

**MINUTES OF THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT LONDON COLLEGE OF  
FASHION, UK AT 0930 HOURS ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2009**

The meeting was presided over by Ms. Elizabeth Rouse, Pro Rector Academic Development and Quality, University of Arts London, London College of Fashion, U.K. and Chairperson IFFTI.

2. The following Executive Committee Member Institutions were represented at the Meeting:-

<b><u>S. No.</u></b>	<b><u>Institution</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>	<b><u>Designation</u></b>
(a)	London College of Fashion, UK	Ms. Elizabeth Rouse	Chairperson
(b)	Bunka Women's University, Japan	Dr. Satoshi Onuma	Deputy Chairperson and Chair, Finance Sub-Committee
(c)	Donghua University, P.R. China	Prof. Li Keling Ms. Grace Gu	Regional Member Interpreter
(d)	Fashion Institute of Technology, U.S.A	Dr. Reginetta Haboucha	Regional Member
(e)	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong	Dr. K. F. Au	Regional Member
(f)	Pearl Academy of Fashion, India	Mr. AKG Nair	Regional Member
(g)	School of Fashion and Textiles, RMIT, Australia	Ms. Tina Guglielmino	Regional Member
(h)	Nottingham Trent University, UK	Ms. Ann Priest	Chair, Education Initiative Sub-Committee
(i)	Amsterdam Fashion Institute, The Netherlands	Ms. Liesbeth in't Hout	Chair, Membership Sub-Committee
(j)	North Carolina State University, USA	Prof. Trevor Little	Chair, Research Sub-Committee
(k)	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong	Prof. Edward Newton	Member Emeritus
(l)	Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan	Prof. Yu Chenping	Co-opted member – Institution hosting 2010 Annual Conference

(m)	IFFTI	Commodore Vijay Chaturvedi (Retd.)	Member Secretary
-----	-------	------------------------------------	------------------

### **WELCOME REMARKS**

3. Ms. Elizabeth Rouse welcomed the Executive Committee members. She was happy to note that all the Executive Committee member institutions were being represented at the meeting.
4. As some of the members were delayed, it was decided to take up agenda item nos. 1 and 2 towards the end of the meeting.

### **MINUTES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

5. The Committee adopted the minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 at Donghua University, Shanghai, P. R. China, as circulated vide IFFTI Secretariat mail dated 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.

### **STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP**

6. The Secretary informed the Committee that subscription from six members had since been received. Of the remaining, De Montfort University, UK; National Institute of Design, India; Keimyung University, Korea and Institute for the Fashion Industries, Japan had expressed a desire to withdraw from IFFTI for the following reasons: -
  - (a) **National Institute of Design, India.** Temporary withdrawal of membership pending appointment of new Director.
  - (b) **De Montfort University, UK.** Temporary withdrawal of membership for budgetary considerations.
  - (c) **Keimyung University, Korea.** Permanent withdrawal for budgetary considerations.
  - (d) **Institute for the Fashion Industries, Japan.** Permanent withdrawal for budgetary considerations.
7. There had been no response from University of Manchester, UK and Universidade Anhembi Morumbi, Brazil despite repeated efforts to contact the authorized representatives of these institutions by email and telephone.
8. During the ensuing discussions, some of the members agreed to contact the authorized representatives of the aforementioned institutions and encourage them to continue to remain with IFFTI.

### **Decisions.**

9. The Committee noted the status.
10. It was agreed that Membership Sub - Committee will develop a policy to deal with the issue of temporary withdrawal by members.
11. The Secretariat should obtain the reasons from institutions desirous of terminating their membership.
12. The decision to terminate membership of the aforementioned members was deferred until the next Executive Committee meeting.

