

Extracts from the letters to Experts in Design:

GTU is in the process of updating its syllabi after its first cohort of 4-year degree engineering students have graduated out. In the new syllabus, we are putting into every course, starting from the first year, a module which asks the students to complete assignments on design relating to the course that they are studying. The syllabus will include a module where the faculty member is supposed to give practical projects, which require a student to design some product, system or process, as assignments. The projects may be taken from an industry or these may be specified by the faculty members or the students may come up with appropriate proposals.

Since it is something, that has not been done in our educational system, we need all the help, that is possible so that we are able to do it in the right way.

We shall like to take your guidance and help in this process of re-design.

I am sending two of our basic documents on design school and on C-i-C3 lab (which may develop into a lab like the Tinkering Lab at Cornell or the Fab Lab at MIT).

PROGRESS SO FAR: As you know, GTU had initiated the process of updating its syllabi after its first cohort of 4-year degree engineering students graduated out in 2012. In the new syllabus, we are putting into every course, starting from the first year, a module which asks the students to complete assignments on design relating to the course that they are studying. The faculty member is supposed to give practical projects, which require a student to design some product, system or process, as assignments. The projects may be taken from an industry or these may be specified by the faculty members or the students may come up with appropriate proposals.

This was implemented in the first year starting from July 2013. **I am attaching the document on the 'Center for Industrial Design'**. On pages 8, 9 and 10 are given the work that has been done during the first year.

On 9th Jan 2014, a session on Project-based Learning and Design-Oriented education was organized as a part of the two-day Seminar on 'Re-designing the Structure of Universities for coping with Challenges of the 21st Century, with a special focus on Universities in the Indian sub-continent (<http://projects.gtu.ac.in/DSTU>). Professor C. Amarnath and other experts participated in the seminar, along with the representatives from 108 universities, including the Vice-Chancellors of 45 Universities.

Now from July 2014, we are to move forward to implement the new syllabus with design-orientation in the 2nd year. In the second year, in addition to including a module, wherever possible, one course of Design 1(a) is proposed to be included in Sem 3 and a course on Design 1(b) is proposed to be included in Sem 4. Dr Nilesh Bhatt, Chair of the Syllabus Committee, has been in correspondence with Professor C. Amarnath on this issue. I am attaching a document on the draft for Design 1(a) and Design 1(b) and the discussion of Dr Nilesh Bhatt with Professor C. Amarnath.