PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES
2 February 2011
(*week 0*5)

Present :	Secretariat :	Apologies:
Said Irandoust	Namita Sravat	Amrit Bart
Nitin Afzulpurkar		Karma Rana
Mokbul M Ahmad *(Representing D/SERD)*		Weerakorn Ongsakul
Kazi M. Ahmed		
Barbara Igel		
Izel Ann Dante		
Joydeep Dutta		
Manukid Parnichkun		
Sudip K Rakshit		
Jonathan Shaw	**Invitee :**	
Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai	Dr. Sumanta Guha	
Lawal Umar Kankia		

PAC 11.02.01   WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The President welcomed the members attending the PAC meeting and apologies were noted.

PAC 11.02.02   CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the PAC meeting held on 26 January 2011 were **confirmed** with minor editorial corrections noted by the Secretary.

Follow-up Issues:

It was informed that the follow-up issues are listed under agenda 'Matters Arising from the Minutes' and would be discussed later upon reaching the agenda item.

1]   For Faculty Orientation Scheduling and Designing, Prof. Dutta informed that a day after student orientation, a faculty orientation will also be held on academic related matters and he has asked Head-Students to work on this. A member opined that this should be the responsibility of the School Deans/Program Coordinators. The President suggested that the faculty orientation should aside from academic and personnel aspects, also include the overall strategy of the institute and could be done in several parts identifying responsible person/unit for each part. **The Head-Administration would work on this together with the VPAA and HRO and report to the next PAC meeting.**

2]   The Head-Administration informed that she has received a note from Library that moving out of Photocopying Service Provider from Library would cause inconvenience to its users. A member also noted that currently it is convenient for making copy of books using internal charge form. This practice of internal charge along with official memo for copying books needs to be decoupled. The President suggested that the photocopying service provider when being asked to move from Library to other location, be requested to install one machine in Library for use by students themselves on payment system.

PAC 11.02.03   IT COMMITTEE REPORT

The IT Committee Chair, Dr. Sumanta Guha informed that IT Committee was formed as a mechanism to monitor and supervise the works of the outsourced IT services provider in order to ensure proper delivery of services and performance required. The effort to reap the benefits of IT outsourcing should not stop with the outsourcing of currently identified IT staff, but should go beyond that, such as sharing of IT resources, which would result in further cost saving in investment and maintenance of IT resources. He then gave presentation that covered the IT Committee activities and achievements outlining as follows:
- Routine functions.
- Monitoring fixed assets purchases to assure fair price, good quality, avoid redundancy, e.g., in big-ticket items like servers.
- Subsidized laptops scheme was negotiated directly with multiple competing manufacturers (ASUS, Dell, Fujitsu, Toshiba), instead of through a single distributor SVOA as before which led to saving of 4000 baht/unit over 2010 price and for institute in 2011 it would be approximately 1,000,000 baht (for 500 units). The scheme would be open up for competition to manufacturers annually. User satisfaction survey would be conducted in November 2011.
- Microsoft products license was renegotiated with MS-SVOA for licensing of all MS products used on campus which resulted in 155,000 baht saving to Institute annually. In future it is planned to move to open-source products like OpenOffice.org.
- Inventory of IT equipment on campus. Dean/SET **suggested** *having a barcode tracking system in plan for future.*
- Network renovation - All student units now have fast network access through fiber+copper, and in future upgraded to all fiber from ITSU to buildings.

Dr. Guha also briefed members on proposed unrestricted internet access (UIA) that could be started in June 2011 with mandatory payments from campus residents, but which would increase the bandwidth by 6-fold throughout the campus. The contract needs to be signed by end of February 2011. It was informed that this proposal was widely disseminated to the community and feedback received had been overwhelmingly positive. Since AUP charge decreases from 197,950 to 109,295 baht/month, there will be an annual saving of 1,063,860 baht generated by AUP part and the President was in favor of using this to further reduce the cost for students. It was suggested that from next semester it could be built-in the rental structure of accommodation for students. The SU President was requested to get feedback from students on whether students would prefer current system or get better services by paying subsidized fees, which would be around 300 baht/month.

Dr. Guha further briefed members (in confidence) on the IT Committee's view on the services provided by the Netlink so far. Although the performance was found satisfactory in the routine services including maintenance and repair, the performance was unsatisfactory with regards to innovation as they have denied development services that they are obligated to perform under contract as free base services, attempting to redefine base services after contract is signed by excluding development work committed to in contract, double counting hours in both base service and billable, and severely overcharging for development tasks. Thus, IT Committee proposed to terminate the contract with the Netlink. The possible new IT Services configuration could be hiring a few key IT domain experts to restore our institutional knowledge; routine maintenance/repair operations to be delivered by student teams supervised by these experts; innovation/development jobs to be outsourced to outside software companies or in-house centers on a competitive basis, under supervision of an IT software expert; initial investment in industry-

quality enterprise software (ERP, SIS/Campus, Web) to assure performance and reduce need for routine repair/maintenance in future.

The President **stated** that he would first discuss the findings of the IT Committee with the Netlink and accordingly decide about the termination of contract. In the meantime, Dr. Guha was **requested** *to submit the ToRs of the 4 key experts suggested in the proposal, and to convey to them to present their proposal as a company.*

PAC 11.02.04   ISSUES FROM VPRD

The VPRD, Prof. Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai briefed the members on the status of the RTG scholarship funds. He plans to soon establish a committee that includes a representative from CHE, which would screen and select the nominees for scholarship based on merit competition rather than on quota within school. On Dean/SET's request to respond timely to students applying for admission, Prof. Worsak suggested that all Thai candidates who have GPA >3.5 could be offered 48 credits fellowships.

The VPRD would together with the VPAA soon prepare directives/guidelines for the Schools in allotting these scholarships.

PAC 11.02.05   NEXT MEETING

Due to time constraints all the other issues were deferred for the next PAC meeting on 16 February.

/ns 15 February 2011