**Action.** – Secretary; Ms. Liesbeth in't Hout; Prof. Edward Newton

## **PROPOSALS OF THE SUB – COMMITTEES**

### **'MEMBERSHIP' SUB-COMMITTEE.**

#### **Corporate Membership.**

13. The Committee took note of the recommendations made by Mr. Russell Kronenburg of Pacific Brands.

#### **Decision.**

14. After brief discussions, the Committee asked the Sub – Committee to look into the report and revert with their recommendations.

**Action.** –Ms. Liesbeth in't Hout

#### **'Individual' Membership.**

15. The Membership Sub - Committee recommended the following: -
  - (a) The word 'Honorary' be removed and this membership be referred to as 'Individual' Membership.
  - (b) Ms. Janice Mee be granted 'Individual' Membership.

#### **Decision.**

16. The Committee approved the aforementioned recommendations of the Membership Sub – Committee.

**Action.** – Secretary

#### **New Members.**

17. The list provided at Annexure A to the Agenda was reviewed. The designated members offered to follow up with the prospective new members. The following members also agreed to help: -

- (a) University of Florence, Italy - Prof. Helen Thomas
- (b) University of Leeds, UK - Prof. Edward Newton
- (c) Shih Chien University, Taiwan - Dr. Satoshi Onuma

### **'EDUCATION INITIATIVE' SUB-COMMITTEE.**

18. The Chair recommended that: -

- (a) A special session on 'Skills' be conducted by the Sub - Committee.
- (b) The Chair also made a proposal regarding summer school activity. The details of the same are given at ***Annexure A (Page 15)***.

### **Decisions.**

19. A separate session on "Skills" was planned at General Council meeting – Session II.

20. The recommendation regarding summer schools was noted.

**Action.** – Ms. Ann Priest

### **'RESEARCH' SUB-COMMITTEE.**

21. Prof. Trevor Little tabled the proposed schedule of IFFTI Conference and a sample of the Non - Exclusive Copyright agreement for implementation by IFFTI. He recommended that IFFTI should adopt 'Non-Exclusive Copyright' approach towards the papers presented at IFFTI Conferences. In this approach, the copyright belongs to the author but the Conference host and IFFTI can use the materials presented at the Conference. The author can submit the work elsewhere but must acknowledge that all or part of the work was presented at the IFFTI Conference.

22. Thereafter, Ms. Tina Guglielmino explained her proposal regarding development of the IFFTI Conference website.

23. This was followed by brief discussions around the need to develop comprehensive conference guidelines for conduct of annual conferences and publishing of papers.

### **Decisions.**

24. It was agreed to adopt the 'Non-Exclusive Copyright' approach towards the papers presented at IFFTI Conferences. However, the authors should seek permission from IFFTI to present/ publish the papers elsewhere and they can do so only after the same are published in IFFTI proceedings.
25. It was further agreed that the Sub – Committee will discuss the remaining proposals and table the recommendations at the next Executive Committee meeting.

**Action.** – Prof. Trevor Little

**'FINANCE' SUB-COMMITTEE.**

26. The Chairperson of the Finance Sub – Committee presented the statement of financial affairs and the provisional budget for the year 2009.

**Decision.**

27. The Committee noted that it was advantageous to hold IFFTI money in India. It was agreed that the committee would hold further discussions on how to utilize the surplus funds for the benefits to members after holding 3 years operating funds as contingency.

**Action.** – Chair, Sub – Committee; Secretary

**REVISED COMPOSITIONS OF SUB – COMMITTEES**

28. The Secretary informed that he had forwarded a proposed revised composition of Sub – Committees to the respective Chairpersons and tabled the same for the consideration for the Committee.

**Decision.**

29. The Committee approved the proposed revised compositions. It observed that the Membership and Finance Sub – Committees were at optimum level. However, it was agreed that the Education Initiatives and Research Sub – Committees could co-opt additional members if required. The revised compositions of the Sub – Committees are placed at ***Annexure B (Page 16)***.

