



MINUTES

Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme (SAAAP) Programme Board

Meeting 45 (2020-21)

10.00-12.00 | 18th February 2021 | Virtual Meeting

Membership	
Tamsyn Barton (TB)	Chair of Programme Board
Shane McCausland (SM)	Head of School of Arts/Interim Liaison with Alphawood
Mulaika Hijjas (MH)	Senior 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)
Programme staff	
Alan Goulbourne (AG)	Programme Manager
Olivia Burt (OB)	Project Administrator
Apologies	
Adam Habib	SOAS Director

Agenda item.	Agenda Item and Notes
1	<p>Welcome and Chair's Report</p> <p>TB welcomed the Programme Board members and explained that Adam Habib (AH) had sent apologies because of a clash with a Trustees' meeting. Given the difficulty in re-arranging dates, and the non-contentious nature of the agenda, it was decided to continue with the meeting. SM will brief him.</p>
2	<p>Liaison with Alphawood Foundation (SM)</p> <p>SM updated the board that AH had joined the last liaison meeting with the Alphawood Foundation. AH had asked SM to continue to liaise with the Foundation at the fortnightly meetings.</p> <p>SM added that his knowledge of the details of projects and the scholarship awards was found helpful by Alphawood. He had explained the decision to allocate underspend to additional scholarships while balancing quality against the strategic aim of regional distribution.</p>

	<p>In the last meeting there had been discussion about the situation in Myanmar and concern expressed about the plight of the people, especially alumni and those connected to SAAAP.</p>
3	<p>Previous minutes and actions (TB)</p> <p>172, 174, 175 were complete. 173, ongoing. AG would keep checking with finance if there were any developments on TRA. SR updated the board that the TRA is still under review, particularly the extent to which overheads can be charged to endowments.</p>
4	<p>SAAAP - Finances 2020/21 (AG) - Appendix 01</p> <p>AG updated the board that the endowment funds were currently healthy. Total capital value of the endowments at end of December 2020 was £14.3m, compared to £12.6 million in August 2020 (a 13% increase). Time-limited funds were on track.</p> <p>Finance has made use of the additional flexibility afforded by the Deed of Gift. The surplus on endowments has been used to cover the shortfalls on one of the endowed posts as well as the administrative post.</p> <p>AG added that, as AH is consulting on a new strategy for SOAS, it might be timely to revisit the programme's strategic direction.</p> <p>TB thought it would be useful to consider the last SAAAP strategy at the next meeting in the light of the developments since then – and the need to secure a sustainable future for the programme.</p> <p>It was noted that any strategy needed to be in line with the Deed of Gift.</p> <p>Action 176 – existing SAAAP strategy to be reviewed at next meeting.</p>
5	<p>SAAAP – Policy on Endowments (AG) Appendix 02</p> <p>AG explained that the document set out SOAS' investment guidelines. It shows that the fund managers – Newton – have to operate within a framework of standard investment criteria. In particular, risk is meant to be managed through a structured and balanced portfolio spread across different classes of financial assets. Also, SOAS' ethical approach to investment requires Newton to ensure that the portfolio takes due account of concerns over human rights, armaments, gambling and tobacco.</p>
6	<p>SAAAP – Post-holders and Teaching Plan 2020-21 (SM) Appendix 03</p> <p>SM introduced SAAAP's approach regarding what it offers scholars. SM explained that this plan was intended to explain the offer to the donor and to give the board a sense of where the programme's focus, energies and resources were being invested. AT informed members that the training course mentioned on page 5 was being taken forward by Stephen A. Murphy, who is working on a draft proposal for the R&P Sub-board for an alumni professional development programme.</p>
7	<p>SAAAP – Alphawood Scholarships 2021-22 Recommendations (SM) Appendix 04</p>

SM introduced the scholarship recommendations to the board. Members were asked to approve the award of SAAAP scholarships for 2021/22, taking into account:

- the SAAAP Scholarship Sub-group's recommendations for the awards; and
- the potential for awarding scholarships in addition to the numbers agreed under Phase II.

SM highlighted the following: the scholarships process had followed the steps established in previous rounds. The Scholarships Panel had separately scored 23 applications received for MAs and 27 for Diploma scholarships. The data had been aggregated and the averages calculated. Candidates were then ranked according to their total weighted average score across all the criteria (expressed as a percentage).

The Scholarship Panel had met on 11 February to draw up a shortlist of candidates in rank order. In deciding upon the successful candidates, members took into account:

- Quality;
- Gender mix;
- Geographical spread;
- The number of awards available – originally 4 Diplomas and 3 MAs – but now with the prospect of additional awards (up to a value of £115k).

