

**MINUTES**

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

**Meeting 44 (2020-21)**

**10.00-12.00 | 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 | Virtual Meeting**

<b>Membership</b>	
Tamsyn Barton (TB)	Chair of Programme Board
	SOAS Director
Shane McCausland (SM)	Head of School of Arts/Interim Liaison with Alphawood
Mulaika Hijjas (MH)	Lecturer in South East Asian Studies
Heather Elgood (HE)	Course Director, Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art
Ashley Thompson (AT)	Hiram W. Woodward Chair in Southeast Asian Art, Chair SAAAP Research and Publications Sub-board
Peter Sharrock (PS)	SAAAP Outreach and Communications Manager
Suzanne Rushforth (SR)	Philanthropy Manager (Art & Collections)
<b>Programme staff</b>	
Alan Goulbourne (AG)	Programme Manager
Olivia Burt (OB)	Project Administrator

Agenda item.	Agenda Item and Notes
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome and Chair's Report</b></p> <p>TB welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and the new members. TB highlighted that there is usually a SOAS director present at the Programme Board, but that it did not make sense for interim director Graham Upton to be involved, so Adam Habib will join when he begins in January.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Liaison with Alphawood Foundation (SM)</b></p> <p>SM updated the Board that he would continue the communication with the Alphawood Foundation during the transition between Valerie Amos and Adam Habib.</p> <p>SM noted that the Alphawood Foundation asked for an understanding of the changes to the governance arrangements as agreed by members. It was agreed that the SAAAP Governance paper would be forwarded to Alphawood.</p> <p>SM informed Alphawood that the transfers in the Phase II proposals would be lower than originally forecast as spend on CAL1 had turned out less than projected.</p>

	<p>Alphawood's response was that SOAS could transfer up to the amount agreed in the proposals and that the funds could be used in keeping with the Phase II programme. That might include additional scholarships or extra support for English language training.</p> <p>SM responded that SOAS approach would be flexible and a strong applicant pool would present a good argument for more scholarships, either this year or next.</p> <p>SM raised the Total Returns Accounting (TRA), which Valerie Amos had suggested be raised 2-3 months after the Phase II agreement was in place. During discussion, it was agreed that it would this issue would best be left for Adam Habib to raise, once he is in place.</p> <p>Alphawood thanked SM for the SAAAP Annual Report. A copy of the SAAAP Newsletter would be sent to Alphawood.</p> <p><b>Action 172 – SM to send a copy of the SAAAP Governance paper to Alphawood</b>  <b>Action 173 – SR to raise the issue of TRA with Adam Habib in due course.</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>SAAAP Governance – proposed changes to Programme Board and Sub-Boards (TB). <i>Appendix 01</i></b></p> <p>TB introduced the Governance paper which summarised the proposed changes to membership of the various SAAAP boards as well as the frequency of meetings.</p> <p>Her approach to governance as Chair of the Board was to ensure that there is good line of sight to the Sub-Boards through their representation on the Programme Board – and that the wider SOAS community is represented through inclusion of the Director and Philanthropy Manager. She also expected all members to be present at all meetings – or at least one member from each of the Sub-Boards should attend.</p> <p>TB explained that the proposed reduction in the number of meetings was justified as the programme was relatively smaller than in previous years, with fewer scholars and seemingly less activity (though this may be a temporary reduction due to Covid-19). Likewise programme management had been scaled back.</p> <p>It was noted that Stephen Murphy would join the R&amp;P Sub-Board in the new year as Pamela Corey's replacement.</p> <p>Members agreed the changes.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Previous minutes and actions (TB)</b></p> <p>AG confirmed that action 171 was complete.</p> <p>The minutes were approved.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>SAAAP - Finances 2020/21 (AG) - <i>Appendix 02</i></b></p> <p>AG informed the board that this financial report is intended to provide a picture of the likely budget, revenue and spend for the financial year 2020/21.</p> <p>On the endowments, AG explained that the forecast spend of £406k for 2020/21 is accurate as it is based on last year's salaries, which are unlikely to change. The</p>

uncertainty is around the forecast revenue of £341k for 2020/21. This forecast is based on the revenue from 2019/20 and it is difficult to predict future performance.

However, the performance of the endowments had been good in the year to July 2020. Whereas the FTSE100 had declined by almost 25% in the period, the capital value of the endowments had slightly increased, which is reassuring.

Members asked for more details of the endowments are managed –particularly the composition of the portfolio, the markets in which investments are made and the investment policy guiding the investments.

**Action 174: AG to ask SOAS Finance to provide background on the management of the SAAAP endowments.**

**6 Academic Support Fund: Updates, Reports and Applications**

a. UPDATE - Ongoing Projects (AG) - **Appendix 03**

AG outlined that the impact of COVID-19 was the most notable throughout all of the projects as the following updates were discussed:

**SAAAP Phase II 2020/21 - Update**

Three of the five 2019/20 Diploma students cohort made successful applications for Alphawood scholarships to support studying MAs in 2020/21. All are studying remotely in Term 1 but the aim is for them to study in London in Term 2 (though SOAS can provide support learning in both contexts).

Including scholarships from Phase 1, the total number of 2020/21 Alphawood scholarships is now 10 – Diploma (1), MA (4) and PhD (5). The last figure includes Duyen Nguyen whose submission deadline has been extended to April 2021.

**Scholarships – 22 October 2020**

Recruitment of up to 4 Diploma and 3 MA scholars for 2021/22 is now underway. Panel members are now in place and selection process being consulted upon. Due to complete early February 2021. All being well, the plan is to seek approval for the award of scholarships at the Programme Board meeting on 18 February 2021.