**Action.** – Chairs of Sub - Committees

## **MODALITIES OF CONDUCT OF IFFTI ANNUAL CONFERENCES**

30. Ms. Elizabeth Rouse presented a discussion paper for the consideration of Committee. A copy of the same is placed at **Annexure C (Page 17)**. This was followed by a brief discussion aimed at finding an acceptable solution.

### **Decisions.**

31. The Committee agreed that with the increase in membership, it was becoming difficult for the host institution to support all the costs of the Conference.
32. It was agreed that Ms. Elizabeth Rouse and the Secretary will present cost options for the consideration of the Committee at its next meeting in New York.

**Action.** – Ms. Elizabeth Rouse; Secretary

## **VENUES OF FUTURE IFFTI MEETINGS**

33. The Committee was happy to note that Polimoda had agreed to host the 24<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting.
34. Dr. Satoshi Onuma expressed willingness to host the 26<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting at Bunka Women's University, Japan in October/ November, 2011.

### **Decision.**

35. The Committee thanked Dr. Onuma for his gracious offer and approved the following venues for future IFFTI meetings: -

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Period</b>
a)	22 <sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee Meeting	Fashion Institute of Technology, USA	22 <sup>nd</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2009
b)	12 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and 23 <sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee Meeting	Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan	22 <sup>nd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> March, 2010
c)	24 <sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting	Polimoda, Italy	October, 2010
d)	13 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and 25 <sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting	Institut Francais de la Mode, France	March/ April, 2011

- |    |   |   |                            |
|----|---|---|----------------------------|
| e) | 26 <sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting  | Bunka Women's University, Japan         | October/<br>November, 2011 |
| f) | 14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and 27 <sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting | Pearl Academy of Fashion, Jaipur, India | March/ April, 2012         |

**Action.** – Secretary

36. At this time Ms. Ann Priest joined the meeting.
37. It was, therefore decided to take up the first two Agenda points.

**THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

38. The Secretary informed the Committee that the following composition of the new Executive Committee had been approved at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee held at Donghua University, P. R. China on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2009: -

**REGIONAL MEMBERS.**

S. No.	Institution	Representative
(a)	Donghua University, P.R. China	Prof. Li Keling
(b)	Fashion Institute of Technology, U.S.A	Dr. Reginetta Haboucha
(c)	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong	Dr. K. F. Au
(d)	London College of Fashion, U.K.	Ms. Elizabeth Rouse
(e)	Pearl Academy of Fashion, India	Mr. AKG Nair
(f)	School of Fashion and Textiles, RMIT, Australia	Ms. Tina Guglielmino

**CHAIRS OF SUB-COMMITTEES.**

S. No.	Sub – Committee	Chair
(g)	Education Initiative Sub-Committee	Ms. Ann Priest, Nottingham Trent University, UK

(h)	Membership Sub-Committee	Ms. Liesbeth in't Hout, Amsterdam Fashion Institute, The Netherlands
(i)	Finance Sub-Committee	Dr. Satoshi Onuma, Bunka Women's University, Japan
(j)	Research Sub-Committee	Prof. Trevor Little, North Carolina State University, USA

**CO – OPTED MEMBERS.**

S. No.	Description	Delegate
(k)	Member Emeritus	Prof. Edward Newton
(l)	The host of the next IFFTI Annual Conference upto the conclusion of the 2010 Annual Conference.	Dr. Su – Lee Tsai, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan
(m)	Member Secretary	Commodore Vijay Chaturvedi (Retd.)

**Decisions.**

39. The Chair convened the new Executive Committee comprising aforementioned members.
40. This Committee will hold office until the 2011 IFFTI Annual Conference.

