is humbly presented to you on behalf of all the participants…

**Summary of the Themes that Emerged During FARM-2010**

Following themes emerged, and some related initiatives were proposed to make learning and teaching more effective (one of the Groups aptly suggested these be owned by all departments). Details for most of these themes follow the list.

**Actionable Points**

1. Organizing regular orientation to UG students and continuously projecting expectations to them, frequency of these interactions should be more in first year but such interaction should take place for students of all four years.
2. Orientation for ethics to be provided to students and establish a culture and the institute's commitment.
3. Establish a Centre for Teaching & Learning (T&L) to design and offer programs on learning and teaching methods to the faculty members according to changing needs and new challenges in teaching at UG level.
4. Faculty sensitization workshops can also be organized on teaching and learning related aspects.
5. Formal Teacher Training & Mentoring\* (Dean FA) that should not be restricted to teaching alone.

**Reflection Points**

1. Metrics for Evaluation (of students)
2. Methodology to be developed for handling bimodal distributions in grading.
3. Dynamic curriculum to be allowed to be offered at UG level wherein need for students of different levels of competency in that course can be taken care of.
4. Goal driven assignment based learning to be imparted as a part of generic UG programme for technology development.
5. Characterize teaching loads/efforts to justifiably reward good teaching.
6. Honour Code signed by all faculty and students
7. Reexamine and redefine B.Tech. programme A need to reflect on nature of BTech program was raised. A group possed a question whether IITBs undergraduate program should be the same as other institutes/universities, we however try to take the lead in setting high standards or our BTech programme should be perceptibly different in form as well as quality, and should meet a different requirement of society.

**Shared Observations**

1. More hands-on opportunities required for individual learning to be provided to the students in labs without fear of failure
2. Weak students need to be identified and provide early support.
3. A sense of societal obligation to be built in among faculty & students.
4. Open ended problem solving (competitions) needs to be organized and encouraged where multiple departments participate and deal with a real life problem or challenge of societal and/or national importance.