

PAC Digest
05 July 2005

Presidents Advisory Council – PAC

President Irandoust has begun regular admin meetings. Instead of convening two councils as before (i.e., the former President's Executive Council (PEC) and President's Council of Deans (PCD), he is holding a President's Advisory Council (PAC) whose members represent a wider range of constituencies at AIT.

PAC meetings are held fortnightly – the first part covering administrative/operational issues and the second part on academic/policy/strategic issues. In addition to the Admin regulars like Deans, Irandoust has invited the Academic Senate Chair, President of the AITAA-Mother Chapter, Student Union President and Vice-President to the meetings. They will be joined by the new Vice-Presidents (for Education, Research and Promotion) once they are appointed. Participation at the meetings by the Faculty Representative and a representative from the Employees Committee is also being considered.

New Development: Partnership and Links

AIT is moving toward key linkages with industry and other educational institutions. MOUs with Tata Technologies Ltd (Pune, India) and Shivaji University (Kolhapur, India) have been endorsed and drawn up. Another MOU with Tribhuvan University (Nepal) was endorsed for review by the Director of Admissions & Scholarships (DAS).

AIT Homepage to change

A team is being assembled to re-create the AIT homepage. The concept is to make it more dynamic to facilitate both internal and external communication. Daily highlights of the Institute's activities (visitors, research, agreements, press releases, etc) will be featured. This will also help AIT's partners, donors, relevant associations, and other stakeholders to stay abreast.

Travel – New reporting procedures

Reports of all official travel by AIT personnel are to become standard. In its move to develop strategic promotional efforts and to strengthen marketing and fund-raising, the Institute will announce all planned trips to the AIT community and all travellers will submit trip reports following a template that includes purpose of the visit, mission team composition, people met and meetings held, outcome(s), follow-up actions, financial costs to the Institute, etc. Announcements and reports will be made to AIT Community on-line through the President's Office.

Health Care – Insurance coverage

AIT is concerned about health insurance coverage for all students and employees. Options are being explored to ensure that students are covered and that employees

will be able to choose different levels of coverage. Because AIT is not licensed to operate insurance plans, limitations have been met under our current scheme. But, with our large number of students and employees, AIT may be able to leverage bargaining power for advantageous premium fees.

For now, recall that AIT recently signed an agreement with Thammasat University under which the AIT community has gained access to TU medical facilities and services.

Finances – AIT needs your help and cooperation

Cost-cutting measures along with streamlined administrative processes are on the way. The Institute will be relying on your help to lower costs and raise income. Working groups will be mobilized to lead us out of debt – 2003 closed with 69 million baht deficit and 2004 with a 170 million baht deficit.

Rising fuel prices and electricity charges is a good place to start. Individual units should be responsible for reducing electricity usage. The Campus Planning & Environment Committee (CPEC) will propose a plan for an Institute-wide energy conservation campaign. Faculty members of the Energy Field of Study will be invited to provide inputs. [Maybe efficient use of renewable energy technologies will be realized on campus?].

Procedures to ensure that fees, charges and rents are reviewed and paid up every semester will be put in place.