**Action.** – Secretary

**THE NEW CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

41. The Secretary informed the Committee that following members had given their consent to be considered for the post of the next Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson: -

S. No.	Name	Institution	Chairperson	Deputy Chairperson
1	Dr. Satoshi Onuma	Bunka Women's University, Japan	Yes	Yes



2	Prof. Trevor Little	North Carolina State University, USA	Yes	No
3	Ms. Ann Priest	Nottingham Trent University, UK	Yes	Yes
4	Mr. AKG Nair	Pearl Academy of Fashion, India	Yes	Yes
5	Ms. Tina Guglielmino	School of Fashion and Textiles, RMIT, Australia	Yes	Yes

42. It was agreed that a ballot will be held in which each Executive Committee member will cast one vote. The member receiving maximum votes will be elected the Chairperson and the one who receives the next highest votes will become the Deputy Chairperson.
43. The aspirants were asked to give a short speech in support of their candidature before the conduct of ballot.
44. On completion of the ballot, Dr. Satoshi Onuma, Bunka Women's University, Japan was duly elected the Chairperson and Ms. Tina Guglielmino, School of Fashion and Textiles, RMIT, Australia the Deputy Chairperson of IFFTI.

### **Decisions.**

45. The Committee welcomed the appointments of Dr. Satoshi Onuma and Ms. Tina Guglielmino. It was agreed that they would assume the responsibilities of the Chair and Deputy Chair respectively at the General Council meeting scheduled to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2009.
46. They will hold office until the 2011 IFFTI Annual Conference.
47. At a request from the Committee, Ms. Elizabeth Rouse agreed to continue on the Executive Committee as a Co-opted member for a period of two years in accordance with the existing rules and regulations of IFFTI.

### **AGENDA FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IFFTI GENERAL COUNCIL**

48. The Agenda for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the IFFTI General Council was adopted by the Committee. The Secretary was asked to place the Agenda before the General Council on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2009.

**ANY OTHER ITEM**

**Chair of Finance Sub – Committee.**

49. Dr. Satoshi Onuma recommended that Mr. AKG Nair be appointed as Chair of Finance Sub – Committee after Dr. Onuma assumes the responsibilities of Chairperson, IFFTI.

**Decision.**

50. The Committee agreed to the proposal.

**Action.** – Mr. AKG Nair; Secretary

**IFFTI Accreditation of Fashion Programs.**

51. Ms. Tina Guglielmino mentioned that RMIT HOS would like the IFFTI Executive Committee to consider IFFTI taking on the role of accreditation for Fashion programs. Mr. Keith Cowlshaw also advised that he was prepared to undertake a paper to present to IFFTI Executive Committee to assist in investigation of IFFTI becoming an accreditation body.
52. There was strong discussion regarding this matter and several members sited examples of the work that would be necessary for this to occur siting the Textiles Institute as an example of a body that does accredit programs and through their experience of being on the TI executive body found it was a task requiring dedicated staff to this activity.

**Decision.**

53. It was agreed that the Committee would thank Mr. Keith Cowlshaw for the offer and advise that the Executive Committee felt IFFTI could not support this activity.
54. There being no further points, the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

-----X-----

**Proposal regarding Summer School activity**

A number of IFFTI institutions currently offer Summer School activities, either for income generation or in order to ensure a broad range of prospective students have experience of the institution and its specialist provision.

The benefits of travelling and study overseas are well documented and it is considered that IFFTI might well use its network to further the number of students able to taste travel and study at international institutions, at the same time offering a 'marketing' opportunity to institutions.

Therefore, it is proposed that those IFFTI institutions that currently offer Summer School activity at an appropriate level offer a number of places to IFFTI institution students to study for a reduced or no cost to the student.

A second aspect of this proposal might be the opportunity to develop a module, unit or project (perhaps credit rated) with generic learning outcomes, and which might develop upon this opportunity and be delivered at a number of IFFTI institutions specifically for those students wishing to study abroad.

It is not proposed to offer any scholarship or bursary funds, or to legislate for the level of reduction, although IFFTI institutions are invited to view the proposal as a marketing and internationalization exercise.

The Education Initiatives Committee is invited to endorse this proposal, which might be considered for promotion and a first step under the 'IFFTI Internationalization Programme'.

