

## PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

### MINUTES 11 November 2009 (week 46)

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**Present:**

Said Irandoust  
Nitin Afzulpurkar  
Barbara Igel  
Izel Ann Dante  
Vilas M Salokhe  
Weerakorn Ongsakul  
Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai

**Secretariat:**

Karma Rana  
Namita Sravat

**Apologies:**

Amrit Bart  
Peter Haddawy  
Sudip Rakshit  
Jayant Routray  
Jonathan Shaw  
Shankar Tagad

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**PAC 09.11.01 Welcome and Apologies**

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

**PAC 09.11.02 Approval and Review of the Minutes of the PAC - 21 October 2009**

The minutes of the PAC meeting held on 21 October 2009 were **approved**.

Follow-up Issues:**1] Open Debate cum Presentation Competition**

The Open Debate cum Presentation Competition organized by the Student Union will be held on 8 December 2009.

**2] P&P on Employment of Students as Assistants/Associates**

The PAC **agreed to endorse** further revision of including a stipulation on master students' eligibility for teaching assistantships for undergraduate courses/students in the P&P "AA-7-1-2: Employment of Students as Assistants/Associates". A member suggested that priority should be given to those students who have prior teaching experience.

**PAC 09.10.03 Matters Arising from the Minutes****1] Finalization of P&P on Financial Model for Academic Programs in Fund 30**

The Dean/SOM, Dr. Barbara Igel informed that she had received feedback from SOM Program Coordinators (paper 3.2 of the meeting) about the process and serious implications of adopting the new policy on Fund 30 programs, specifically regarding the clause II.E which would require the programs to generate at least 20% in the form of degree surcharge, payroll recovery and surplus; and clause II.F according to which if the gross revenue of the

Fund 30 academic Program exceeds the gross revenues of the Fund 10 academic programs of related FoS/Program/School then the Fund 30 program may revert back to Fund 10. Paper 3.2 was circulated.

It was informed that the Director of AITVN has also through email requested to be part of the discussion on this issue. The President mentioned that since the Dean/SET has already agreed with this amount of percentage, he would call a separate meeting with the Director of AITVN, VPR, Dean/SOM, SOM Fund 30 Academic Program Coordinators and Head-Administration. Dean/SERD indicated that since they are also working on professional program in AITVN, he would like to request allowing Dr. Oleg Shipin, Program Coordinator of proposed Professional Program in AITVN, to attend this meeting.

## 2] SET Organogram and the ToR of the proposed Associate Deans

The Dean/SET, Dr. Nitin Afzulpurkar, presented the SET organogram and ToR of the proposed Associate Deans. The PAC **agreed to endorse** the SET organogram along with the ToR for the Associate Dean for Infrastructure and Academic Quality Assurance (AD-IS and AQA), Associate Dean for Promotion (AD-P), Associate Dean for Undergraduate Program (AD-UP). Although the task of the AD-IS and AQA includes assisting the Dean on students support function, the Dean will himself look into this particular task.

## 3] SERD Organogram and the ToR of the proposed Associate Deans

The Dean/SERD, Dr. Weerakorn Ongsakul, presented the SERD organogram and ToR of the proposed Associate Deans. The Fields of Study were organized into four clusters namely, Bioresources, Development Studies, Energy & Environment, and Interdisciplinary Programs. Following were the key suggestions on the clustering for further consideration:

- NRM to be under Bioresources instead of Development Studies.
- PPT is more engineering focused rather than being under Energy & Environment. This could be considered along with Dean/SET.
- Establishment of a Water Center at AIT needs to be further discussed.
- Instead of having FoS Coordinators, there could be cluster wise Program Coordinators. It was opined that cluster concept is good for marketing purpose, but in financial terms, they should still be monitored separately by FoS coordinators as otherwise it will be difficult to see which FoS is not performing well financially.
- The cluster of Interdisciplinary programs could be distributed to the other three clusters while indicating that a particular program is collaboration with other university or program.

The PAC **agreed to endorse** the ToR of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (AD-AA) and Associate Dean for Research & Outreach (AD-RO). A suggestion to include the student support under the AD-AA was given for Dean's consideration.

