

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES 16 June 2010 (week 20)

Present :	Invited :	Apologies :
Said Irandoust	Kanchana Kanchanasut	Izel Ann Dante
Joydeep Dutta	Naveed Anwar	Namita Sravat
Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai	Roland Amoussou-Guenou	Kazi M. Ahmed
Sudip Rakshit	<i>with Mr. Mathew Kuruwilla</i>	Noppadon Rittipongshusit
Barbara Igel		
Weerakorn Ongsakul		
Nitin Afzulpurkar	Secretariat :	
Jonathan Shaw		
Manukid Parnichkun	Karma Rana	
Amrit Bart	Marjorie Badiola	
Worawaj Onnom (SU President)		

PAC 10.06.01 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The newly appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) Professor Joydeep Dutta and Mr. Worawaj Onnom, newly appointed Student Union President, were welcomed to their first PAC meeting.

PAC 10.06.02 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the PAC meeting held on 12 May 2010 were **confirmed**.

Follow-up Issues:

- 1] AIT Tuition and Registration Fees:** The Deans were requested to be more careful in the offering of discounts, especially in the context of MoUs being developed with potential partner institutions, which must be in accordance with AIT P&Ps and routed through the Office of the President, prior to making any commitments, and the importance in proper planning and scheduling of MoUs to be signed was also emphasized.
- 2] Progress update on the new Funding Model:** The President informed the meeting that the recent AIT Board of Trustees Meeting held on 8 June 2010, has now given the green light in further examining model 7 (satellite model), and in proceeding with the "key steps" outlined by the external consultants in their report such as the identification and initial negotiation of potential pilot case(s); analyzing the implications of pilot negotiations; development of internal organization structure, management model, processes among others. The detailed proposal would then be submitted for consideration by the Board at its November 2010 meeting.

In line with the above, and leading up to the November 2010 Board of Trustees meeting, the 2 key Activities, will need to be undertaken in parallel, as listed below:

Activity 1: Further examination of the proposed funding model (identification and initial negotiation of potential pilot case(s); analyzing the implications of pilot negotiations etc.). External individuals with a strong business background, as well as in-depth knowledge and understanding of higher learning, will be appointed to undertake Activity 1, including an expert from within AIT as part of the group. The two external individuals identified would soon be finalized.

Activity 2: Conduct a thorough review of AIT's internal organization, management processes etc. towards becoming a more "entrepreneurial AIT" that is better and adequately prepared for the eventual implementation of the proposed funding model, once approved by the Board. Mr. Niclas Lindgren, the external consultant, who was engaged in the first part of the study on the "exploration of a new funding model for AIT" has already started work on Activity 2, and has had preliminary discussions on this, with the Vice Presidents and School Deans. Dr. Muhammad Abu Yusuf, from AIT, will serve as the focal person, or interface, in this undertaking, from the administration side.

The President informed PAC that with the completion of the first part of the exercise i.e. the "Exploration of a new Funding Model for AIT", the PPP Team has now been disbanded, and replaced by a "Reference Group for the New Funding Model / New Internal Organization" which he will be chairing with the below composition:

Core Members: Professor Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai, Dr. Manukid Parnichkun, Dr. Gregory L. F. Chiu, Dr. Sundar Venkatesh, Dr. Sununta Siengthai, Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Dr. Mousa Nazhad, and Professor S. Kumar. External Resource Persons: Dr. Roland Amoussou-Guenou and Professor Ricardo Pama, former AIT Vice President. Administrative Support Team: Ms. Izel Ann-Dante, Ms. Kulvimol Wasuntiwongse, Mr. Karma Rana, and Ms. Namita Sravat (Secretary).

PAC 10.06.03 PRESENTATIONS

Professor Kanchana Kanchanasut, Director of the Internet Education and Research Laboratory (InterLab), along with Dr. Naveed Anwar and Dr. Roland Amoussou-Guenou, made presentations on the "Strategic Business Plan, 2010-2012 of InterLab"; the "AIT Consulting Unit" and the "AIT Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center" respectively.

1] *Strategic Business Plan, 2010-2012 of InterLab*

There were several entries from Dr. Kanchana's presentation as it targets to be a major service provider and hub for regional and global research collaborations and exchanges. By offering state of the art Internet education, high quality research and training in Internet technology it aims to establish its own public image as a leading regional center. In conjunction with this, to become the center hub for distance learning courseware repository and exchange point for universities in the Asia-Pacific.