**REVISED COMPOSITIONS OF EXISTING SUB-COMMITTEES**

**EDUCATION INITIATIVES SUB-COMMITTEE**

(a)	Ms. Ann Priest, Nottingham Trent University, U.K.	Chairperson
(b)	Ms. Nannet van der Kleijn, AMFI, Netherlands	Member
(c)	Mr. Robert Ott, Ryerson, Canada	Member
(d)	Dr. Su-Lee Tsai, Fu Jen, Taiwan	Member

**RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE**

(a)	Prof. Trevor Little, NCSU, USA	Chairperson
(b)	Prof. Li Jun, Donghua University, P. R. China	Member
(c)	Prof. Judith Mottram, NTU, UK	Member
(d)	Prof. Helen Thomas, LCF, UK	Member
(e)	Prof. Li Yi, HKPU, Hong Kong	Member
(f)	Ms. Nandita Abraham, Pearl Academy of Fashion, India	Member
(g)	Prof. Dany Jacobs	Member

**MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE**

(a)	Ms. Liesbeth in't Hout, AMFI, Netherlands	Chairperson
(b)	Prof. Edward Newton, Member Emeritus	Member
(c)	Prof. Li Keling, Donghua University, P. R. China	Member
(d)	Ms. Tina Guglielmino, RMIT, Australia	Member

**FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE**

(a)	Mr. A.K.G. Nair, Pearl Academy of Fashion, India	Chairperson
(b)	Dr. Satoshi Onuma, Bunka University, Japan	Member
(c)	Ms. Sylvie Ebel, Institut Francais de la Mode, France	Member
(d)	Dr. Reginetta Haboucha, FIT, USA	Member

## **PAPER ON MODALITIES OF CONDUCT OF IFFTI CONFERENCES**

### **1 Purpose**

This paper responds to the issues raised by members in relation to the restriction of free places at conferences to designated representatives. It is intended to stimulate a wider discussion on the costs, and alternatives ways, of hosting conferences.

Executive committee is asked to consider whether there would be value in investigating different models of funding and delivering conferences

### **2 Background**

This is the eleventh IFFTI conference. The conferences have been hosted by a variety of member institutions and since its inception IFFTI members have been entitled to free places at the conference although there have been some modifications to the original pattern. However it has not always been easy to secure locations and on a number of occasions institutions have had to withdraw their offer to host the conference and this has led either to a long gap between conferences or other institutions hosting the conference at short notice.

In the early days of IFFTI the conferences offered member institutions an opportunity to raise their national and international profile and in many cases they were able to secure the support of government or other sponsors.

More recently the conference has been hosted by faculties or departments within institutions. In some universities there is an expectation of that conferences are self – financing , but the growth in membership and numbers of free places have made it more difficult for organizers to break even. They have raised this issue with the Executive Committee on a number of occasions and mitigations such as the payment for the publication were agreed.

A further change has been the decision to increase the rigour of paper selection in order to improve the calibre of papers, to meet the requirements of research assessment and to enable individual presenters to secure funding to attend the conference.

### **3 Issues for discussion**

#### *3.1 Is the allocation of free places sustainable in the long term?*

Currently there are approximately 60 free places which could be taken up at any conference. The entitlement for full, associate and industry members for free places means that as membership increases so will this entitlement. The comment from UTS indicates institutions have the expectation that they can use these places for any attendee. This raises two problems: one is the continuity of representation at the Council and the second is attracting additional attendees from institutions. The UTS statement makes it clear they will only send

participants whether or not they are giving papers, if those places are free and that they regard this as an entitlement because of the membership fee they have paid.

Institutions pay a significant fee to IFFTI but it is the conference host institution which bears the cost of the free places. Predicting the up take of free places also creates problems for those managing the conference budget.

If membership of IFFTI grows and institutions and members only send non-fee paying participants it will be increasingly difficult to attract sufficient fee paying participants to subsidize IFFTI members. There is also a standard conference fee which it is difficult to exceed without reducing participation and the ethical issue of whether full fee paying participants should de facto be subsidizing the attendance of IFFTI members.

