

## PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

### MINUTES 27 November 2009 (week 48)

---

**Present:**

Said Irandoust  
Nitin Afzulpurkar  
Amrit Bart  
Izel Ann Dante  
Peter Haddawy  
Barbara Igel  
Sudip Rakshit  
Jayant Routray  
Jonathan Shaw  
Ganesh P Shivakoti

**Secretariat:**

Karma Rana  
Namita Sravat

**Apologies:**

Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai  
Weerakorn Ongsakul  
Vilas M Salokhe  
Shankar Tagad

---

#### PAC 09.11.08 Welcome and Apologies

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

#### PAC 09.11.09 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 with the following corrections:**

- On page 3, last line "*overall discounts do not exceed on average 25% 15%.*" Accordingly in P&P on "AA-2-2-3: Financial Model for Academic Degree Programs in Fund 30" the Clause II.I it should be changed to 15% from 25%.
- On page 4, last line of second paragraph under section PAC 09.11.05 "*It was suggested that the amount, ~~considered as a compensation for loss of tuition fees,~~ should be paid to the Schools as **additional** tuition fees.*"

#### Follow-up Issues:

##### 1] Finalization of P&P on Financial Model for Academic Programs in Fund 30

As agreed during previous PAC meeting, a meeting was held between the President, Director of AITVN, VPR, Dean/SOM, Head-Administration, which was also attended by Dr. Oleg Shipin (Program Coordinator of proposed Professional Program in AITVN), Mr. P.V. Gopi Krishna from SCPU and Khun Kluaymai Thongkham from SOM, to discuss the issue regarding the II.E and II.F clauses of the P&P on Financial Model for Academic Programs in Fund 30.

It was informed that the clause II.F remains same, but II.E has been amended as given below to add flexibility on the minimum financial margin requirement for new academic programs, and this policy applies for all three schools.

For all academic programs run by the School under the Fund 30 financial structure, the cumulative sum for the whole School of the following components: degree surcharge, payroll recovery, and surplus (all or part to meet the minimum requirement), which are contributions to Fund 10, shall not be less than 20% of the projected net revenues.

For new academic programs under Fund 30 opened as of 1 November 2009 that cannot meet the 20% minimum requirement during their incubation period, the sum of the above-mentioned components shall not be less than 10% of the projected net revenues during their first year. This minimum requirement is gradually increased to 15% in their second year, and to 20% from their third year onwards.

New academic programs refer to those opened in new countries; customized/ tailored to the needs of government, educational, or industry partners; or in new subject areas.

The revised P&P also corrected the maximum average discount on tuition and registration fees (II.I); and added stipulation for tax-exempted honoraria (VII.B.5).

## **2] SERD Organogram and the Revised ToR of the proposed Associate Deans**

The further revised ToR of Associate Deans for Academic Affairs (AD-AA), and for Research and Outreach (AD-RO) were reviewed and the President suggested to move the student recruitment and promotion of academic programs under AD-AA. The President further requested Prof. Shivakoti (representing Dean/SERD in the meeting), to bring to Dean's attention that the School should not require an IT Laboratory with the subsidized laptop scheme for students in place.

## **3] Lower Tuition and Charges due to MoUs**

The Dean/SET Dr. Afzulpurkar was requested to report (after discussing with Dr. Harianto) on the issue regarding the recording of tuition and registration fees that are less than AIT standard baht rates based on MoUs (MOET, EVN, PetraAIT etc.) and 2-stage PhD students; and how this funding category will be reflected in the SIS and to ensure correct invoicing.

### **PAC 09.11.10 Issues from AITVN Director**

The Director of AITVN Dr. Amrit Bart requested a need for rethinking the direction for AITVN and its role/relation with AIT headquarters, i.e. whether it should merely be a support arm of AIT, as a franchise, subsidiary, or should all its activities be linked to AIT mother campus, or could it have its own initiatives and academic programs independently from AIT-HQ.

The highlights of the key points of the comments were as follows:

- AITVN should diversify its role by co-designing programs along with AIT Mother Campus.
- Qualitative dimension should apply rather than how much percentage of integration/separation should be there between the AIT Mother Campus and its Satellite Campuses.
- AITVN should be seen as a separate campus with several components working with schools at AIT, and then another component which is independent for AITVN.

- Example of University of Nottingham was cited which has many campuses that are financially working separately. The University has different arrangements with each campus, but common to all is the academic control that is under the University.

The President concluded that in addition to AITVN having a feeder function for AIT, it should have its own distinct profile. Thus, there should be no limitation for AITVN to have its own programs, but with proper coordination between AIT and its satellite campuses, and AIT having academic quality control under it. AITVN is, in the least, expected to provide support to AIT-HQ activities in Vietnam. AITVN can also benefit from the knowledge, experience, and resources available at AIT-HQ.

