

E-BULETIN
EDISI
2023



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

Cawangan Negeri Sembilan
Kampus Rembau



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2023

FAKULTI
PENGURUSAN
& PERNIAGAAN
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
CAWANGAN NEGERI SEMBILAN
KAMPUS REMBAU



ME - A CASE OF DISCONNECTED ACADEMIC

Last January marked my 12th year as an academic at UiTM. Just like most, if not all, of my colleagues, my journey as a lecturer is indeed colourful. Surely it is not a walk in the park, but it is also not an uphill battle that would drive me straight to a mental asylum.

Nevertheless, unlike many of my fellow coworkers, the journey might be doubly hard for me as I am teaching courses in an area of study that is almost devoid of my genuine passion. To be frank, what I am doing now is just to salvage my degree after a series of bad decisions (mine and others') in my life.

I am not social science material. My interest lies in hard sciences like microbiology, pharmacy, and geology—the ones that warrant me spending time analysing material things and experimenting in the laboratory. That is what I am built for – not studying people's behaviour and analysing business in depth. You would not have found me enrolling in a business course had the dominant members of my family been more pragmatic 25 years ago, or had Petronas' or MARA's scholarship offers come before Telekom's.

That is also the reason why I am rather uninterested in many projects, research, and activities closely related to my job. Almost every invitation to participate in writing a business or management research paper would meet with a subtle (and sometimes outright) rejection, while many faculty projects just make me feel 'meh' – which I find consistent with what Tan Sri Dr. Sahol Hamid once said: there are no lazy people, there are only people who have to do things they don't really like.



Consequently, I refuse to apply for DM52 despite having all the requirements fulfilled years ago (even when one of the former Deputy Rectors of Academic Affairs 'forced' me to do so), as I fancy that the higher job grades should only be filled with people who are passionate about the area they teach, which would later result in more significant outputs related to their area.

Picture credit to <https://www.freepik.com>

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Fortunately, the road is not all dark and bleak. At least I love teaching, especially when the students cooperate well. Aside from that, I also get to teach a calculation-laden subject, which I am very comfortable with, and what makes it even better is that the subject also has some connections with my frugal nature. Other subjects are not too bad as well, as I can impart my experience and general knowledge (but, of course, not my passion, as I do not have any) to the students.

Do I resent my current job? Maybe partially. But do I despise UiTM as my employer? Certainly not. As it is impossible to turn back time, I will forever be grateful to UiTM, as it provided me the avenue to salvage my degree when it offered me a TPM scholarship (and later employment). Hence, even if I cannot make significant contributions to UiTM, I try not to be a burden to my employer in many situations.