IFFTI has always taken the view that institutions should seek sponsorship to support conferences but institutions may then be vulnerable to economic conditions.

### 3.2 *Current model*

<b>Cost</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>IFFTI</b>
Costs in kind	Administration Venue	
Direct Costs for free places	Catering for free places for the council and conference Executive dinner and events	
Fees	Waive fees for IFFTI designated representatives (up to 60)	Fees for Junior Faculty and students (8)
Publication	CD – rom	Support for publication

### 3.3 *Alternative models*

There are a number of alternatives that we might consider and it is proposed that we ask the Secretariat to model the financial and other implications of these as appropriate.

- Only member institutions which are prepared to take on the full cost of the conference should be selected and this should be made clear to applicants.
- To share costs, any institution not only members of the Executive can host Executive Committee meetings
- IFFTI provides a contribution for the costs of free places
- All participants from IFFTI members pay a reduced conference fee and the balance is paid by IFFTI
- IFFTI makes a contribution to the indirect costs of venue, organization and administration

- IFFTI secretariat undertakes the organization of the conference and hosts it at an independent venue /or institutional venue.

4 Executive Committee is invited to comment on the paper and recommend further action.

-----X-----

**CLOSING SESSION OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT LONDON COLLEGE OF FASHION, UK ON 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL, 2009**

This meeting was called to review the progress made by the Sub - Committees during discussions held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009.

2. The following were present: -

<b><u>S. No.</u></b>	<b><u>Institution</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>	<b><u>Designation</u></b>
(a)	Bunka Women's University, Japan	Dr. Satoshi Onuma	Chairperson
(b)	School of Fashion and Textiles, RMIT, Australia	Ms. Tina Guglielmino	Deputy Chairperson
(c)	London College of Fashion, UK	Ms. Elizabeth Rouse	Regional Member
(d)	Fashion Institute of Technology, U.S.A	Dr. Reginetta Haboucha	Regional Member
(e)	Pearl Academy of Fashion, India	Mr. AKG Nair	Regional Member and Chair, Finance Sub-Committee
(f)	Amsterdam Fashion Institute, The Netherlands	Ms. Liesbeth in't Hout	Chair, Membership Sub-Committee
(g)	Nottingham Trent University, UK	Ms. Ann Priest	Chair, Education Initiative Sub-Committee
(h)	North Carolina State University, USA	Prof. Trevor Little	Chair, Research Sub-Committee
(i)		Prof. Edward Newton	Member Emeritus
(j)	Nottingham Trent University, UK	Prof. Judith Mottram	Special Invitee
(k)	London College of Fashion, UK	Prof. Helen Thomas	Special Invitee
(l)	IFFTI	Commodore Vijay Chaturvedi (Retd.)	Member Secretary

**'RESEARCH' SUB-COMMITTEE.**

3. **Conference Guidelines.** Prof. Trevor Little briefed the Committee on the deliberations of the Research Sub – Committee. These are summarized below: -



