

FORUM MATEMATIK

Siri 16 / 97 / 651

27 April 2012/28 Jamadil Awal 1433

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FM12.09

EDITOR'S NOTE

As you can see, we have done some overhauling. The main goal is to revive FM. Firstly by relaying more news and information while still retaining certain write-ups such as the celebrated 'Tok Itam' and the FM article. We have also created a section where we review the two-week roundups from the department activities. Secondly, we have revamped the layout of FM with a different look by pumping up graphics and photography. Unfortunately, due to the cost of coloured toner, we are unable to provide everybody with a coloured graphic copy of FM. However, one can view FM in full technicolour on the department website and a coloured copy will be made available at 'Bilik Aktiviti Jabatan'.

I would also like to highlight that FM will only be issued out every Friday fortnightly. This decision was made partly due to today's electronic communication system. To date, we have been actively using emails to transmit important information quickly throughout the department. In addition, about 64% of the department's academic and support staff are currently member of our STAF JABATAN SAINS MATEMATIK UTM facebook (FB) group, the latest platform for real-time communication between staff of the department. Thus, the weekly publication of FM can arguably be less of an urgency now as compared to how it once was in previous years. Nevertheless, information via hard copy is still important as an extension tool. Thus, FM is still relevant.

As in any publication, FM does not come without issues. Over the years, editors of FM can be frustrated over two things: lack of news and the ever elusive FM article. For the news issue, it is important to note that every activity that you are involved in, that directly relates to the department deserves a hearing. You can update us by email to our new FM email address, formatik@utm.my or post your news at the FB group page. For this, we only require the brief outline of the activity involved such as 'What' (name of the activity), 'Where' (venue), 'When' (time period) and 'Who' (staff that are involved). The other issue is the difficulty of getting an FM article. Apart from 'Tok Itam', the team does not favour the idea of having resident writers. Our initial plan was to 'force' everyone to write using the authority of some higher power. But that plan got rejected. Frankly, we still have not found an effective countermeasure for this particular problem. We are hoping that writers will come forward voluntarily but if this does not happen, we will seek you out for sure. Thus, we really need your cooperation and commitment in this without resorting to force.

Although, I have been in the hot seat for just a short period of time, I have come to appreciate the hard work, effort and toil other editors in the past have gone through. One ex-editor commented that "We all went through it". Another, described the job – "comes Friday, comes pressure". Admittedly, we are a work in progress, and your comments are invaluable. My hope is that FM would continue to improve and ultimately be the pulse, the voice and the talk of the department. On a final note, I would like to take the opportunity to say a few words on the passing of our friend Allahyarhamah Pn. Hajjah Napisah Mohd Radzi. Although I have never worked with her in any capacity since I started work in 2000, but we did on occasions shared snatches of conversation when we do meet. Ironically, these conversations revolved around FM. May all her contributions to the department will be rewarded in the hereafter. Al-Fatehah.

Asalamualaikum dan salam sejahtera. Tok Itam lalu di hadapan pejabat seorang pensyarah kanan di Jabatan Sains Matematik pada suatu tengahari. Pintu pejabatnya terbuka dan kelihatan seorang pelajar sedang berbincang serius dengan pensyarah berkenaan. Tidak tahulah Tok Itam apa perbincangannya tetapi kelihatan pensyarah berkenaan menulis-nulis di atas sehelai kertas di atas meja beliau. Agaknya menerangkan Matematik kepada pelajar berkenaan seperti sesi tutorial peribadi.

Keesokannya Tok Itam lalu lagi di hadapan pejabat pensyarah berkenaan. Kelihatan seorang pelajar sedang berbincang dengan pensyarah ini. Pelajar kali ini lain daripada pelajar sehari sebelumnya. Tidak tahulah Tok Itam apa perbincangannya tetapi kelihatan pensyarah berkenaan menulis-nulis di atas sehelai kertas di atas meja beliau. Agaknya menerangkan Matematik kepada pelajar berkenaan seperti tutorial peribadi. Acapkali Tok Itam lalu di depan pejabat beliau ada sahaja kelihatan pelajar sedang berbincang dengan pensyarah ini dan pelajar-pelajar ini bukan pelajar yang sama.

Suatu hari berkesempatan juga Tok Itam bertanya pensyarah ini tentang kekerapan pelajar bertemu beliau. Inilah jawapannya: "Saya wajibkan setiap pelajar saya bertemu dengan saya untuk berbincang dengan saya mengenai tajuk mata pelajaran yang saya ajar yang pelajar tidak faham. Setiap pelajar mesti berjumpa dengan saya sekurang-kurangnya sekali dalam satu semester"

Terpegun Tok Itam mendengar jawapan ini. Mana tidaknya, kalau beliau ada 120 pelajar dan setiap pelajar bertemu selama 10 minit dengan beliau maka beliau terpaksa meluangkan masa 1200 minit atau 20 jam dalam satu semester dengan pelajar untuk sesi tutorial peribadi ini. Kalau 20 minit seorang maknanya 40 jam satu semester beliau perlu meluangkan masa untuk tutorial peribadi ini. Ini sama seperti mengajar satu mata pelajaran 3 jam kredit. Kalau 30 minit, lagi pulak, 60 jam; seperti mengajar satu mata pelajaran 4 jam kredit. Hebat pensyarah ini. Beliau bersungguh-sungguh dalam pengajaran beliau, dan amat mengambil berat tentang pemahaman pelajar beliau dalam kuliah. Walaupun sudah lama mengajar di UTM tetapi cintanya terhadap pengajaran tampak kuat sekali, keinginan untuk melihat pelajarinya berjaya tinggi sekali. Tok Itam rasa Tok Itam tidak terbuat perkara seperti ini. Bukan mudah untuk meluangkan masa yang banyak untuk pelajar kita dengan tuntutan kerja yang ada pada kita. Tetapi itulah semangat dan kesungguhan yang ditunjukkan oleh pensyarah dari JSM ini.

Itulah Puan Hajjah Napisah Mohd Radzi Pensyarah Kanan di Jabatan Sains Matematik. Beliau telah kembali ke Rahmatullah pada 20 April 2012 baru-baru ini pada usia 53 tahun setelah berkhidmat di JSM hampir 28 tahun. Semoga roh beliau ditempatkan bersama-sama dengan orang beriman lagi beramal soleh. Semoga keluarganya diberikan kekuatan untuk menghadapi pemergian Allahyarhamah. Semoga kita dapat mencontohi semangat dan kesungguhan Allahyarhamah dalam pengajaran. Al-Fatihah.

Tok Itam

Sidang Redaksi FM

Norhaiza Ahmad (Ketua Editor)

Arifah Bahar (Pen. K. Editor)

Zarina Mohamed

Mohd Fauzi Md Arif