**Research and Publications – 21 October 2020**

**SAAAP006 - SEA Library Acquisitions**

SOAS library has informed us that no hard copies of books are being ordered at the moment because there is a major backlog in processing the books that have arrived since lockdown.

**SAAAP085 - Pratu**

There are several papers in progress for volume II with two reports, one in Thai and one in English, a feature article by SAAAP alumni and some from scholars in Vietnam. MA dissertations and Elizabeth Moore's Bagan conference in 2019 have led to more expressions of interest. There have been some issues with the peer-review process which has caused delays (action being taken to explain the process to those scholars who are not familiar with peer-review).

**SAAAP087 CSEAS-SAAAP Research Seminar Series**

The first webinar was launched 14 October on Facebook, with an audience of 80 and 47 shares, and over 2.4k views. There will be a second event next week via Zoom to try and increase attendance for those without Facebook. All of the webinars are recorded and uploaded to the CSEAS website. Other events planned for 2021 – either face to face or as webinars depending on the pandemic.

**SAAAP088 – Postgraduate Internships**

Virtual internships have been arranged for 2 MA scholars in 2020/21. One with Royal Asiatic Society in London (Yin Nyein Aye based in Myanmar) and one with Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in Phnom Penh (Jean Heng based in Singapore).

b. UPDATE – Virtual Study Tour (SM) – **Appendix 04**

AT explained that this will be the first time the study tour has been integrated into the MA programme and that Joanna Wolfarth is currently planning a virtual tour.

PDS asked about the honoraria to museum staff. AT responded that it seemed that JW included honoraria as a precaution due to curators having to work with technical teams to produce virtual materials, as well as curators being on furlough. SM remarked that it has become more common to pay fees for museum staff, particularly curators.

AT considered the timeframe for the development of this virtual tour to be a risk. Mitigation would be required with regard to the capacity of curators to participate – alternatives may be needed. SM confirmed that Joanna has consulted with Malcolm McNeill on the virtual tour.

c. REPORT – SAAAP082 -In-region Liaison - Quarter 3 Summer Term 2019-2020 session (SM) **Appendix 05**

Elizabeth Moore's report highlighted that during the Summer Term of the 2019-2020 session, her focus has been the Myanmar Alphawood students in London, the Alumni and progressing the catalogue of the Bagan Museum.

Members discussed the shift of the library to the newly emerging independent Zaykabar Museum in order to ensure it a long-term home in a cultural space and maintenance.

AT raised the issue of due diligence in regard to the relationship with the Zaykabar Museum. SR commented that SOAS does have a partnerships team and due diligence processes in place that could be brought to bear. TB suggested that EM provide more background details about the Museum at the next Outreach Sub-Board.

**Action 175: AG to ask Elizabeth Moore to provide more background details about the Zaykabar Museum.**

d. REPORT – SAAAP079 – Dating Uthong Buddha Bronze Images (SM) - **Appendix 06**

This project is for the bronze casting core testing dating of 'Uthong' bronze Buddha images found in Thailand. It is an outcome of the project 'Archaeological Excavation for Investigating the Pre-Ayutthaya Period or 'Uthong Art Period' during the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries at Chainat and Lopburi Provinces, Central Thailand', funded by SAAAP. The new project will help to extend the art historical and archaeological knowledge in the period.

	<p>TB remarked that this was fascinating report and members agreed it was an impressive piece. AT commented that she believed the report would provide a firm basis for his PhD thesis.</p> <p>e. APPLICATION – SAAAP089 – Photography and Writing for the Bagan Museum Catalogue (SM) <b>Appendix 07</b></p> <p>The proposed project is to further progress the SOAS Myanmar Alumni catalogue of the Bagan Museum in the centre of this UNESCO World Heritage site initiated in 2019. The proposal has formal permission from all levels of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, from the Minister to the Museum Staff.</p> <p>SM highlighted that this project is focused on working with alumni – and that the proposed spend will ensure the remaining budget will be spent.</p> <p><b>Approved.</b></p> <p>f. APPLICATION – SAAAP090 – Indexing SAAAP-NUS volume (AT) – <b>Appendix 08</b></p> <p>The SAAAP: NUS publication ‘Returning Southeast Asia’s Past’ now needs to be indexed.</p> <p>PDS asked if NUS would index the volume and whether the rate was high. SM explained that publishers do not index volumes and expect authors to do so. As for the rate, it was in line with the amount set aside for the previous SAAAP: NUS publication ‘Return of SEA Past’.</p> <p><b>Approved.</b></p>
7	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>PDS highlighted that PhD student Duyen Nguyen ill-health had contributed to a delay in the progress of the Da Nang catalogue and that they were planning both an English and then a Vietnamese version.</p> <p>In response to MH, TB said she would be meeting with Christina Luczanits to discuss his two recent proposals presented at the last R&amp;P meeting.</p>
8	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting – 18 February 2021</b></p>

**SAAAP Project Board Actions 2020-2021**

<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>Complete</b>
<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>Complete</b>
<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	<b>Complete</b>
<b>171</b>	11/06/2020	AG to amend the SAAAP Application Form to encourage digital and/or blended delivery of activities.	ASAP	AG	<b>Complete</b>
<b>172</b>	05/11/2020	SM to send a copy of the SAAAP Governance paper to Alphawood	ASAP	SM	<b>Complete</b>
<b>173</b>	05/11/2020	SR to raise the issue of TRA with Adam Habib in due course.	2021	SR	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>174</b>	05/11/2020	AG to ask SOAS Finance to provide background on the management of the SAAAP endowments.	ASAP	AG	<b>Complete</b>
<b>175</b>	05/11/2020	Elizabeth Moore to update Outreach on Zaykabar Museum background.	Next Outreach Sub-Board.	Elizabeth Moore	<b>Complete</b>