- (a) The Non-Exclusive Copyright Form will be given to Commodore Vijay to administer for IFFTI Conference presentations, papers, student designs, etc. and other derivative products such as book of papers, etc.
- (b) The Research Sub - Committee recognized the significant amount of work that goes into the abstract and paper reviewing process. If the host institution is considering printing a “book of papers”, the recommendation of the Research Sub - Committee is that all reviewed materials be included in the “book of papers”.
- (c) Software packages that support running a Conference are available. The Research Committee will compile a short list of known software packages and make this list available to conference hosts.
- (d) An international list of reviewers will be compiled and added to the IFFTI website. The list will add the reviewer expertise to the list so that conference host’s can match paper subject matter to reviewer expertise. It is further recommended that serving on this International Review Board be recognized so that it can be added to a CV.
- (e) A set of Conference Guidelines will be prepared to cover all aspects of an IFFTI Conference. It is recommended that this be sub-contracted and the Executive Committee has allocated \$3,500 – 5,000 for this task. To accomplish this part of the work Prof. Little will prepare a “draft” of the subjects to be covered in the Conference Guidelines. This will be circulated to recent conference hosts to review the subjects and amend accordingly. The final list will be sent to the entire Research Sub - Committee. This is somewhat urgent as the next Conference organization is well underway.
- (f) The Research Blog has not been very active. To begin a discussion of research topics, it is recommended that a ‘Listserve’ of IFFTI members be prepared and topics for Research be placed on the Agenda for the Listserve. This would be a test of engaging the IFFTI community in a Research area. An evaluation of this approach will guide IFFTI to the best practice for communicating Research.
- (g) The Sub – Committee discussed the Materials Library request. It is recommended that the Research Sub – Committee collect information about Materials Libraries that are available, make this information available to IFFTI (website) and allow members to communicate with the resource individually. This subject will be one of the early requests placed on the Listserve.
- (h) A List of Associated Organizations should be added to the IFFTI website.
- (i) The Conference Proceedings and papers presented for all Conferences (or as many as are available digitally) be added to the IFFTI website.
- (j) The following topics be included in the IFFTI conference package. The list will be revised based on inputs received from other members: -
  - (i) Theme of Conference
  - (ii) Promotional Materials

- (iii) Reviewers of Abstracts and Papers
- (iv) Reviewers of Design Competition
- (v) Website for Conference
- (vi) Software to handle Abstract/Paper Submission and Review
- (vii) Non-Exclusive Copyright Form
- (viii) Guidelines for Abstracts
- (ix) Guidelines for Papers
- (x) Guidelines for Junior Faculty and PG/ Research Papers
- (xi) Guidelines for Design Competition
- (xii) Conference Registration and Attendee Fees
- (xiii) Keynote and Invited Speakers
- (xiv) Conference Plan – Location and Dates
- (xv) Conference Events – (IFFTI meetings, IFFTI initiatives, IFFTI Executive Committee dinner, Sub – Committee meetings, Panel Discussions, Workshops, Student Competitions, Reception, Lunches etc.)
- (xvi) Registration
- (xvii) Conference Proceedings
- (xviii) Guidelines for Presentations
- (xix) Paper version of Conference proceedings (all reviewed papers)
- (xx) Conference Session Plan
- (xxi) Conference Session Chairs
- (xxii) Policy for no-shows
- (xxiii) Hotels
- (xxiv) Transportation/maps
- (xxv) Fashion Show
- (xxvi) Visits of local interest
- (xxvii) Executive Committee Meetings
- (xxviii) Sub-Committee Meetings
- (xxix) Workshops
- (xxx) Poster Sessions
- (xxxi) Conference Evaluation and Suggestions

- (k) **IFFTI Conference Website.** The construction of the IFFTI Conference websites should be outsourced to a professional agency.

### **Decisions.**

4. **Conference Package:** The Research Sub - Committee is to define the content of the Conference Guidelines. Thereafter, the task of preparing the guidelines may be outsourced to a professional. IFFTI members can also offer to undertake the task. A budget of USD 5000/- was earmarked for this task.

**Action.** – Prof. Trevor Little

5. **International Review Board:** The Research Sub - Committee is to obtain the names of faculty who would be willing to participate in reviewing of IFFTI Conference papers. This list is to be then made available to the host institution.

