

## Chair's Draft



## MINUTES

### Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme (SAAAP) Programme Board

**Meeting 42 (2019-20)**  
**10.00-12.00 | 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 | Virtual**

<b>Membership</b>	
Tamsyn Barton (TB)	Chair of Programme Board
Valerie Amos (VA)	SOAS Director
Shane McCausland (SM)	Head of School of Arts
Mulaika Hijjas (MH)	Lecturer in South East Asian Studies
Heather Elgood (HE)	Course Director, Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art
Suzanne Rushforth (SR)	Philanthropy Manger (Art & Collections)
<b>Programme staff</b>	
Alan Goulbourne (AG)	Programme Manager
<b>Apologies</b>	

<b>Agenda item.</b>	<b>Agenda Item and Notes</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome:</b>  TB welcomed SM back to the Programme Board.  SM thanked TB and reported that recruitment to the vacant Senior Lecturer in Curating and Museology of Asia position had been successful. The appointee would take up the position in November.
<b>2</b>	<b>Previous minutes and actions (TB)</b>  The minutes were approved. All actions complete.
<b>3</b>	Chair's Report (TB):  TB suggested the order of the agenda be amended to so that Item 5. – SOAS: Alphawood Foundation: Phase II Proposals be dealt with first – as VA had to leave at 11.00am.
<b>4</b>	<b>Director's Report (VA) – Update: SOAS: Alphawood Foundation: Phase II Proposals: <i>Appendix 02</i></b>

TB introduced the item saying the paper was the result of recent discussions between SOAS and Alphawood and formed the basis for discussion. Given the limited funds at SOAS's disposal it would involve difficult decisions.

VA introduced the item and recapped the history of her conversations with Alphawood since the last programme board meeting. The Board had asked her to discuss with Alphawood the request to vire surplus revenue from the endowments to enable SOAS to make interim arrangements for SAAAP to wind down by July 2020. Alphawood had agreed to the request and confirmed that it would not be funding SOAS' Phase II proposal.

Subsequently, Alphawood had suggested that SOAS should think creatively about the use of virements from the endowments to fund a further programme.

On this basis VA had then floated the possibility of a limited 3 year SAAAP programme to Alphawood that comprised: a number of scholarships; outreach; in-region liaison; a reduced programme office; and scaled-back governance. The programme would start in September 2020 and the initial cohort would be drawn from existing Alphawood Diploma students. It would be funded by viring capital from the ASF endowment (c. £1m); surplus revenue from the other endowments; and use of the balances on the time-limited funds.

Alphawood welcomed the proposal as a means of continuing the programme and securing the legacy. They asked VA to prepare a formal proposal and said they would be prepared to amend the Deed of Gift to enable such a development.

The Programme Board was now invited to make decisions both about the desirability of the overarching proposal as well any specific details. In discussion the following points were made:

- HE thought it was a positive development that would help improve the relationship with Alphawood and secure the legacy. In the course of time, circumstances would change and Alphawood might be amenable to approaches from SOAS in the future;
- SM thought this was a momentous decision. He could see the institutional and in-region benefits of the proposal whilst also recognising the concern of academics facing a reduction in future funding of research and publications. It was a fine balance to be struck and he asked for more details on the impact on the finances of having fewer scholarships and smaller virements; He thought the demand for ASF funding from alumni was likely to grow over time as the number of graduates increased.
- AG explained that although the likely impact of the virement would be a 40% reduction in revenue for ASF, the record over the last 3 years was that revenue was generally underspent (enabling past funding of additional PhDs from the ASF surplus revenue, for instance).
- VA noted that her impression was that Alphawood's priority was more scholarships and that the scale of the proposal was about right. A significant reduction now, in favour of more research and publications would probably not sit well with Alphawood. SOAS' priority was sustainability and to refresh the relationship with our largest donor. She was conscious she was handing over to a new Director of SOAS who would be keen to engage Alphawood on good terms.

Members agreed that the scale of the overarching proposal should not be changed.