Under the InterLab discussions it was agreed that a member of the administration would be invited, likely the VPAA, to participate in the InterLab steering committee meetings, which would enhance the networking and awareness of InterLab activities within AIT, and also enable internal feedback from the users of InterLab services within AIT.

To view the InterLab presentation click [here](#).

2] *AIT Consulting Unit*

In brief, the AIT Consulting Unit was established in June 2010. The idea was initiated around April 2009 in discussions with the President and the VP for Research and have been getting very positive encouragement from a growing number of people since. Meetings have been done with several strategic people within AIT and external industries/companies and it may also be right to infer that AIT's intergovernmental status sets this unit apart from others, making it of great leverage.

Having similarities with the AIT Extension, it was discussed that it is essential that AIT Consulting work closely with the AIT Extension. The linkages with AIT experts and professionals would mean having a broad and strong network to work with. In order to guarantee excellence in terms of delivery of services, the AIT Consulting sets out to incorporate strategies for success.

To view the AIT Consulting Unit presentation click [here](#).

3] *AIT Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (AIT-IEC)*

The brief provided by Dr. Roland presented several proposals on the establishment of the AIT-IEC, having been initiated 2 months ago there is still a need to continue to develop this initiative.

Such a center is seen to have 2 major functions:

First, to increase awareness on potential innovations coming from research, identifying research outcomes with the market potential. This should basically answer the question, "How do we fill the gap between the final outcomes from the researcher and what the needs of the market are?" There is a need to have a mechanism in place as the research outcomes are done within AIT. A thorough study should be done on the market & the valuation of the research outcomes also considering to revisit valuable lessons-learned from similar previous initiatives (done in the last 3 years with the School of Management). Furthermore, the President clarified if the direction being pursued is leading to 1. create an independent center or, 2. to work with other centers as a joint initiative or, 3. create a consortium of universities which also have a common ambition. We need to be clear on what we want.

Second, it was discussed that on issues related to commercialization (e.g. licensing and patents, identify risks, capital, etc.) a structure may be needed to be set up to see and identify the needs in order be able to ponder the next steps for development. This means more than just setting up the physical office wherein most of the business arrangements will revolve but more importantly, to identify potential industry who are interested in these kind of research. The President recommended for the team who will be working on this to present a full concept covering all other issues raised. Essentially to take whatever has been done (revisit) to come up with a full concept, linked together - innovation, funding, policies, structure, and have a system in place that will help identify innovations and link to industry to make the innovation valuable.

A survey shall be initiated as the next step to further the development of the concepts for this center.

To view the AIT Consulting Unit presentation click [here](#).

PAC 10.06.04 ISSUES FROM THE PRESIDENT

1] Appointment and Evaluation Policy for Faculty with Professional & Industry Experience

- Under the discussion on the appointment and evaluation policy for faculty with professional and industry experience, it was agreed that the VPAA would come to PAC with a recommendation, also taking into account previous work already done in this area.
- It was also agreed that Dr. Theo Ebbers, Wetlands Alliance Aqua Outreach Coordinator, would be invited to PAC, to make a comprehensive presentation, on the “*outreach*” aspect as well. Our current system is more geared towards or supporting the more “*traditional track*” of faculty and we need to develop mechanisms which will also help facilitate the engagement of “*practicing professionals*”, although issues such as the definition in terms of the minimum requirement for publishing, and differentiation between “*quantity*” and “*quality*” as well as “*contribution*” and “*impact*” needs to be taken into account.

2] Calculation of Faculty Financial Productivity

Under the calculation of faculty financial productivity, the following revision was noted, effective 1 June 2010:

- Excluding Project Time Recovery, Project Surplus / Deficit, and Project Scholarship from being subjected to Institute and School overhead; and
- Project Overhead and Degree Surcharge continue to be subjected to Institute and School overhead.

3] Criteria for the Merit Calculation for the Deans

The Deans and Dr. Bart provided their respective criteria used for merit bonus calculations for the Deans in their schools, and it was suggested to have separate KPIs for the Deans, and to develop a system which better links merit award with the school performance. It was also discussed that there is a need to look into the merit payments for the Administrators/Vice Presidents who are part-time faculty and how they are compensated.

PAC 10.06.05 FINANCE ISSUES

The items on Capitalization of Fixed Assets, and Lost Assets in AIT, were deferred to the next PAC meeting, due to lack of time.