An illuminating two-day FDP in association with NITTTR, Chandigarh

A two day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) was organized by the varsity's Academy for Faculty Development (AFD) on 23rd & 24th February 2019. Hosted by VFSTR in collaboration with NITTR-Chandigarh, the FDP was inaugurated at 9.30 AM, 23 February in the Video Conference Room, Central Library. At the outset, AFD Convener, Dr. A. Sharada greeted all the participants and briefed them on the objective, components and schedule of the two-day programme. Dr. Vijay Ramu, Dean Academics spoke on the different considerations that should go into the curriculum design and reflected on his recent visit to BITS-Hyderabad. He revealed that he and his team were able to learn of some good practices that VFSTR could also adopt. and upcoming changes in R-19 Curriculum. He set the expectation for the two day FDP.

Honourable Vice Chancellor Dr. M.Y.S. Prasad welcomed the NITTR-Chandigarh team, Dr. C. Ramakrishna and Dr. Suresh Kumar and congratulated all the participants for being chosen for the programme. He advised the participant faculty members to make good use of the opportunity to get informed on different aspects of outcome based learning (OBE). Applying the inputs provided, if faculty could carry out a more careful scrutiny of the existing R-16 curriculum, identify the gaps and then it would help them carry out a more comprehensive revision before framing the R-19 syllabus.

Honourable Chairman, Dr. LavuRathaiah thanked the resource persons for agreeing to share their expertise on curriculum design with Vignan. He reflected on the existing lacunae in the present teaching learning process and emphasized on the need for a rational revision of the existing curriculum in alignment with the goals of OBE. However, he cautioned the HoDs against blindly following any curricular model simply because it is followed by the best institutions in the country. Instead, he advised them to interpret the broad principles of OBE and then design a curriculum keeping in mind the Vision and Mission of the institution, suiting the expertise available and technological needs of the region. He felt that a more rigorous exercise is to be carried out before freezing the R-19 curriculum.

The first session of Day-1was handled by Prof. Rama Krishna, who made a presentation on the requirements and evaluation guidelines of NBA accreditation in preparation of Self Assessment Report (SAR). The second and third sessions of Day-1 were handled by the resource person Dr. Suresh of VMS College of Engineering Bangalore, Co-opted team member of NITTR-C, who gave the participants elaborate inputs on Programme Educational Outcomes (PEOs), the Programme Outcomes(POs) as laid down by NBA, framing of Programme Specific Outcomes(PSOs), Course Outcomes(Cos), all in line with the institution's Vision and Mission. He then went on to brief on the CO-PO-PSO mapping, the competencies and PIs for PO attainment in accordance of the latest AICTE Exam reforms. He discussed the revised Bloom's Taxonomy and the Assessment Criteria based on the outcomes as per AICTE Exam reforms. Following it, there was a practice session on preparing assessment questions applying the principles of Bloom's Taxonomy , by using the appropriate action verbs to test higher order skills like 'Application', 'Analysis', 'Evaluation' and so on. The day closed with the felicitation of Dr. Suresh.

Day-2 started with Prof. C. Rama Krishna of NIITTR Chandigarh continuing his presentation on the requirements the institution is to take in preparation of the SAR to apply for NBA accreditation. He covered the topics: Recommendations of AICTE Examination Reforms, Overview of OBE, and finalizing the SAR. The session-2 and session-3 was handled by the resource person Dr. Vara Prasad, a Co-opted member of

NITTR-C from VMS College of Engineering, Bangalore. He briefed the participants on some of the common mistakes made by engineering departments in framing of the COs and mapping them with the Pos and the errors made in choosing attainment tools for measuring Cos. He also discussed some Case Studies by citing examples from the CSE programme, where he discussed examples from courses like DBMS to demonstrate to participants on the CO attainment and documenting it in the SAR based on CO, PO/PSOs attainment. Further he briefed on how to identify gaps and prepare suitable action plans to amend the identified gaps. The last session was a practice session on ways to map the attainment of COs, POs and PSOs.

The day closed with a valedictory event where Dean Academics Dr. Vijay Ramu and Convener of AFD, Dr. A.Sharada gave their concluding remarks and expressed their gratitude to the resource persons Dr. Ramakrishna, Dr. Suresh and Dr. Vara Prasad for sharing their valuable inputs. Dean Academics expressed his inclination to work with NITTR-C and seek continued guidance from them during the framing of R-19 curriculum. After which, some of the participants shared their feedback expressing satisfaction on the inputs gained in the 2-day FDP. Prof. Rama Krishna gave his feedback and thanked all the faculty members for being very interactive and showing their willingness to learn. He expressed his thanks to Dr. VijayaRamu for giving him the opportunity and also thanked the management and AFD Team for the warm hospitality extended to him and his colleagues. Finally, Dean Academics, Dr. VijayaRamu and AFD Convener, Dr. Sharada felicitated the resource persons. They were joined by Dean-IT Services and Dean-IQAC. Dean-IQAC, Dr. Rama Krishna expressed his appreciation for Dr. C. Ramakrishna saying that it was indeed a matter of great pride that a person from A.P had attained such eminence in a national institution like NITTR-C. He informed that Dr. C.Ram Krishna was a renowned personality of international stature, who was reputed for bringing in a lot of innovative practices in the training and teaching programmes of NITTR-C and that he had been a member of more than 50 accreditation committees. Finally, certificates were given away to all the participants by the dignitaries and the day closed with a Group Photo session.

A total of 54 faculty members from different departments participated in the FDP. The programme was meticulously organized and executed by the faculty team of AFD, Dr. A. Sharada, Mr.NagendraRaoHowji, Dr.Vijaya Kumar Chavan and Mr. V. Ravi Babu with the guidance and support of Dean Academics, Dr.VijayaRamu.