



Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme (SAAAP) Programme Board

Meeting 36 (2018-19)

10.00 – 12.00 | Wednesday 20 February 2019 | Room 108

Membership	
Tamsyn Barton (TB)	Chair of Programme Board
Valerie Amos (VA)	SOAS Director
Shane McCausland (SM)	Head of School of Arts
Ben Murtagh (BM)	Head of School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics
Heather Elgood (HE)	Course Director, Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art
Ruth O'Hanlon (RO)	Director of Development, Alumni & External Engagement
Programme staff	
Liam Roberts (LR)	Programme Manager
Chloe Osborne (CO) (Secretary)	Programme Administrator
Apologies	

Purpose: To manage and oversee the delivery of the Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme (SAAAP) funded by the Alphawood Foundation.

Agenda item.	Agenda Item and Notes
1	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>RO asked whether it could be clarified in the minutes that she would be the permanent Board member from DAEE rather the Julia Race.</p> <p>On Action points:</p> <p>#159 – LR noted that this project was going ahead. The REO had advised that the Doctoral School should be approached with any questions on research ethics protocols for doctoral research. The Doctoral School had reviewed this and had suggested talking further with Compliance and HR, who had put a few questions for the project lead about local staff working on the excavation. The lead had responded to these queries, regarding local contracting and payment for workers in Thailand, and as his responses had clarified all their concerns, the Board had accepted his revisions to the application by email.</p> <p>#158 – SM had not yet finalised the membership of the Scholarships marking panel but HE had stepped down. The possibility of including Elizabeth Moore as a non-voting member was discussed, give her extensive knowledge of the in-region institutions at which applicants might have studied.</p> <p>TB asked SM for a written proposal so that this could be sent round for Chair's action.</p> <p>#157 - Complete</p> <p>Minutes were approved by all.</p>

2	<p>Chair's Report (TB)</p> <p>TB noted that VA had a timetabling clash so would join part way through the meeting.</p>
3	<p>Director's Report (VA)</p> <p>N/A</p>
4	<p>Alphawood Scholarships 2019-2024 (LR)</p> <p>LR updated the Board on the new Ph.D Scholarships scheme. This had been launched, following discussions between the Director and Jim McDonough of the Alphawood Foundation about the proposal put forward by the School.</p> <p>LR would meet with the Finance team tomorrow to discuss the process for viring, and the possibility of waiting until the decision has been made on whether to award one or two Scholarships, depending on calibre and alignment with the SAAAP Remit.</p> <p>HE highlighted the importance of ensuring that the successful applicants were firmly within the remit. LR noted that the marking criteria would be very strict in this regard.</p> <p>There was a hard deadline of the 29th March for applications for award, with all applicants strongly recommended to complete and submit an application for admission to the Doctoral School by 8 March.</p>
5	<p>Academic Support Fund: Updates, Reports and Applications</p> <p>a. UPDATE: SAAAP031 – Pratu (BM)</p> <p>BM reported that the journal was progressing although nothing had yet been published. The peer review process had proven time-consuming. He noted that design questions were a preoccupation. BM would encourage the editors to begin to push ahead with their first publication.</p> <p>b. UPDATE: SAAAP037 – PG Internships (BM)</p> <p>BM updated the Board on the Internship programme, which had now been completed. The interns' and hosts' reports have been submitted and the interns' articles had been published in the most recent SAAAP Newsletter. Both interns (who had undertaken placements at the Royal Asiatic Society and the British Museum) had learnt key skills for their future museum work. BM was hoping to put through a new application within the next few months to support a new round of internships.</p> <p>c. UPDATE: SAAAP039 – NMCP Critical History (LR)</p> <p>LR said that the report had originally been expected in January but the project lead had not been able to work for a period, and was behind schedule. A report had been sent to R&P on the outline of the publication and feedback provided on the plans so far. Further information would be received in March. No costs had been invoiced since June.</p> <p>d. UPDATE: SAAAP049 – Esoteric Buddhism (LR)</p> <p>LR explained that this work should have been completed in January but that the project lead Ambra Calo had requested a two-month extension. By the next R&P Sub-Board and Board she should have submitted her funding report. Ambra Calo had also liaised with Peter Sharrock about the Summer Programme and the possibility that her research could be presented there.</p> <p>e. UPDATE: SAAAP065 – Singapore Alumni Event (LR)</p>

VA had arrived by this point in the meeting and spoke about plans for her upcoming trip to visit Fred Eychaner in Chicago. She asked for Suzy Rushforth to send a briefing on the Singapore event for her to take on the visit, and for LR to provide a brief update on the Scholarships for reference.

RO gave an update on the plans for the event. Everything so far was going well: the gowns had been organised and the photographer confirmed. The Graduation Event would go ahead on the Friday with a formal alumni dinner at the Cricket Club on the Friday evening. The Masterclasses would take place as planned on the Saturday and Sunday, with a dinner on the Saturday for local dignitaries, the British High Commissioner, Singapore working group and academics. Some student recruitment events had been planned for the Saturday and Friday potentially, and a working group would be meeting Monday to discuss marketing/communications around these. RO hoped to involve the Alphawood alumni in those events.

