

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES 16 March 2011 (week 11)

Present :

Said Irandoust
Amrit Bart
Mokbul Morshed Ahmad (representing Dean/SERD till 10:00 a.m.)
Nitin Afzulpurkar
Kazi M. Ahmed
Barbara Igel
Izel Ann Dante
Joydeep Dutta
Manukid Parnichkun
Jonathan Shaw
Worsak Kanok-Nukulchai
Weerakorn Ongsakul (attended after 10:00 a.m.)

Secretariat :

Namita Sravat
Karma Rana

Apologies:

Sudip K Rakshit
Lawal Umar Kankia

PAC 11.03.01 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

PAC 11.03.02 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the PAC meeting held on 16 February and the PAC Retreat held on 28 February 2011 were **confirmed**, with last bullet of the page 2 of the PAC Retreat minutes to read as 'Every four years an external review of the programs should be conducted systematically'.

Follow-up Issues:

- 1] **Annual Meeting with Netlink:** There will be an annual meeting scheduled with the Netlink where planned developments shall be identified.

The VPAA suggested that with some new internet access packages in the market, the IT Committee may need to re-calculate the pricing for the unrestricted internet access.

- 2] **Doctoral Program Requirements and Procedures:** The VPAA informed that the DPRC has been requested to review the R&P for doctoral program vis-à-vis coursework requirements, coursework grading, GPA requirement, Pass/Fail grading and publication requirements.
- 3] **Matrix of Degrees for Admission to AIT:** The VPAA reported that the feedback on this is awaited from Schools.
- 4] **Visa Issues:** The VPRD informed that it was brought to his notice that a staff of AITIS was facing a problem due to the new visa regulation whereby she will be forced to go back to her home country (Nigeria in this case) along with her 3 children to get the dependent

visa for them which would entail big cost. The VPRD is trying to check with the Ministry if there is a way to help her.

It was noted that the visa for AIT employees will also be negotiated during the HQ agreement. The Director/AITVN requested for sharing information with regards to HQ agreement with AITVN which would help them during their process of HQ agreement with Vietnam.

- 5] **Introduction of New Programs:** It was informed that the Academic Senate has established a Task Force to review the proposed amendments made in the P&P on 'Introduction of New Programs'.

In relation to this, clarification was sought regarding 'International Executive Master in Development Studies' program advertized in the Vietnam newspaper, which as per ADRC has not undergone the review process by the Academic Senate. The Director/AITVN clarified that the particular program has been running since 8 years in collaboration with Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (GGIIDS) and the degree conferred is not by AIT but by the GGIIDS.

- 6] **FEP to define the minimum requirements:** The VPAA informed that upon receiving feedback from Schools on the minimum requirements in each of the three broad areas of research, teaching/pedagogy, and outreach; the FEP would synthesize it and forward to the Academic Senate for discussion and their recommendations.

- 7] **AIT International School (AITIS):** The President stated that involvement of AIT in strategic issues of AITIS is desirable. The key points of discussion were:
- To explore the possibility of outsourcing the AITIS
 - There is big demand for teacher training which should be considered during the expansion of AITIS.
 - Currently only PTA exists, but School Board could also be established again which will assist AITIS in advising on issues.

The President mentioned that as a first step outsourcing possibility should be explored and he would further discuss with the AITIS Principal, Ms. Kaisa Pudas.

PAC 11.03.03 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1] **P&P on Entertainment of Guests**

The Head-Administration reported that the drafting of the P&P on Entertainment of Guests is under process. The issue was **deferred** for the next meeting.

2] **Merit Payments 2010**

The Head-Administration reported that following the President's approval of merit payments for 2010, the allowable merit payments for RCs would be based on 10% of the surplus accruing to the RC reserve fund (80% of RC's year-end surplus) in 2010, and for administrative offices will be 10% of the reserve accumulated in 2010 (20% of RC's year-end surplus). The issue was **deferred** for the next meeting in order to allow any inputs on the draft memorandum on Merit Payments 2010 from Schools.