The Panel had recommended that the additional scholarships should be allocated as 2 Diplomas and 1 MA – as this would allow for progression. Also, students on Diploma programmes would probably be better able to cope with Covid-related disruptions, being a less intense experience compared to a Master's programme.

Therefore, it was recommended to award scholarships to the top ranked 6 Diploma and 4 MA applicants in the tables – with the others held in reserve.

The following points were made in discussion:

- TB welcomed the inclusion of the first scholar from Laos. PDS asked if intensive English Language support could be made available to address her needs here. SM supported this provision.
- PDS noted the large numbers of candidates, in spite of Covid.
- SM asked if the administrative support could be reviewed in the light of the current financial position and the prospective numbers of scholars in 2021-22.

All members approved the additional scholarships and the Panel's recommendations.

Action 177 – Programme Office to make the scholarship offers to the selected candidates, drawing on the reserve as necessary.

Action 178 – Programme Office to arrange intense English Language training for the Laos scholar, should she accept the offer.

Action 179 – AG to re-visit administrative support with SM and TB.

8 Academic Support Fund: Updates, Reports and Applications

The board reviewed the following Updates, Reports and Applications across the Research and Publications, Outreach, and Scholarships sub-boards. TB commented that there were a lot of exciting updates, a testament to the success of the programme.

- a. UPDATE - Ongoing Projects (AG) - **Appendix 05**

Research and Publications – 3 February 2021

SAAAP006 - SEA Library Acquisitions

SOAS library has informed us that no hard copies of books are being ordered at the moment because there is still a major backlog in processing the books that have arrived since lockdown. Library and Programme Office have compiled a list of requested publications.

SAAAP084 - NUS Research Publication Series

The first volume in the series - 'Returning Southeast Asia's Past' - was published in February 2021. AT informed members that she thought the publication was well produced and very attractive. It would be launched in May and 30 copies would be sent to SOAS for distribution to stakeholders, including Alphawood. AT confirmed individual chapters would be available for purchase online.

Work on the SAAAP-NUS volume 'Early Theravadin Cambodia' is underway and aiming for publication in 2021.

SAAAP085 - Pratu

There were 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. Volume II was to launch at end of March. The backend work was continuing with the editorial handbook and uploading on the website and more guidance on the peer review process, in response to in-region requests.

SAAAP087 CSEAS-SAAAP Research Seminar Series

Webinars had taken place in Autumn term – these were recorded and uploaded to the CSEAS website. There had been a technical problem with one seminar so the organizer decided to postpone the event. A further seminar was planned for March. Underspend would be carried over to next year.

SAAAP088 – Postgraduate Internships

Virtual internships had been completed by 2 MA scholars in 2020/21. Employers and interns were very satisfied with the experience. In fact, the employers would have liked more time so the interns could complete projects. Further applications could be considered for additional funding or a link be made between additional internships and the proposed alumni professional development programme.

European Study Tour

Planning for the virtual visit was going well with virtual activities confirmed at: the Tropenmuseum; Museum Volkenkunde; Rijksmuseum and Cernuschi; V&A; EFEO in Paris; BnF and the Bangkok National Museum. No financial expenditure has been incurred to date; institutions and individuals have been very keen to support this endeavour and maintain good links with SAAAP.

Outreach – February 2020

SAAAP066 – Creative South

The peer-review process for Creative South was underway. It promises to be a powerful publication that will be ground-breaking for an entire area of study with leading scholars working on the area. Editing is 80% complete. Some authors are still chasing copyright permission for images. Publication is expected in 2021.

SAAAP062 – HCM/BTLS Catalogue

The museum (BTLS) had completed its choice of objects to be catalogued. Both 'Introduction' papers and object entries had begun to arrive from contributors. Covid was still blocking the publisher's photographer flying in from Bangkok, but there were signs of some loosening restrictions in both countries – for instance the Museum was now open.

SAAAP080 - UGM Workshop and Bogem Catalogue

The hope was that more relaxed Covid constraints would allow a group of contributors and alumni to attend a seminar in the Archaeology Department of UGM University in Yogyakarta in either July or September 2021. There was conversation with UGM colleagues on how to proceed with emailed photographs, data and writing, with Zoom discussions if travel remained impossible.

SAAAP Newsletter

PDS explained that the latest version of the newsletter was at the editing stage and would issue soon.

