



## 8 Director & Principal's Report

Governing Body received a report from the Director and Principal [Appendix B] and the following additional comments were noted:

i) *Admissions and financial projections 2006-7*

Some figures had changed slightly since drafting this report but not materially.

ii) *Wye*

It was noted that the programme run at Wye complements SOAS' activities and the fit of the academic staff with SOAS' aims is very good.

iii) *Bloomsbury International Development Centre*

Discussions concerning acquisition of a property in which the Centre would be based were ongoing.

iv) *HEFCE*

It was noted that the case for special funding (for minority subjects) would be undermined, were the School to perform badly in RAE 2008.

v) *Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee*

The proposed awards were **APPROVED**.

vi) *Visits*

The Director and Principal's overseas visits were noted and Governing Body appreciated the notification of visits in advance, so that they might inform the Director and Principal of any useful contacts Governors had in the places to be visited. The Director and Principal would welcome any such notification of contacts in relation to his forthcoming visit to Japan. It was also noted that he was planning to visit the University of Paris, Sciences Po, next year.

vii) *The estate*

Governors commented on the difficulties of maintaining the estate and looked forward to further consideration of this in the forthcoming implementation of the new strategic plan.

## 9 Strategic Planning Process

Governing Body received a revised version of the proposed new strategic plan entitled 'SOAS 2016 – A Vision and Strategy for the Centennial', a report on the consultation process, and proposals concerning implementation of the plan [Appendices C & D]. Governing Body congratulated the Director & Principal and the Registrar on the work achieved in formulating the plan and proposals, informed by wide consultation. It was noted *inter alia* that the School would retain a clear commitment to teaching at undergraduate level; would aim to increase its part-time on-campus postgraduate taught numbers; would consider modifying the teaching timetable day beyond the current core of 9am-5pm. Governing Body **APPROVED** the final draft of the plan, subject to the correction of the numbering (a) to (d) under *Academic priorities*; strengthening of the value statement on the *Environment*; strengthening of statements on the commitment to the dissemination of knowledge through the School's global activities of its students, staff, alumni, etc; amendment of paragraph 5 under *Growth* to read '...through public education and interface services...'; under *Vision*, the amendment of the rating to which the School aspired to reflect the aspiration to be top in the School's key subjects and 20<sup>th</sup> institutionally in the world. It was noted that the development of a Financial Strategy would be a priority and that this would be presented to Governing Body next term.

## 10 Annual Accounts

### 10.1 Annual Accounts for 2005/6

Governing Body received the audited accounts for the year ended 31 July 2006 [Appendix E], as recommended by the Honorary Treasurer for adoption.

**RESOLVED: to approve the accounts for 2005/06.**

### 10.2 Appointment of External Auditors

It was recommended that Deloitte & Touche be re-appointed as External Auditors for 2006/7.

**RESOLVED: to appoint Deloitte & Touche as External Auditors for 2006/07.**

## 11 Internal Audit

### 11.1 Annual Report of the Audit Committee

Governing Body received the Audit Committee Annual Report for the year 2005/2006 [Appendix F].

### 11.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 9.10.2006 and 13.11.2006

Governing Body received the minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee held on 9 October and 13 November 2006 [Appendix G].

## **12 Finance**

### *12.1 Budget validation for the financial year 2006/7*

Governing Body received a budget validation report for the financial year 2006/7 [Appendix H], approving a revised budget deficit of £576,381 as recommended by Finance and General Purposes Committee.

### *12.2 Cash Flow Projection; Capital & Debt Statement; Short-Term Deposits*

Governing Body received the reports [Appendix I].

## **13 Risk Register**

Governing Body received the updated Risk Register [Appendix J]. Governors commented on many omissions but it was noted that a risk workshop had been run by the School's new internal auditors and that arising from that an entirely new Risk Register would be produced and presented to a future meeting of Governing Body.

## **14 QAA Audit**

Governing Body received a summary report [Appendix K] on the processes in place in preparation for the Institutional Audit by the QAA of the School in February and March 2007 and noted that the full draft submission to the QAA had been placed on a GB webpage. It was noted that the School had set up a working group, chaired by the Chair of the Quality Audit and Assurance Committee (QAAC), to draft the document and prepare for the audit, and successive drafts of the submission had been through School committees in the autumn term 2006. Governing Body thanked Professor Ian Brown, Chair of the working group and of QAAC, and supporting administrative colleagues and all colleagues throughout the School who had contributed to the submission document and processes in preparation for the audit. Governors considered that overall they could feel reassured that QA matters were being dealt with effectively but thought that Appendix 2 (progress since the last audit) could be clearer in places and better aligned with the main document. The latter should overall reflect a confident, self-critical but not complacent approach to academic standards, quality and their enhancement. The Deputy Secretary noted the specific points made by Governors and would make the necessary changes to the document which would, duly amended, be submitted to the QAA the following week.