**Action.** – Prof. Trevor Little

6. **Conference Website:** A Sub - Committee comprising following members was convened to assist the Committee in updating the IFFTI Conference website. The Sub – Committee is to define the contents of the website and recommend a short list of 5 web designers for undertaking the task: -

- |     |   |             |
|-----|---|-------------|
| (a) | Ms. Tina Guglielmino, School of Fashion and Textiles, RMIT, Australia | Chairperson |
| (b) | Ms. Liesbeth in't Hout, Amsterdam Fashion Institute, The Netherlands  | Member      |
| (c) | Prof. Helen Thomas, London College of Fashion, UK                     | Member      |
| (d) | Mr. AKG Nair, Pearl Academy of Fashion, India                         | Member      |
| (e) | Prof. Judith Mottram, Nottingham Trent University, UK                 | Member      |

**Action.** – Ms. Tina Guglielmino

7. **Publishing of Conference Papers.** All the papers presented at IFFTI Conferences are to be included in the book of papers.

8. The proposals regarding preparation of 'Listserve', Materials library and hosting of Conference Papers on the IFFTI website were approved by the Committee.

**Action.** – Prof. Trevor Little; Prof. Helen Thomas; Secretary

**'EDUCATION INITIATIVE' SUB-COMMITTEE.**

9. Ms. Ann Priest informed the Committee that the discussion on skills was appreciated by the members.

**Decision.**

10. The Committee asked Ms. Ann Priest to make a proposal on how the "Skills" and "Environment" discussions could be taken forward.

**Action.** – Ms. Ann Priest

11. There being no further points, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

-----X-----

**SESSION ON SKILLS****Background:**

At the Shanghai Conference 2008, the Initiatives Committee of IFFTI considered the diverse expectations of their various institutional stakeholders in relation to graduate skills, and the implications of increasingly pressing government, employer and economic agendas on already stretched teaching and resource budgets. A brief background to some of the issues is given below: -

Universities and institutions are increasingly seen as critical to nations' economic success. Governments' socio-economic and educational policies are progressively linked with the agenda firmly set upon the skills and employment needs of nations. The focus is firmly set upon ensuring that schools, colleges and institutions deliver the qualifications, curricula and skills for excellence, employment, enterprise and lifelong learning.

The focus is not simply on 'vocational' or 'craft' skills, but on the development of thinking and intellectual skills. It is suggested that employers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century want a 'thinking workforce, working intelligently'. Institutions are encouraged to develop within graduates 'higher level skills', those of observation, critical thinking, creativity, communication and enterprise. There is recognition that future employees will need not just technical, business or process skills but the ability to think conceptually, understand the concepts in which they work and challenge the accepted norms.

The importance of models of teaching and practice rooted in practice is accepted; that students learn and develop a familiarity with the field on which they can draw. However, with fantastic technologies now available to us, institutions will need to consider how to develop craft skills, the selection, manipulation and implications of materials use, the fluency achieved through practice whilst extending the environment of learning by doing to utilise and take advantage of new technologies for modelling, visioning and gathering information.

Delivering our practical subjects is expensive, in space, technology and materials. Over time, many institutions report having to make cuts or find efficiency savings by reviewing course content. What are the strategies that IFFTI institutions have adopted to ensure they deliver the skills and curricula they feel is appropriate?

**Conduct:**

A panel discussion was held at 1430 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2009 to deliberate on the aforementioned issues. Discussion on skills was led by following panel members: -

- |     |  |        |
|-----|--|--------|
| (a) | Ms. Ann Priest, Nottingham Trent University, UK                            | Chair  |
| (b) | Ms. Nannet van der Kleijn, Amsterdam Fashion Institute,<br>The Netherlands | Member |

- |     |   |        |
|-----|---|--------|
| (c) | Mr. Robert Ott, Ryerson University, Canada      | Member |
| (d) | Ms. Sally Wade, Nottingham Trent University, UK | Member |

The panel members were invited to give a brief overview in regard to practice at their own institution in respect to the following: -

- What are the skills considered critical for courses to develop in students?
- How do institutions ensure they are developing skills appropriate for the 21<sup>st</sup> century?
- What strategies for learning and teaching have been developed to ensure skills are developed through the curriculum?
- What do institutions feel are the future challenges for skills development?

This was followed by engaging discussions between members.

-----X-----