



Faculty Advisor Forum – Notes

Location: Amrita School of Engineering, Amritapuri, Kollam, Kerala

Date: March 6, 2010

Theme of the Meet “Empowering Faculty Advisors to Harness “Used-Less” Youth Energy” presented by Arunkumar Sampath (10:00 am – 10:30 am)

1. Arun talked about the potential of young engineers/students and shared his personal experiences from his current and previous work environments.
2. Guidelines were given to faculty advisors as to how to spread the message of SAE, how to engage the students and how to realize their full potential.

Session on “How to Engage Students” conducted by Arunkumar Sampath and Alaguvel Armstrong (11:00 am – 12:30 pm)

1. A faculty advisor thought there is a need for more inter-collegiate championships so more students are motivated.
2. Faculty advisors are not able to meet/interact with students more often due to work pressure and results oriented curricula and time schedules.
3. Faculty advisors see a need for industrial-oriented projects so they can gain both research experience and also get to know real-life problems.
4. Faculty advisors felt that adequate information about SAE is not being spread to different colleges – need to create more awareness.
5. Enthusiasm levels of 2nd and 3rd year students seem to be fading especially when most of the students don't get to participate in COLT or other programs. It is important to engage “all” the students and not just the Student Executive Council (SEC) members or select students.
6. A suggestion was given by Mr. C.D. Naiju of VIT where he shared his own experience of asking senior students (3rd and 4th year) to give lectures on select topics to junior students (1st and 2nd year) and explain about SAE. Also, give certificates to the students (with College logo and SAE logo) for their participation to motivate them.
7. It was felt that information availability to all colleges (faculty and students) on SAE ISS web site is still lacking and is not up to date.
8. Both students and the faculty look up to SAE ISS for career placement. Career Start will be an important activity for them.
9. A query was raised by a faculty member on the 4+1 year student membership scheme where the suggestion was to offer a different ID card (color code?) to these students for differentiation.

10. A query was raised by a faculty member on whether it is possible to have life term membership – the answer given by SAE ISS was NO as the membership needs to be renewed annually.
11. Faculty members felt that the lecture meetings need to be conducted outside Chennai also. Alternately, technical information (video of the lecture meeting), in the form of a VCD, could be shared with colleges so all the local students could benefit.
12. A request was made to reduce the registration fees of SAE BAJA from Rs 50,000. SAE ISS gave the suggestion to look for sponsors as there is no possibility to reduce the registration fees.
13. At least one hard copy of the SAE magazine(s) was requested by the Faculty members.
14. On AWIM, a suggestion was given that the local college students could act as consultants to mold the younger school students – SAE ISS needs to look into this.
15. A faculty advisor made a request for SAE ISS to help with a) discarded vehicles from OEMs so students could use them for practical knowledge, b) 3-D blow-up diagrams of different mechanical assemblies such as engines (block, gasket, cylinder head, piston, valves, piston rods etc), brakes (brake pad, actuation mechanism etc), and c) assembly process in a plant or service manuals of specific parts in a vehicle. This information will help students understand different aspects of automotive engineering (parts and assembly).
16. A request was made by a faculty advisor for guest lectures by SAE members/professionals on different topics in their local collegiate clubs. The expenses will be borne by the respective colleges.
17. It was felt that in-plant training or summer internship and increased factory visits to students are required.

Session on “Sharing of Personal Experience with Students” conducted by Dr. Thirumalini, Arunkumar Sampath and Alaguvel Armstrong (2:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

1. Dr. Thirumalini shared her own experience of starting the Collegiate club in Amrita College of Engineering in Coimbatore and how the students helped with a) Aero modeling, b) Vintage car display, and c) BAJA events.
2. It is important to engage more number of students, including Electronics, Computer Science, and Information Technology (IT) students to form Cross Functional Teams (CFT).
3. Every Friday, all the students are assembled and the senior students share their learning experience with junior students.
4. Dr. Thirumalini gave a suggestion to the faculty advisor from JPR Engineering college to have “rehearsals” on different events for Student Convention such as Inaugural function, Valedictory function etc so the students are actively engaged and their roles and responsibilities are clarified.
5. For participation in BAJA, a faculty advisor gave a suggestion that students can be given front view, and side views of the car to help students sketch the 3D model of the car (this information can be procured from the internet).

Session on “How to conduct research and seek funds from DST and AICTE” conducted by Arunkumar Sampath and Alaguvel Armstrong (3:00 pm – 4:00 pm)

1. Faculty advisors were given suggestion that they can seek funds from different institutions including DST, AICTE, DRDO, CVRDE etc.
2. For projects with funding less than Rs 1 lakh, it is possible to approach Government of Tamilnadu directly.
3. In some colleges such as VIT, a reverse situation exists in which funds are available and there are not enough students to conduct research.
4. Faculty advisors were given suggestion to establish Centers of Excellence in their colleges. Examples include VIT (TIFAC-CORE on Infotronics), Amrita in Coimbatore (Electronics), IRTT (Advanced Engine Technology), and recently AC Tech in Karaikudi (Electronics).
5. A suggestion was given to have a blog on SAE ISS web site on BAJA related activities.
6. It was felt that Faculty Advisors need to be given Login ID to access additional features on SAE ISS web site.

Session on “Self-improvement of Faculty Advisors” conducted by S. Selvamani and Arunkumar Sampath (4:30 pm – 5:30 pm)

1. Mr. Selvamani touched upon how the faculty members could motivate themselves.
2. Mr. Selvamani presented the concept of Design Engineering and the list of Top Tech topics with more than 50 subjects ranging from Design of Experiments, Reliability, NVH, Steering Systems, Vehicle Safety etc. This list will be made available to Faculty Advisors through SAE ISS.
3. A need was expressed by the Faculty members pursuing/going to pursue Ph.D. to have topics related to industrial projects.
4. It was felt that the profiles of different faculty members (including photo) need to be added on the SAE ISS web site so the research areas and challenges of faculty members could be shared. Mr. Sivakumar from KLN College volunteered to collect the information and build the database.
5. A request was made to consider having 2 faculty members and 2 student members (from the current limit of only 1) from each Collegiate Club. SAE ISS needs to get back on this.

Photo





