



## MINUTES OF 67TH IFFTI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>67th IFFTI Executive Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>24th March 2025</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>13:30-15:30; 13th floor, LCF East Bank, London, UK</b>
<p><b>1. Attendance Confirmed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Chairperson-IFFTI-</b> Prof. Robyn Healy, RMIT University, Australia</li> </ul> <p><b>Regional Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prof. Liz Barnes, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK – Deputy Chairperson, IFFTI, Deputy Chair, Membership Sub-Committee</li> <li>● Prof. Anne Porterfield, NCSU, USA – Member</li> <li>● Prof. Jose Teunissen AMFI, The Netherlands – Chair, Education Initiative Sub-Committee</li> <li>● Dr. Helen Gaudette, FIT, USA- Member</li> <li>● Dr. Circe Henestrosa, LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore- Member</li> <li>● Prof. Norio Nakanishi, Bunka Gakuen University, Japan – Member</li> <li>● John Lau, LCF, UK – Member, Hosting 2025 IFFTI Annual Conference</li> <li>● Prof. Jun Li, Donghua University, P.R. China – Deputy Chair, Finance Sub-Committee</li> <li>● Prof. Carolyn Hardaker, DMU, UK- Member</li> <li>● <b>Co-opted Member-</b> David Zajtmann, IFM, France- Chair, Research Sub-Committee</li> <li>● <b>General Manager, IFFTI</b> Surbhi Nijhawan- General Manager, IFFTI</li> </ul> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prof. Gargi Bhaduri, KSU, USA – Member</li> <li>● Prof. Margo Barton, Otago Polytechnic, New Zealand- Chair, Membership Sub-Committee</li> <li>● Ms. Aditi Srivastava, Pearl Academy, India – Chair, Finance Sub-Committee.</li> <li>● Laura Washington, FDS TAFE Australia- Member</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. Welcome to the 67th Executive Committee Meeting</b></p> <p>2.1 The Chairperson thanked John Lau and his team for arranging the Executive Committee meeting at the London College of Fashion, UAL, UK. She welcomed the EC members and thanked them for making the effort to attend the conference in person.</p>	
<p><b>3. Chair’s Report</b></p> <p>● <b>IFFTI Website – Review of Objectives</b></p> <p>The Committee reviewed the current "Objectives" listed in the About Us section of the IFFTI website. It was agreed to be removed from the website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Kent State University, USA</b></li> </ul> <p>Kent State University informed the Committee of its decision to discontinue IFFTI membership, citing institutional restructuring as the primary reason. Subsequently, Kent State University informed IFFTI that they have prepared a case internally and are still reconsidering their decision regarding continued membership.</p> <p>Following this update, EC members shared their views. The Chairperson advised a one-month waiting period before officially vacating their seat on the Executive Committee and withdrawing their IFFTI membership. This pause allows time for further clarification or reconsideration from Kent State University.</p>	
<p><b>4. Update from the Membership Sub-Committee</b></p> <p><b>1. Membership Structure</b></p> <p>Prof. Liz shared that the Sub-Committee had reviewed the membership models of similar international organisations. After the discussion, it was agreed to retain the current subscription model. However, IFFTI may later consider a revised model in which larger institutions pay a higher subscription fee, which could enable increased complimentary registrations for those institutions.</p> <p><b>2. Website Update – Key Benefits of IFFTI Membership</b></p> <p>Prof. Liz emphasised the need to reinforce the value of IFFTI membership. She informed the Committee that the “Key Benefits of IFFTI Membership” will be published on the IFFTI website and presented at the AGM. This aims to communicate the advantages of being part of the IFFTI network and to reaffirm the relevance and value it offers to its members.</p> <p><b>3. Discussion on IFFTI Membership Types</b></p> <p><b>a) Corporate Sponsors:</b> The subcommittee proposed developing industry partnerships and engaging corporate sponsors to strengthen IFFTI’s connection with the industry.</p> <p><b>b) Reciprocal Membership:</b> Prof. Liz proposed that the concept of “reciprocal membership” be replaced with the term “alliance” on the IFFTI website. This shift reflects a more contemporary and flexible approach to building institutional partnerships and collaborative relationships.</p>	

## 5. Update from Education Sub-Committee

### ● IFFTI Programme – 2025

This year, no exclusive IFFTI Education and Research Workshop scheduled. However, Prof. Jose informed the Committee that members of the Sub-Committee would be visiting and reviewing the workshops taking place during the conference, to assess their relevance and impact.

- **Collaboration with IAF:** Prof. Jose shared that Mr. Matthijs Crietee from the International Apparel Federation (IAF) will be presenting a report at the AGM on IAF's activities, particularly in areas of collaboration, surveys, and Exchange programmes. It was noted that insights from the Industry Survey being discussed may help define the on-ground needs and expectations of the industry, guiding future academic-industry partnerships.
- **Plans for 2025 and Beyond:** The Sub-Committee proposed organising regional meetings in collaboration with the Research Sub-Committee, focused on dedicated thematic topics. These meetings aim to deepen regional engagement and create a platform for targeted academic and research dialogue. The next Europe Regional meeting is planned for November.
- **Online Educational Workshops:** The Education Sub-Committee plans to host an online one-hour educational workshop on AI, potentially in two parts, open to all IFFTI members. These sessions aim to build capacity and foster dialogue on emerging technologies in fashion education.
- **Developmental Session for IFFTI Conference 2026:** As done last year, the Education Sub-Committee will conduct a developmental Session for authors whose abstracts are selected in the creative paper and workshop categories for the IFFTI Conference 2026. These sessions are intended to support the development of high-quality submissions and encourage deeper academic engagement.

## 6. Update from Research Sub Committees -

The Committee acknowledged the departure of two key members:

- a) Prof. Anthony Kent
- b) Prof. Noël Palomo-Lovinski, based on the update from Kent State University regarding their membership status.

Their contributions to the Committee and IFFTI's research initiatives were noted with appreciation.

- **Regional Meetings:** The Sub-Committee continues to encourage the organisation of regional meetings to foster focused collaboration and knowledge exchange. Prof. David shared that the next European Regional Meeting is scheduled for November 2025.
- Prof. Robyn Healy proposed hosting an online regional meeting for the Oceania region, enabling more inclusive participation. Americas also plans to have an online meeting in their region. Prof Anne Porterfield from NCSU and Helen from FIT will plan.
- **Research Committee Representation:** Prof. David also shared that the Sub-Committee has tried to include more members from the Asia region, ensuring a more balanced and equitable geographical distribution within the Research Committee.
- **Mentoring:** Launching a structured mentoring programme to support researchers within the IFFTI network.
- **Developmental Session for IFFTI Conference 2026:** As done last year, the Research Sub-Committee will conduct a developmental session for authors whose abstracts are selected in the full and developmental paper categories for the IFFTI Conference 2026. These sessions are intended to support the development of high-quality submissions and encourage deeper academic engagement.

## 7. Update from Finance Sub Committees :

Prof Jun Li: Informed the EC that the IFFTI Budget would be shared at the AGM.

## 8. Additional Points:

- Two positions have become available on the Editorial Board of the IFFTI Annual Proceedings following the retirement of Prof. Anthony Kent and the withdrawal of Kent State University (Prof. Noël Palomo-Lovinski).
- Prof. Jun Li from Donghua University, China and Prof Carolyn from DMU were happy to be part of the Editorial Board of the IFFTI Publication.
- EC members discussed the relevance of including the poster category submission at the conference. The recommendation was not to include it in the 2026 IFFTI Conference, and this has been conveyed to RMIT Vietnam.

9. The Chair thanked the committee for their contributions.