SM would include a short factual statement of support for the people of Myanmar and, if the timing works, would refer to the SOAS statement on the situation, which is currently being drafted.

APPLICATION – SAAAP091 – Pilot In-region Liaison for Alumni in Cambodia

PDS introduced the application saying the intention was to emulate the successful liaison role Elizabeth Moore has performed in Myanmar. The justification was that Cambodia now had a large number of alumni and many institutions with which SAAAP could do more work. The role would re-inforce the network and look to work across the region, at a low cost.

Members welcomed the application.

Approved.

REPORT – SAAAP082 – In-region Liaison – Autumn Term 2020

SM explained that this was the latest report from Elizabeth Moore on her activities. He highlighted her work with alumni and supporting applicants to the latest scholarship round.

REPORT – SAAAP060 – Myanmar Library

SM said this was the final report as the books that comprise the library had now found a permanent home at the Zaykabar Museum, now that Yangon University could no longer provide the necessary space.

9 Chantha Seng – Leave of Absence (SM) Appendix 09

Members were asked to consider the options for Chantha Seng, regarding his Leave of Absence. SM explained that this leave of absence was due to the impact of COVID-19 and the difficulties posed by connectivity and studying remotely in Cambodia.

From an educational point of view, the academic lead considered it would be best if Chantha could repeat term 1, given his lack of progress this year, and on condition that he attended in London in 2021/22. The cost to SAAAP would be a terms' worth of tuition and stipend (about £12k – which would be drawn from the Covid contingency fund of £25k set aside for 2020/21).

The alternative option was that Chantha could submit his outstanding assignments for Term 1 without penalty – and then pick up his programme from Term 2 in 2021/22. There would be no

	<p>cost to SAAAP but this would be a much more difficult option for Chantha to complete successfully.</p> <p>Members approved the first option.</p> <p>Action 180 – Programme Office to liaise with Chantha about resuming studying in London at the start of 2021-22.</p>
10	<p>The MOA with SOAS and UGM University Yogyakarta (PDS) Appendix 10</p> <p>PDS updated the board that the MOA the formal document needed to be signed by the SOAS Director. PDS added that the incoming head of department at UBM was a SOAS alumna.</p> <p>Action 181: AG to coordinate with Adam Habib to sign MOA with SOAS and UGM university Yogyakarta.</p>
11	<p>Application – SAAAP092 ‘Beyond the Masterpiece’ PhD Fieldwork Sonetra Seng (AT) Appendix 11</p> <p>Funding was requested to support Sonetra Seng’s PhD field research in Cambodia from 22nd of February 2021 to 15th July 2021. This fieldwork would include survey and close examination of textile adornments in select temples, pagodas and ritual ceremonies in Phnom Penh and select provinces of Cambodia.</p> <p>HE asked whether the taxi and assistant were necessary. AT confirmed that a taxi is necessary as the sites are outside the city and that one would not be advised to go alone to the sites. AT noted that the dissertation was squarely within remit.</p> <p>Approved</p>
12	<p>AOB</p> <p>None</p>
13	<p>Date of Next Meeting – 6 May 2021</p>

SAAAP Project Board Actions 2020-2021

Action	Added	Action Points	Deadline	Owner	Complete?
172	05/11/2020	SM to send a copy of the SAAAP Governance paper to Alphawood	ASAP	SM	Complete
173	05/11/2020	SR to raise the issue of TRA with Adam Habib in due course.	2021	SR	Ongoing
174	05/11/2020	AG to ask SOAS Finance to provide background on the management of the SAAAP endowments.	ASAP	AG	Complete
175	05/11/2020	Elizabeth Moore to update Outreach on Zaykabar Museum background.	Next Outreach Sub-Board.	Elizabeth Moore	Complete
176	18/02/2021	Existing SAAAP strategy to be reviewed at next meeting.	May 2021	AG	Ongoing
177	18/02/2021	Programme Office to make the scholarship offers to the selected candidates, drawing on the reserve as necessary.	ASAP	AG	Ongoing
178	18/02/2021	Programme Office to arrange intensive English Language training for the Laos scholar, should she accept the offer.	ASAP	AG	Ongoing
179	18/02/2021	AG to re-visit administrative support with SM and TB.	ASAP	AG	Ongoing
180	18/02/2021	Programme Office to liaise with Chantha about resuming studying in London at the start of 2021-22	ASAP	AG	Ongoing
181	18/02/2021	AG to coordinate with Adam Habib to sign MOA with SOAS and UGM university Yogyakarta.	ASAP	AG	Ongoing