With regards to titles of the Associate Deans, it was also discussed whether there is a need to harmonize the titles across the Schools. It was suggested that since the ToRs are different the titles need to correspond accordingly, and each school has its own prioritization of functions. Dr. Igel informed that in SOM, the Program Coordinators for each function is working smoothly and need for Associate Deans could be further assessed later.

Dr. Weerakorn also informed that the agenda for the forthcoming SERD Retreat includes discussion on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model; setting up of SERD endowment fund with the help of the School Board Chair, Dr. Subin Pinkayan; SERD marketing plan for 2010, etc. The Director of AITVN, Dr. Amrit Bart, and the Director of Academic Quality Assurance & Accreditation, Dr. Nitin K Tripathi, have also been invited to the SERD Retreat. The President suggested to include the time-frame for the endowment fund establishment, and instead of having discussion on PPP model feedback on the “White Paper on Exploring a new Financing/Funding Model for AIT” can be invited. Dr. Weerakorn was requested to send the revised Agenda for the SERD Retreat to the President’s Office for information. The VP-RD, Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai suggested that the setting up of endowment fund needs to be done in a harmonized manner as it is for long-term, and he would share his insights from his trip to the US in terms of endowment funds, grants etc.

The President also informed that a team of professionals has been invited to evaluate the infrastructure facilities. One aspect of this would be the expansion plan and other aspect would be the upgrading and face-lifting plans. For the laboratories and equipments costs, he requested the School Deans to give their proposals.

#### **PAC 09.11.04 Issues from the President**

The President updated members on the discussion with a prospective external expert to conduct an independent pre-feasibility study which will better identify the long term academic orientation of the Institute based on the needs of the region and its own internal strengths and consider possible options and funding models for the sustainability of the Institute; meeting to be held with School Deans on 9-month financial results; further countries that will be joining signing the new AIT Charter; 1 million US \$ World Bank project on water in Pakistan; Western Digital to establish a research laboratory at AIT with 10-12 researchers; mini conference at Indonesia; etc.

At the 24 August 2009 PAC meeting, members were informed that all reports from the President, VPs, Deans, and Directors presented to the Executive Committee should highlight the activities and initiatives under the four strategic themes of the “AIT Strategy 2013”. The Executive Committee also requested that the KPIs be developed to monitor the AIT Strategy 2013 and also have standardized KPIs at the School Level. The key performance indicators outlined in the report prepared by Professor Worsak which was tabled (attached hereby as **Annex-1**) was cited by a member of the Executive Committee as being very detailed and thorough. This report was already circulated to the members and School Deans were requested to consider Prof. Worsak’s report and present their views and comments along with any new format. This will then be discussed in a special PAC meeting.

#### **PAC 09.11.05 Lower Tuition and Charges due to MoUs**

A bookkeeping issue was raised with regards to recording tuition and registration fees that are less than AIT standard baht rates based on MoUs (MOET, EVN, PetraAIT etc.) and 2-stage PhD students. A new field code need to be added in the SIS to indicate MoU-governed students whose tuition/registration fees are not fully covered. These should still be closely monitored by the School Deans and/or FoS Coordinators to ensure that the overall discounts do not exceed on average 15%. Dr Afzulpurkar will further discuss this with Dr.

Harianto on how this funding category will be reflected in the SIS and to ensure correct invoicing.

The President would clarify with the VPR the financial arrangements of the Erasmus Mundus student exchange program wherein a financial support of 3,000 Euros is provided per student. It was suggested that this amount should be paid to the Schools as additional tuition fees.

**PAC 09.11.06      Reports of the Academic Senate Meetings**

The PAC **agreed to endorse** the recommendations made by the AS in its meetings held on 26 August and 23 September 2009 that included the revised curricula (effective from the August 2009 semester) of the AARM, GDS, NRM, PPT, FEBT, E, ASE and RRDP Fields of Study of the School of Environment, Resources & Development; the Academic Requirements and Procedures for Undergraduate Program; and the requirements for the awarding of Dual and Joint Degree Programs.

**PAC 09.11.07      Next Meeting**

The next PAC meeting will be held on Friday, 27 November 2009, soon after a one-hour meeting on the issue of Fund 30 Academic Programs with the Director of AITVN, VPR, Dean/SOM, SOM Fund 30 Academic Program Coordinators, SERD representative Dr Oleg Shipin, and Head-Administration.