	<p>On the specifics of the programme, HE questioned whether the balance between ELAS, Diplomas and MAs was right given that most SEA students needed a lot of support on English Language and that Diplomas were an appropriate entry point for many students. MH asked if the proposal could accommodate PhDs given that SAAAP was aiming to provide progression and support future leaders of influence. SM thought progression important but that additional PhDs would imbalance the programme and were expensive.</p> <p>TB noted that a number of PhD scholarships had already been funded, so that there would be Ph.D students funded by Alphawood until 2023-24. She suggested that that the specifics of the programme should be the subject of consultation with the various sub-boards. Members were in agreement.</p> <p><b>Action 168: AG to draft proposals for consultation with the various SAAAP sub-boards (late May).</b></p> <p><b>Action 169: AG to revise proposals in the light of the consultation and clear with the Programme Board – either by email or at the next Programme Board (whichever is sooner).</b></p> <p><b>Action 170: AG to work with SR to amend the Deed of Gift as appropriate for Alphawood’s consideration.</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>SAAAP - Finances 2019-20 (AG) Appendices 01 and 01.1</b></p> <p>AG updated the board that the capital value of the endowment funds had been affected by the Covid-19 crisis – declining in value from £12.7m at the start of the current financial year to £11.2m at the end of March 2020 (a fall of about 12%). By comparison, the performance of other financial assets has been worse – the FTSE100 declined 34% in the same period, for instance.</p> <p>It was noted that the Academic Support Fund had £100k of revenue being carried forward with commitments of about £98k spread over the current year and next. Between now and July there might be more revenue from the endowments but it was difficult to predict at the moment.</p> <p>The impact of viring capital would reduce revenue by about 40%, other things being equal. This should be borne in mind when considering current applications totalling £93k in all – although that amount would be spread fairly evenly over the next three years.</p> <p>The time-limited funds were winding down as projected at the last meeting – with some small balances likely at the end of 2019-20.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Academic Support Fund: Updates, Reports and Applications</b></p> <p><b>a. Library Acquisitions – Appendix 03</b></p> <p>The proposed acquisitions were approved.</p> <p><b>b. UPDATES - Ongoing Projects (AG) Appendix 04</b></p> <p><b>SAAAP075 - European Study Trip 2020</b></p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic had meant that the study trip was cancelled 3 weeks before planned commencement on 28 March. All travel, accommodation and visas had been booked. Refunds were being sought but it was unlikely the full amounts would be reimbursed.</p>

#### ***SAAAP070 - CSEAS Research Series 2019-20***

The event planned for May had been postponed. No bookings had been made so the budget would be carried over.

#### ***SAAAP077 - AAS Conference Panel Boston April 2020***

The conference had been cancelled. Refunds were being sought for accommodation and travel – the impact on the budget was not yet known.

#### ***SAAAP032 - NUS Research Publication Series - Report and Renewal***

##### ***Application***

The first volume to appear in the series, 'Returning Southeast Asia's Past: Objects, Museums, Restitution', edited by Prof. Louise Tythacott and Alphawood alumnus Pangah Ardiyansyah was in press. The book can now be pre-ordered through NUS Press North American distributor, Chicago University Press (the book is expected in print for North America, Europe and Asia in autumn 2020).

The second volume, 'Early Theravadin Cambodia: Art Historical and Archaeological Perspectives', edited by Ashley Thompson, was in the post-peer review stage. Half of the volume's contributors were Southeast Asian, including one Alphawood alumna. The book was scheduled to go into press in September 2020.

The third volume, 'Early Buddhism in Northeast Thailand and Central Laos: Art and Archaeology of the 6th – 11th Centuries', is a monograph by SOAS graduate and ACM curator Stephen Murphy. Dr Murphy's book proposal with sample chapters has been accepted. The full manuscript will be submitted November 2020.

#### ***SAAAP031 - Pratu – Postgraduate Research Journal***

The inaugural volume of Pratu – Volume 1 (2020) - comprised three articles by SAAAP and SOAS alumni which demonstrated clear relevance to the SAAAP remit and a professional standard of production.

The many processes and templates required for engaging with authors, peer reviewers, image rights holders, translators, layout designers and contacts at the online repository, had been extensively developed and documented alongside the preparation of the first articles.

