

# March 2016 PANIIT USA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

(Conference Call)

## ATTENDEES

1. Chairman: Vacant
2. President: Witty Bindra
3. Past President: Arjun Sen
4. VP/ Secretary: Jassi Chadha
5. DA Rep: Arvind Jain
6. DA Rep: Prabhat Hajela– Not Present
7. KGP Rep: Roy Da Silva– Not Present
8. BHU Rep: Manu Goyal
9. Bombay Rep: Sandeep Pandya
10. Guwahati Rep: Kiran Thota
11. Delhi Rep: B D Goel– Not Present
12. Madras Rep: Sagar Pushpala – Not Present
13. Kanpur Rep: Priyank Saxena
14. Roorkee Rep: Sanjay Keshwani – Not Present
15. Chapter Rep: Vacant
16. Shum Mukerjee: Co-CFO – PanIIT USA

## MINUTES:

Feb 2015 Meeting Minutes were confirmed.

### **Boston Conference 12-14 Aug 2016 in Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI**

Board discussed the MOU and it was agreed to move ahead and get it executed.

It was suggested by few board members to host a VIP reception for the Prominent / Distinguished DAs at the Conference. Details will be discussed with the Conference team and request will be made to Desh Deshpande to assist in this area.

### **Bay Area Conference – Financial Update**

Shum Mukerjee confirmed that a check for \$54,545.90 was deposited into the PanIIT USA main account and the PanIIT conference account was closed.

### **Capital IIT Katrina Funds – Update**

The board members again expressed their viewpoint to transfer the funds for the Chennai flood disaster ASAP. A suggestion was made to transfer the amount to various charities like FFE.org, etc. Witty is to follow up with Sundi and Ashok Siddhanti from CapIIT team.

## **Notable alumni and chapter presidents at the Boston Conference**

It was discussed how to attract notable alumni to come to come for the PanIIT event being hosted at the Boston Conference.

Here are some of the suggestions offered – Golf event followed by dinner at the Golf club on the 11<sup>th</sup> Aug, keep it very casual get-together, request senior alumni to choose their own team.

The other suggestion was to have the event at the hotel itself before the conference and send formal invites to the selected alumni and make it very special. Invite all the chapter presidents this event too.

The question was raised about the expenses for this event and who will be paying for it – Pan IIT or Boston Conference team? How much will be the total expense? It was decided to talk to Desh Deshpande and the Conference team and finalize the event.

## **Governance**

Governance Committee to come up with the nomination team for selecting the chairman the Chapter's rep. The selection process should be completed before the Boston Conference. Kiran Thota was requested to lead the nomination process with the help of Sundi Sundaresh.

## **Education Initiatives – Update provided by Prabhat Hajela**

Pursuant to our discussions in the February meeting of the Board, I have herein assembled a summary of three proposals that I had proposed for our consideration.

### **A. Mentoring**

Develop a platform where IIT alums considering careers in academia/research can connect with established academics or researchers (also alumni/alumnae of IIT) to seek advice on what such careers entail, what would be the expectations for success, and how best to position and present themselves as prospective candidates. The level of mentorship will vary from person to person, and it is important to engage mentors from a broad spectrum of US universities, both public and private, and with different mission foci. It may be worthwhile (once the platform is established) to invite representatives from IITs to enroll as mentors so as to provide one-on-one advice to IIT alums who may consider seeking such positions in India. The platform can also be used by early career academics at US universities to connect with more senior academics to seek mentorship on issues related to career advancement.

### **B: Database of Experts**

We have many IIT alums with established technical and policy credentials in several key areas that are considered as global societal challenges. Infrastructure resilience, potable water, sustainable energy, and diseases and human health are just examples of such challenges. I believe that it is a significant branding opportunity for the Pan IIT movement to create a database of such experts, perhaps assembled around an initial set of global challenges that could be drawn from the list of NAE Grand Challenges or from the Millennium Goals of the UN. The list of these individuals would be available to any government or non-government agency seeking technical or policy consultants on related issues. I

would make sure that such a list was widely accessible to government agencies and the corporate sector in India. The web portal that hosts this information should be populated with position papers or stories that speak to the success of these noted experts. This project requires significant stewardship but plays directly to our stated goal of enhancing the IIT brand value.

### **C: Changing Landscape of Higher Education – Panel at Boston/Next Year’s Conference**

Pan IIT should organize a panel discussion (at either the regional or national conference) around the topic of the changing landscape of higher education in India. The demand for quality technical education far outpaces the supply. The constraints are many, including persistent shortage of high quality faculty, curricula and pedagogy that has not kept pace with new developments, and uneven availability of technical facilities in the technologically focused institutions. A mix of academic or government leaders from the US and India could come together in a moderated panel discussion that puts these and other issues on the table, with the intent to develop a framework in which some of these challenges can be addressed in a constructive manner. I think it may be late in the game to put this together in time for the Boston meeting but will leave that for the conference organizers to determine.

### **PanIIT App Development Status**

It was suggested that the Pan IIT App should have the following functionality

- Mobile, mini-LinkedIn, custom-built for IIT community
- Entire community should be instantly searchable (complete directory for 60,000 alumni)
- People should be able to find jobs, hire within and more
- Familiar messaging medium (1-1 and Group)
- Auto-organized by batch, IIT, hostel etc
- Content pushed automatically, or by Admin
- Connect Mentors and Mentees, VCs/ Investors with the Entrepreneurs
- Fundraising option for PanIIT
- PanIIT Database to remain secure and not get exposed

It was decided to form a committee comprising of following individuals to look at various options and come up with a recommendation for the board to consider

- Anand Chauhan
- Manu Goyal
- Arjun Sen
- Priyank Saxena
- Puneet Agarwal

### **General Discussion**

It was decided to host the next face to face meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May (Saturday) in San Jose, CA. It was also pointed out by few board members to create a self sustaining financial model so that PanIIT USA is regularly funded by some means and not depend only on the conference income.