3] RCM Cost Allocation

This was **deferred** for the PAC meeting in April 2011, after the 1st simulation to be carried out when 1Q 2011 is closed.

4] Delegation of Authority

The President informed that the implementation of the expanded delegation of authority would have to wait till he consults the Auditing Committee Chair, Mr. Maris Samaram during the Executive Committee Working Group meeting that would be held same afternoon. This issue would be **finalized** during the next PAC meeting.

5] University of Professions

The President elaborated on the concept of the University of Professions and what it entails for AIT. The universities typically prepare their graduates for academic professions. But AIT could differentiate from them and introduce new innovative programs that targets human resource needs of professions. The major difference between the regular academic programs and professional programs is the pedagogical approach, where curriculum should be developed based on the reflection of participants on their experience and knowledge gathered. The participants experience should be utilized by allowing them to structure their knowledge and the academicians coaching them. Involvement of professionals in terms of designing the curriculum, lecturing the participants, providing cases studies, internships etc. should be the key characteristics. For this the institute would need to open up the system with the decision making power for the programs to be shared with different professions, and lecturers from professions without requiring them to necessarily have academic titles.

The President further mentioned that he would be inviting two Swedish Professors who have experience in professional programs, and will ask them to arrange seminars for AIT faculty. He also pointed out that in this relation it is important that the criteria for 'Professor of Practice' should be in line with what is aspired to be achieved through professional programs. The 'Professor of Practice' should provide complimentary competence to the existing faculty pool.

The key points of the discussion that followed were:

- There is some reluctance by professionals who have doctoral degree to accept 'Professor of Practice' title as in the region academic title are seen as higher ranked.
- The problem foreseen was when internally some academicians might want to switch to 'Professor of Practice'.
- The evaluation process for 'Professor of Practice' would need to be worked out, specifying criteria such as maintaining linkage to the profession in terms of bring projects, doing consultancy projects etc.
- Adjunct Faculty is more acceptable title, whereby people from professions while working in their field work part-time with the university. But if Adjunct Faculty is recruited for full-time, then criteria like doctoral degree qualification requirement could be substituted by number of experience.
- It is important that the person leading/coordinating the professional program has linkages and is able to network with the people of that profession.

The VPAA was requested to catalyze the work on Professional Programs and coming up with P&Ps, after which it will be further discussed in the PAC. It was noted that even for Master's, Doctoral, and other regular programs there is no P&P and only the R&Ps exists. These should also be developed into the P&Ps.

PAC 11.03.04 ISSUES FROM PRESIDENT

1] Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan

The President thanked Prof. Worsak in following up on the safety of the Japanese Colleagues in Japan. Prof. Worsak mentioned that he is now working on an idea to raise some memorial funds in this regard.

2] New Administrative Structure

The President would call a meeting with the School Deans and Consultant to structure the timetable and other issues related to the implementation of the new administrative structure. It was suggested that communication to students should be made to clarify that the new administrative structure would not affect them in any way.

3] TRF Ratings

The TRF ratings should be used to promote AIT by publishing it on the AIT website and brochures.

4] Satellite Model

The President mentioned that the Laureate is still interested and will send their final proposal soon. The key points of the contract proposed are that they will prefer working with one partner, if AIT does not work as per KPIs specified or if AIT is in financial deficit for more than 3 consecutive years then AIT Councils should offer then the management of AIT Mother Campus.

PAC 11.03.05 REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

The PAC **endorsed** the Report of the Academy Senate based on its confirmed minutes of 26 January 2011.

PAC 11.03.06 OTHER BUSINESS

A member raised an issue related to the HEC Pakistan doctoral students who were requesting for support from AIT for their expenses related to additional 6 months required for them to complete their program. The administration would be sending reply to the HEC Pakistan referring to the MoU whereby no such commitment is made by the AIT. However for the goodwill, the AIT will waive the amount for registration fees for this additional semester, but bursary amount disbursement would be at the discretion of the HEC Pakistan.