## **15 Estates matters**

Governing Body received a report from the Estates Committee and **APPROVED** the recommendations therein [Appendix L].

## **16 Capital campaign**

Governing Body received an oral progress report from the Treasurer, and noted that further details would be available by the March 2007 meeting.

## **17 Committees and Governance**

Governing Body received an oral progress report from the Registrar on committees and governance, noting that a second meeting was taking place that afternoon to consider the School's committee structure, which was being considered at the same time as an effectiveness review of Governing Body itself.

## **18 Percival David Foundation**

Governing Body **APPROVED** School policy for the operation of the Percival David Foundation into 2007/8, and thanked the Dean of Arts and Humanities for his considerable efforts and achievements in this respect [Appendix M].

Governing Body **APPROVED** the General Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Management and Display of the Percival David Collection as setting the framework for detailed negotiations with the Trustees, the University of London and the British Museum.

## **19 Disability Equality Scheme**

Governing Body **APPROVED** the School's Disability Equality Scheme and action plan 2007-9, the full report of which was on the School's website [Appendix N].

## **20 Health and Safety**

Governing Body **APPROVED** the new Health and Safety Policy, the full report of which was on the School's website [Appendix O].

## **21 Students' Union**

Governing Body received the audited financial statements of the SOAS Students' Union for the year to 31 July 2006 [Appendix P].

Governing Body confirmed the appointment of a new Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Ms Angelica Bashiera (Executive Officer, Centre of African Studies), to the Students' Union [Appendix Q].

**22 Academic Board**

Governing Body received the minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held on 22 November 2006 [Appendix R].

**23 Finance and General Purposes Committee**

Governing Body received the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings held on 10 October and 14 November 2006 [Appendix S]. In response to a query about Newton, the School's fund managers (minute 12, 14/11/06), the Treasurer confirmed the strong financial performance of Newton but clarified that there was to be a discussion about fees and presentational issues.

**24 Any other business**

*Ocean Cleaning Contracts Ltd*

Governors noted that there was likely to be a demonstration by the trades' unions and the Students' Union in the precinct that lunchtime about the unions' concerns that Ocean Cleaning Contracts Ltd, the company contracted by SOAS, had not properly paid members of its staff working at SOAS. The Registrar reassured Governors that the School was in discussion with the company and the unions' to clarify the matter.

**25 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Governing Body would be held on Friday 23 March 2007 starting at 11.00am followed by lunch.

## SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

### GOVERNING BODY

#### Correction to a previous minute

The Board is asked to **APPROVE** an addition to a minute of one of its previous meetings, on Friday 10 June 2005, as agreed in the recent settlement of a student grievance, heard by GB member Mr Robert Pick. The original minute read as follows, with the addition indicated in italics under the second bullet point:

#### **‘94. Director & Principal’s Report**

Governing Body received a report from the Director and the Principal [Appendix A]. Arising from the report:

[...]

vii) It was noted that a number of adverse media reports had focused on Jewish issues at SOAS. The reports had the capacity to do reputational damage to the School, although the coverage was largely inaccurate and unfair. In addition, a letter of complaint had been received from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, who had also forwarded the letter and a dossier of information to the Secretary of State. The media coverage and the subsequent complaints arose in the context of several specific issues, all of which involved the SOAS Students’ Union and Student Societies. These were:

- At a Student Society book launch, remarks were made by some external speakers which were sufficiently offensive to be reported to the police.
- An article in the SOAS Spirit concerning Israel was offensive and was a clear breach of the School’s Policy of Freedom of Expression. As a consequence, both the Students’ Union and the School reprimanded the author and subsequently, both the author and the editor had apologised.

*Addition to original minute:*

*Following a formal grievance lodged by the student against the former Director and Principal Professor Colin Bundy it was admitted by Professor Bundy that no ‘reprimand’ had been issued by him or by the Students’ Union since no disciplinary proceedings had been taken against the student. Further, no formal apology had been issued by the student. However, the article was found by many in the School to be objectionable and Professor Bundy had placed his disapproval of the article on record.’*

[...this is then followed by the rest of the original minute]

Frank Dabell, Clerk to Governing Body  
Corrected 18 December 2006