Dr. Bart mentioned that AITVN would like to have its own Undergraduate Programs in areas not offered at AIT-HQ, mostly interdisciplinary in nature rather than in Physics, Chemistry etc. He further stated that the discussions/feedback received during the meeting from the PAC members would help AITVN in developing its strategic framework that they would be embarking upon soon.

Dr. Bart while citing example of “13<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of GMSARN Board and Council of Advisors” that took place in Vietnam of which he was not aware of; requested that when AIT conducts something in Vietnam then AITVN is informed in advance. The VP-AA suggested having someone from AIT who coordinates with AITVN and represents AITVN in various bodies/fora/committees at AIT.

The MoA between AIT and government of Vietnam, and the brochure of AITVN that was circulated for members’ information was noted.

#### **PAC 09.11.11      Issues from the President**

The President provided updates on the issues that will be discussed during the Board of Trustees meeting on 30 November 2009 that included the presentation of the “White Paper on Exploring new financial/funding model for AIT”, and the conduct of the pre-feasibility study on the long-term academic orientation and financial/funding models of AIT by an independent consultant team.

The President further provided information as follows:

- AIT is hopeful to recover back the 50 m baht from the ISF Fund.
- Also legal input is being sought on how AIT Foundation concept will work under which it will enter into partnership on behalf of AIT.
- The President would be participating in 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of YunTech, Taiwan accompanied by Dr. Bart.
- The President has appointed Mr. Kottaram Viswanathan Ramesh as Adviser for the year ahead. He will assist the Institute in developing cooperation with India – for student recruitment in undergraduate and graduate programs, and in obtaining sponsored/contracted research projects. Mr. Ramesh is a well connected businessman with professional engagement both in India and Thailand. The appointment carries no direct remuneration.
- The President met the new Ambassador Designate of Pakistan to Thailand, H.E. Mr. Sohail Mahmood, and has extended invitation to him for a formal visit to AIT. Ambassador Mahmood assured me of the Government of Pakistan’s continued interest in AIT and wish to see an increased role for AIT vis-à-vis activities and initiatives in

Pakistan. Also possible modalities to increase interactions with Pakistani institutions plus AIT in Pakistan plans were discussed. Belgian government is interested in providing scholarships for Afghanistan students and also in signing an MoU with AIT.

- The President would be discussing with Prof. Yunus on the concept “University for the Poor” during his forthcoming visit to Bangladesh.
- [Professor Asit K Biswas](#) and [Professor Cecilia Tortajada](#), both from the [Third World Centre for Water Management](#) in Mexico, have been appointed as Senior Executive Advisors to the President. They will develop a unique, multidisciplinary, and multi-sectoral executive training program at AIT for senior Asian officials, and to explore appropriate sources of possible funding for this program. They will also assist the Institute in the eventual establishment of a “*Water Center at AIT*” and in other endeavors which will contribute to enhance the reputation and visibility of AIT in the world in general, and Asia in particular. Their generous assistance to our Institute in this way, without any emolument, is most gratefully appreciated. oral executive training program at AIT for senior Asian officials, and in the eventual establishment of a “*Water Center at AIT*” and in other endeavors which will contribute to enhance the reputation and visibility of AIT in the world in general, and Asia in particular.
- Schools were requested by the VPR, Prof. Rakshit to send their inputs to the AIT Research Strategy.

The President mentioned that he would soon request all Directors of the major centers at AIT to come up with their work plan including KPIs for their centers. During the next PAC meeting scheduling for their presentations would be planned.

#### **PAC 09.11.12      AGSM Proposal for AIT**

The Dean/SOM Dr. Barbara Igel informed that she has received from the Atlantic Graduate School of Management (AGSM), Accra Ghana, a proposal for SOM/AIT to offer its DBA/PhD degrees. Please see Paper 5 of the meeting for details of the proposal.

It was suggested that further study would be needed on points such as who are the Board members, what is their fee structure, what are their students’ selection criteria, etc.. Dr. Igel suggested that she would request Dr. Roland to do the required due diligence on the points mentioned above.

The President stated that AIT’s role should be to support the university to build up but no exchange of faculty etc., and at this point we may have to accommodate them. Dr. Igel suggested that initially they can start with signing a general MoU between AGSM and AIT agreeing in broad principle to collaborate.

Dr. Igel also suggested that AIT might need to develop an Institute-wide policy on sharing of revenue with potential partners.

#### **PAC 09.11.13      Next Meeting**

The next PAC meeting will be held after mid-January 2010 (to be announced later).