#### ***SAAAP066 – Creative South***

The MS had gone to ISEAS Publishing Singapore - 19 chapters plus Introduction. The plan was for publication in final quarter 2020 if all worked well under lockdown. It would be available in two volumes on the web and individual chapters could be downloaded as PDFs against payment.

#### ***SAAAP062 – Ho Chi Minh Museum Catalogue***

The project had finally received official authorisation from the city's Ministry of Sport and Culture committee. The list of contributors to the catalogue's 'Introduction' had been agreed with the Museum Director and the invitation letters had been sent.

Contributions had been requested to be delivered in 4Q2020 with publication anticipated in early 2021. Ho Chi Minh Museum was now finalising the list of 100 objects to be included.

**c. REPORT – SAAAP067 - REPORT – SAAAP032: NUS Research Publication Series (SM) *Appendix 05***

**d. APPLICATION – SAAAP084 – NUS Research Publication Series Renewal (SM) *Appendix 06***

Members considered the NUS series to be a prestigious collaboration that reflected well on the school. TB particularly welcomed the contributions of Alphawood alumni. All agreed it deserved ongoing support and the rollover of funds.

**Approved**

**e. REPORT – SAAAP031: Pratu (SM) *Appendix 07***

**f. APPLICATION – SAAAP085 – Pratu Renewal (SM) *Appendix 08***

Members welcomed the recent progress in publishing articles and appreciated the demanding groundwork that had been involved in establishing the journal. SM observed that the budget underspend was significant and that it was important that applicants become more adept at planning and managing the use of resources. TB agreed and asked for regular updates to include actual spend against the budget. Members approved the application.

**Approved**

**g. APPLICATION – SAAAP080 - UGM workshop and Bogem catalogue (SM) *Appendix 09***

The Board agreed that this would be a worthy publication and noted the budget had been reduced, as requested. They raised the risk of Covid-19 preventing the physical workshop. Members agreed with TB's suggestion that a virtual workshop should be the fall back if travel to Cambodia were to be still restricted in 2021.

**Approved – with development of a contingency plan.**

**h. APPLICATION – SAAAP081 - Research Fieldwork: “Angkorean Administration of the ninth and the tenth centuries” (TB) *Appendix 10***

The Board considered the project to be worthy of funding but were concerned about the possible impact of Covid-19 on the fieldwork. SM thought flexibility was required in keeping with the general approach of the SOAS Doctoral School to empower students to exercise their judgement as to whether and how to adjust to circumstances. Regular updates should be requested.

**Approved – with regular updates required.**

**i. APPLICATION – SAAAP086 – Image Reproduction – ‘Figuring the Buddha’ *Appendix 11***

The Board supported this request for funding the purchase of image rights to support Professor Thompson's extended essay.

**Approved**

<b>7</b>	<p><b>Request for Financial Support – Duyen Nguyen – <i>Appendix 12</i></b></p> <p>Members agreed that the circumstances warranted a further term's worth of financial support to enable Duyen Nguyen to complete her PhD in 2020.</p> <p><b>Approved</b></p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>SM kindly agreed to Chair the SAAAP Research and Publications Sub-Board for the duration of Professor Thompson's sabbatical. Members agreed that it could be useful if there could be representation of the Pratu editorial team and of the CSEAS Research Series on the Research and Publications Sub-Board. SM would make a proposal.</p> <p>SM reported that a successor to HE had been appointed and was expected to start late June 2020. HE would work part-time during a transition year. SM would think about HE's successor on the Outreach Sub-Group. HE would continue as a member of the SAAAP Programme Board.</p>
<b>9</b>	Date of Next Meeting – 10.00-12.00 on 11 June 2020.

**SAAAP Project Board Actions 2019-2020**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Added</b>	<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Complete?</b>
<b>168</b>	7/05/2020	AG to draft proposals for consultation with the various SAAAP sub-boards (late May).	ASAP	AG	
<b>169</b>	7/05/2020	AG to revise proposals in the light of the consultation and clear with the Programme Board – either by email or at the next Programme Board (whichever is sooner).	ASAP	AG	
<b>170</b>	7/05/2020	AG to work with SR to amend the Deed of Gift as appropriate for Alphawood's consideration.	ASAP	AG	