VA suggested inviting senior SOAS law alumni in Singapore to the event on the Saturday.

f. APPLICATION: Scholarships – VRS for Alphawood PhD (SM) Appendix 1 (forthcoming)

SM spoke to this application, which concerned the possibility of Alphawood PhD Scholar Sokha Seang undertaking language training during his fieldwork year as a Visiting Research Scholar in India, Cambodia or Paris. Seang had an established academic need for this training, in order to engage with actual materials relevant to his research. Contacts in each of these locations had the relevant expertise, and so Sokha's Supervisor, Ashley Thompson, had put together this request for him to be made a VRS abroad during his second year research.

TB asked whether there were any complications associated with this application.

SM noted that the fieldwork would be undertaken with the same regulations as any other student. The funding requested was to pay for an academic abroad to become Seang's designated supervisor for that year. SM supported the application on the understanding that the fees paid would go to the institution, as happens when SOAS academics are contracted for such work. He noted that a potential issue could be how to report the money that is spent.

LR suggested this would be straightforward for us, as it would be funded through Scholarships rather than through the ASF. The only query would be over whether the fee of £4400 applies (rather than an international rate) given the international nature of the arrangements. If it were £15k for example (as an international student), then we would need to reconsider this.

TB suggested the Board should approve this as long as the cost applied for is the correct cost. SM agreed that this should be supported in principle.

Agreed in principle.

g. APPLICATION: SAAAP066 – The Creative South (SM) Appendix 2

SM summarised: this application for funding was for an edited volume of articles which had come directly out of the two SAAAP Summer Programmes held in Java. The Outreach Sub-board had already made requests for clarification on certain points, to which the applicant has responded satisfactorily. SM noted that this was a modest sum closely aligned with Outreach activity.

All agreed that it should be approved.

h. APPLICATION: SAAAP067 – 2019 Summer Programme (SM) Appendix 3

SM noted that this application had been submitted via email and discussed virtually. Whilst it was in line with previous Summer Programmes which had been approved and successfully gone ahead in the past, SM added that, in future, all applications to Sub-board would need to be tabled for the physical meeting to allow for full discussion.

	<p>BM had looked at the application closely and had suggested ways of bringing the budget down, which the Project Lead has accepted. BM noted the short timeline involved with the project (hence the need for it to be approved as soon as possible), and noted that it was related to the catalogue that had been discussed at a previous meeting and that many of the papers given would inform the write-ups in the catalogue.</p> <p>TB suggested there were no issues in principle with funding this but that there was a question over whether the budget and planning has been checked closely enough against previous summer school projects.</p> <p>LR suggested the overall budget looks reasonable since its recent adjustments, though more detail on the budget needed to be added, including on the disbursement of honoraria and on which delegates required accommodation.</p> <p>BM noted that the only attendees who would be paid for are the presenters and that there was an emphasis on local expertise.</p> <p>RO questioned what the partners mentioned would be contributing financially, and asked for clarification of this in the proposal.</p> <p>HE suggested this would mirror the outline and purpose of earlier events, and so clarification could be found by looking back at those proposals. It was agreed however that this application should be fully coherent without the need to reference past applications to understand the purpose and budget of each individual event.</p> <p>Given the time-sensitive nature of this project the application was provisionally approved, conditional on clarification of the points raised.</p> <p>Approval was given provisionally on the grounds that there is further clarification given on the points raised: What is the budget paying for? What's the curriculum? What are the partners contributing?</p> <p>TBC virtually.</p>
6	<p>Finance Update (LR/TB) – Appendix 4</p> <p>LR summarised the SAAAP Finances. The Academic Support Fund was currently standing at £2.436m, which was a reduction of approximately £20k since December. Investment movement since the beginning of financial year was negative at approximately £80k. Finance had highlighted the importance of keeping a long-term view over the investment movements. The Fund was in negative investment movement territory but overall movement of the fund was not much changed since August, in part due to the rolling over of unspent funds from previous periods. The financial position should be reviewed again and taken into consideration by the Scholarships Selection Panel when considering applications for award on 24 April.</p> <p>TB noted that SM had raised a question over whether the School of Arts contribution to SAAAP endowed staff costs could be replaced by money from the fund, given the overall surplus, with gains on the endowment used to pay additional costs associated with the endowed posts. RO noted that this would mean returning to the original Deed of Gift which specified what the endowment could be used for. She added that there was a wider project to review donations and the extent to which financial movement between School funds and endowed funds can be made. However it was noted that it was not possible in this case, where the original budgeted costs had been too low.</p> <p>LR added that the £197k tuition fees for the year had also now been paid from the Scholarships fund, and that once the third stipend and return flights had been paid that cost centre will be in line with predictions at the end of the financial year.</p>
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>One query was raised on a point from Research & Publications. The Chair has requested that the Board approve the Sub-board's suggestion that the Postgraduate Research Tutor's place on the R&P Sub-Board could be taken by the REF Co-ordinator for History of Art and Archaeology.</p> <p>All approved this request.</p>

Date of Next Meeting – February 20th, 10.00-12.00

SAAAP Project Board Actions 2018/2019

	Agenda Item	Added	Action Points	Deadline	Owner	Complete?
#159	4 j. APPLICATION: SAAAP063 – Pre- Ayutthaya Archaeological Excavation (BM) - <i>Appendix 7</i>	13/10/18	SM, BM, LR and REO to look into quality assurance and research ethics processes for this project. LR will contact REO as soon as possible and feed back to the applicant.	ASAP	BM/LR/SM/REO	
#158	5 Finance Update (LR/TB) – <i>Appendix 10</i>	13/10/18	SM to draft a proposal on the new makeup of the Scholarships sub-board for the new round of PhD awards	Next meeting	SM	