

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (PEC)

Summary Report

October 2003

(7, 14, 21 and 28 October 2003 Meetings)

1. Journal Subscriptions with Elsevier Science / Science Direct

PEC endorsed the recommendation made by the Library Committee to proceed with the two component subscription package with Elsevier Science / Science Direct amounting to US\$ 197,878. Although the proposed budget is slightly higher than the renewal of the current subscription in print form, it would assist the Institute in its transformation towards electronic resources and also significantly improve the accessibility of the journals by faculty, staff and students.

Complementary services such as searching of articles and copying by GMSARN partner institutions would be permitted while in the case of AIT Vietnam it would be entitled to a complete access and could be linked with AIT.

2. Evaluation of Faculty

As outlined in the flowchart prepared by the Office of the Provost on the "*Faculty Appointment, Contract Renewal and Promotion Process*", it was reaffirmed that the administration shall seek and consider recommendations from the School Dean and the Academic Senate, on faculty contract renewal and promotion to the next academic rank, utilizing reports from external peer evaluation, when such evaluation is mandatory. Assessments by external peers shall be made available to the School and to the Academic Senate.

3. Academic Advisory Panel Meeting

The third meeting of the Academic Advisory Panel (AAP) will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 14 November 2003. The Panel members have also been invited to attend the meeting of the Board of the Greater Mekong Subregion Academic Research Network (GMSARN) which will take place at the invitation of the Rector of Hanoi University of Technology (HUT) on Saturday, 15 November 2003.

4. New Area of Specialization on Gas-Fired Power Plant

PEC endorsed for further review by the School Faculty and Academic Senate the draft proposal for establishing a new area of specialization in "*Gas-fired Power Plant Technology*" in SERD. The Electricity of Vietnam (EVN) has indicated that they would provide funding for about 25 students annually to AIT to pursue their master's studies in the above area of specialization which is in line with a new policy of the Vietnamese government to produce more electricity from gas-fired power plants.

5. RTG Fellowships

AIT has contacted the Office of the Education Council (OEC) proposing that the unutilized amount of 13.3 mio Baht from the RTG Fellowship Grant be made available for the January 2004 intake of new students. Pending formal approval by OEC the Schools were encouraged to start planning in reinforcing their recruitment drive of qualified Thai candidates. It was agreed that the allocation of RTG Fellowships should be based mainly on academic qualifications and demand.

6. AIT Promotion through TV Channel 11

Two episodes, namely on fly ash and robots have been completed as part of the “*Technology with AIT*” TV promotional program produced by the Pacific Intercommunication Co. Ltd. and that which will be broadcast on Channel 11. Another episode on tilapia needs further editing. Further topics were proposed and include the following: shrimp technology, nitrogen removal, cleaner production, traffic related issues (project on prediction of rainfall relayed through mobile phone), microelectronics project, earthquake research (joint project with Thammasat University on testing buildings and bridges), AARPEC Project, rice husk based technology (COGEN) etc. The broadcast is targeted for early next year and the possibility of seeking sponsorship will also be explored. The documentaries once prepared will be viewed at PEC prior to their being broadcast.

7. Campus Environment Committee

Dean SERD was appointed by the President to revive the former Campus Environmental Committee and to serve as its Chair. A new Terms of Reference (TOR) will be developed with a change in membership. As part of its initial task, Dean SERD was requested to form a fact finding committee to look into the cutting of trees surrounding the AIT Community School area (behind ST 11 and 12) to be headed by Professor Ram M. Shrestha.

8. EMBA Program

It was clarified that in case a faculty member engages in teaching in the EMBA Program as part of his / her normal teaching load with no extra honorarium to be paid then the salary will be drawn accordingly in proportion to the teaching load from the central fund and EMBA Program budget. The same principle would also apply to other similar executive programs.

Irrespective of whether teaching is done at AIT or off-campus, separate rates would apply to purely teaching vs. that which also involves student research supervision.

9. Review of Student Applications

In view of certain incidences that have occurred PEC reaffirmed the need to strengthen the process of student selection, especially with regard to the authenticity of the transcripts and recommendation letters and other supporting documents.

10. Partnership with MOST Thailand

PEC received the list of preliminary proposals submitted by SAT, SCE and SERD (11.8 to 19 million Baht depending on the number of phases budgeted for in certain proposals). The Deans were requested to review and prioritize the proposals from their respective schools taking into consideration both the expertise of the faculty in the field and relevancy for AIT. It was recommended that a more consistent format be used in the submission of the proposals.

11. AIT Partnership with Office of Governor, Pathumthani

Starting from October 2003, the Royal Thai Government will apply the chief executive officer (CEO) management style in the administration of all provinces nationwide and all Thai embassies overseas. Accordingly all governors are expected to establish policies and plans jointly with various agencies and organizations in their respective provinces. The Registrar reported that the Office of the Governor of Pathumthani has invited AIT to participate and partner them in the preparation of their administrative and development plan. The idea to make Pathumthani into a “*University Town*” has been proposed given the cluster of educational institutions in the area. The AIT Student Union has also been informed about the proposal and will explore the possibility of organizing joint events with other educational institutions such as through cultural, sports and other related events. This initiative could help in bringing further recognition to AIT.

The Deans were requested to provide information on research in their respective schools including those conducted by the students. This information has been requested by the Office of the Governor of Pathumthani.

12. AIT MoU with Lao PDR

PEC endorsed the draft MoU between AIT and the Ministry of Education, Lao PDR.

13. Request for Additional Student Accommodation Units

A concrete proposal on the request for the construction of additional student accommodation units on campus will be presented for consideration at the 15 December 2003 meeting of the Executive Committee.

14. Institute Policy on Student Residency Requirement

The regulation that all students must reside on campus during the first semester was reaffirmed.