

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

9 January 2009

(week 2)

(Confirmed)

Present:

Said Irandoust
Nitin Afzulpurkar
Izel Ann Dante
Donyaprueth Krairit
Sivanappan Kumar
Jonathan Shaw
Ram Shrestha
Vilas Wuwongse

Secretariat:

Karma Rana
Namita Sravat

Apologies:

Peter Haddawy
Sudip Rakshit
Khin Ni Ni Thein
Barbara Igel
Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai
Jayant Routray
Mr. Akhtar Nawaz Khan

Invitee:

Pritam Shrestha

PAC 09.01.09 Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed all present to the PAC meeting and the apologies were noted.

PAC 09.01.10 Approval and Review of the Minutes of the PAC meeting - 7 January 2009

The minutes of the PAC meeting held on 7 January 2009 were **approved**. A member noted that the PAC is an advisory body, thus in the minutes instead of phrases like "PAC approved" it should be 'the PAC recommended for President's approval' or 'the President approved'. The secretary would accordingly re-edit the minutes.

Follow-up issues:

- 1] **Academic Degree Title:** The academic degree titles of the programs in School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD) were already endorsed for the President's approval during the Academic Senate meeting held on 26 November 2008. The Dean of School of Engineering and Technology (SET) would be reminded to submit the academic degree titles of the programs in SET to the Academic Senate as soon as possible, since this needs to be implemented from August 2009 intake as agreed during the previous PAC meeting held on 7 January 2009.

PAC 09.01.11 Review of the P&P on Fellows of AIT

The P&P on Fellows of AIT was reviewed, as several fellows of AIT who pay for the courses have requested to be considered as students of AIT, and thus get free medical services (same as students), entitled to the laptop subsidy, and entitled to the student rate of subsidized fees for the AIT Community School fees. Individuals who have requested to be attached to the Institute to conduct research and whose qualifications are considered acceptable are considered as Fellows/Senior Fellows of AIT.

The key highlights of the discussion were as follows:

- PAC members pondered whether they should be considered as students or staff of AIT, and it was agreed that they should be considered as separate category.
- The fellows normally come for a short period and are provided office space, computer, etc. and so cost is involved. But there is no mechanism for charging for these facilities and who bears the cost.

- Two categories of fellows could be created, one who are charged and others who are not charged depending on whether the institute is benefited from them or not. An example of benefits such as they cite AIT's name in their publications.
- The decision to charge them or waive their fees (including free medical services same as staff, and subsidized fee for AIT Community School at the rate of staff) will be upto the Schools. The fees for ones coming with AIT invitation could be waived, and those coming on their own will be charged.
- The requirements for the fellows whose fee is waived should be clearly spelt out, such as joint publication, assistance in teaching, contributions and outputs expected, work with counterpart/supervisor which needs to be monitored, submission of progress report and full public seminar every 3 months, minimum duration to be of at least 6 months, etc. It was noted that normally minimum degree requirement is PhD for research fellow, but even those with 10 yrs. or more experience can be considered.
- All the charges/fees, privileges/benefits etc. for them should be specifically mentioned in the contract/agreement to be signed by both the parties (the institute and the fellow).

It was **agreed** that for the two HEC students who have paid 10,000 US\$ fees, the free medical services will be provided to them at AIT Clinic (similar to the AIT Students). Until the P&P on Fellows of AIT is revised, the current one will be followed.

The Head-Administration, Ms. Izel was requested to prepare a table with cost of various services specified and indicating source of funding. On case-by-case basis the cost of various services to be waived will be decided depending on profile of applicant and funds available. Ms. Izel was also requested to draft the P&Ps for two categories accordingly and present it for review to the next PAC meeting.

PAC 09.01.12 AIT Honorary Doctorate Degree

The President informed that he is considering to confer honorary doctorate degree to a candidate from HEC Pakistan, previously endorsed by the Academic Senate with a note 'subject to the verification that the candidate is not currently holding any political position'. Now the candidate is not holding political office but is only advisor to the current government.

The AS Chair, Prof. Ram Shrestha opined that procedurally it need not go back to Academic Senate as it had already endorsed the candidate's nomination for honorary doctorate degree. However, President Irandoust was advised to do informal reference checks, and that he is free from political position.

The President **requested** the Academic Senate to consider the note on political office in the P&P on Honorary Doctorate Degree, as it is very broad. This will help him in taking action on two possible candidates nomination he had received.

PAC 09.01.13 MoU between AIT and National Science Museum, and Science Communication Alliance

The President informed that soon a MoU between AIT and National Science Museum (NSM), which is a state enterprise under the umbrella of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand, will be signed to form a Science Communication Alliance with the alliance secretariat to be housed at AIT, with possible extension offices in NSM premises. A meeting will be called with School Deans and faculty members to come up with modalities for alliance. A seminar and field visit could also be arranged to get specific details on facilities available including kind of laboratory, time-table for our use, various student research projects where they can be member of student progress committees, and other prospects; and then a formal meeting would be called with them to further discuss it. It was noted that AIT students and faculty members do use their facilities currently with internal rate charged, and this would further help in formalizing it.

PAC 09.01.14 Oxford Business Group, Thailand Report

The President informed that the first ever Oxford Business Group Report will be printed for Thailand, and they have agreed to give more than 50% discount for one page advertisement. In addition 50 copies of the Thailand Report will be received by the institute. The report is globally distributed and anyone interested to know about the country buys it, which generally includes government organizations. They have also informed that in case we advertise in their report, they can also sponsor some lectures at AIT. The PAC members were **requested** to send their ideas on content of the message for advertisement, which has to be different than the targeting the students for recruitment. It was suggested to request them for at least one copy each for each country for Institute.

PAC 09.01.15 Draft P&P on Partnership Agreement Definitions, Processing and Finalization

The Head of External Relations and Communication Office (Head-ERCO), Dr. Pritam Shrestha informed that the draft P&P on Partnership Agreement Definitions, Processing and Finalization was based on the templates of MoU and MoA which had been previously endorsed by the PAC and the Academic Senate. The President **requested** members to send their additional comments on the draft to Dr. Pritam as soon as possible, after which it will be implemented.

PAC 09.01.16 Concept Proposal for AIT Internal Scholarship/Fellowship

The Head-ERCO presented the concept proposal for AIT Internal Scholarship/Fellowship for attracting top students from target countries and promoting AIT Postgraduate Education in Target Countries. The PAC members noted that the proposal to pool and use the advertisement budget with the President's Office, ERCO and the Schools will be negligible, thus need not be considered. The President **requested** the School Deans to discuss at school level the concept proposal presented along with the proposed strategy for scholarship and fellowship awards (table format) that was circulated at one of the previous PAC meeting. The inputs from School will be discussed in next PAC meeting.

Furthermore, the President informed that upto 50% fellowship to the children of Board of Trustees, Alumni, Faculty and Staff could be applied for the ongoing students for the remaining period of their study (i.e. from January 2009), and will be implemented from August 2009 intake.

PAC 09.01.17 AIT Emergency Plan

The President informed that the Human Resource office is working on developing an AIT Emergency Manual which will be ready soon. Some activities will be conducted to support and bring awareness of this manual. It was suggested that one day could be fixed quarterly to train AIT members on the AIT Emergency Manual.

PAC 09.01.18 Next Meeting

It was informed that the next PAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4 February 2009 due to President's travel plans.