



MINUTES

Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme (SAAAP) Programme Board

Meeting 38 (2019-20)

11.00 – 12.30 | Thursday 7 November 2019 | Director's Office

Membership	
Tamsyn Barton (TB)	Chair of Programme Board
Steven Hopgood (SH)	Acting Director
Shane McCausland (SM)	Head of School of Arts
Ben Murtagh (BM)	Deputy Head of School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics
Heather Elgood (HE)	Course Director, Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art
Suzanne Rushforth (SR)	Philanthropy Manger (Art & Collections)
Programme staff	
Alan Goulbourne (AG)	Programme Manager
Olivia Burt (OB) (Secretary)	Programme Administrator
Apologies	
Valerie Amos (VA)	SOAS Director

Agenda item.	Agenda Item and Notes
1	<p>MINUTES: No amendments were made to the minutes.</p> <p>ACTIONS: all actions were complete</p>
2	<p>Suzanne Rushforth (Philanthropy Manager – Art & Collections) was ratified by the Board as a new member. TR welcomed SR to her first meeting.</p> <p>The Board also ratified Mulaika Hijjas as a member to replace Ben Murtagh when he steps down after the December meeting.</p>

<p>3</p>	<p>Chair's Report (TB):</p> <p>TB welcomed SH as acting Director in place of VA.</p> <p>TB suggested that the Board amend the order of agenda and prioritise and therefore discuss Draft Proposal – SAAAP 2019/20- 2022/23 Appendix 10 prior to the Updates, Reports, and Applications.</p> <p>TB welcomed OB and AG to their first SAAAP Programme Board.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Director's Report (SH):</p> <p>SH informed the Board that it is likely that VA will return to SOAS in early December and be available for the next meeting.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>SOAS: Alphawood Foundation – Draft Proposal – SAAAP 2019/20 – 2022/23 Appendix 10</p> <p>TB introduced the item saying that the aim of the next proposal to Alphawood is to extend SAAAP and preserve the legacy of the programme. The Board has to decide on the best way in which to achieve the aim.</p> <p>TB explained that the proposals provided two options. Option 1, 'Continuation', which presents an extension of Phase 1, but with greater emphasis on outreach. Under this option, 31 Alphawood Scholarships would be made available over the next three academic years, comprising a mix of Diploma and Master's level programmes with appropriate English Language training as required. The outreach efforts with alumni, networks, and partners would continue, but would be broadened and deepened to maximise the impact of the programme in the region.</p> <p>Option 2 'Sustainability' was similar in most respects except that it included the development of an online offer as a possibility.</p> <p>Members were supportive of Option 1 which was more aligned with our present understanding of Alphawood's interest than the second option. They agreed that the focus should be on Diplomas and Master's level programmes - and not PhDs – and that an expanded Outreach offer was the best way to embed the programme in the region, support alumni in their careers and strengthen institutional links. The roles of the Outreach and Communications Manager, In-country Liaison and programme management office, therefore, were essential for the effective management and implementation of the programme.</p> <p>Members felt that perhaps the new in-country liaison roles might be underpaid and rates should be reviewed.</p> <p>There were some uncertainties around the expected size of the annual budget and the duration of the programme. SH volunteered to raise these in his next conversation with Alphawood. AG would let SH know the value of equivalent annual budgets in previous years for comparison.</p> <p>SH and HE also offered to visit Alphawood in Chicago to discuss the proposals in detail if that would be helpful in reaching an agreement.</p> <p>As to Option 2, BM thought that the intended audience for SAAAP would be unlikely to be able to afford an online offer (except for a limited audience in Singapore). For this reason, take-up was more likely to be in China and India than South East Asia.</p> <p>AG responded that a successful online offer, that generated financial surplus, was one way in which SOAS could offer bursaries and other support to students in South East Asia once the time-limited funding for scholarships and outreach ended.</p>

	<p>HE was concerned about the potential costs associated with a high-quality online offer, particularly the use of 3D images of objects, which are integral to the programmes of study. There were also issues associated with permissions and copyright that had yet to be addressed.</p> <p>SH suggested that SOAS should look more strategically at the prospects for an online offer that encompassed a wider scope, such as South East Asian Art in general. If SOAS were to consider such an offer then it would be looking to build a high-quality platform that was likely to require significant investment and a wide range of donors, rather than a single source.</p> <p>VR thought the Outreach element of the proposals could be strengthened by the addition of online discussion forums and possibly MOOCs to provide tasters for full programmes of study.</p> <p>The Board acknowledged that the online offer was a good idea but agreed that it was not appropriate for the current proposal to Alphawood.</p> <p>SM explained the plans for changes to academic staff involved in delivery of SAAAP. He confirmed that Professor Ashley Thompson, Chair in Southeast Asian Art, is likely to be taking sabbatical leave in terms 1, 2 and possibly 3 in 2020-2021 academic year to complete a book on Buddhist Art. SM said the core teaching duties would be covered by a replacement scholar whose salary will be met by funding from the Ho Foundation. Alphawood alumni should be encouraged to apply for the replacement post..</p> <p>SM also explained that HE was due to retire after the 2020-21 academic year and that a replacement would be recruited to the post. The transition would involve a long period of overlap whereby HE would work part-time alongside the full-time replacement. This would ensure a smooth transition as well as a transfer of valuable institutional knowledge to the new post-holder.</p> <p>SM noted that Dr Louise Tythacott, Pratapaditya Pal Professor in Curating and Museology of Asian Art, would be leaving her post at end of January 2020. SM confirmed that the scope of her post would remain the same and that a replacement would be recruited as soon as possible.</p> <p>Action 162. TB asked AG to rework the Alphawood proposals as Option 1 only - taking account of the next conversation between SH and Alphawood as well as VR's suggestions (subject to the budget constraint).</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Academic Support Fund: Updates, Reports and Applications</p> <p>a. UPDATE: SAAAP031 – Ongoing Projects – Appendix 01:</p> <p>TB welcomed the paper which gave an overview of the current status of ongoing projects.</p> <p>SM noted that there would be two publications this month from the SAAAP031 Pratu.</p> <p>On SAAAP073 PG Internships, BM reported that the Royal Asiatic Society's feedback was that the internships had gone well.</p> <p>b. REPORT – SAAAP068 – 11TH ICAS Conference – Appendix 02:</p> <p>The Board was pleased to hear that PhD student Sonetra Seng had benefitted from attending this conference and, as a result, had been invited by Dr.Sandra Sardjono to attend a further conference of relevance to her specialism on Southeast Asian Textiles in Yogyakarta 4-9 November, 2019.</p>

c. REPORT- SAAAP060 – Myanmar Libraries Project 2018-19 – Appendix 03:

SM noted that the project was underspent by about £500 and that he had encouraged Elizabeth Moore to budget more conservatively in future.

d. REPORT: SAAAP061 – SEAMEO SPAFA 2019: Flaming Pediments of the Bagan Period – Appendix 04:

The Board acknowledged the report.

e. APPLICATION: SAAAP078 – Myanmar Libraries Project 2018-19 – Appendix 05:

The Board discussed the proposed Myanmar Libraries Project, led by in-region liaison Elizabeth Moore, and agreed that the project continued to enrich the library at Yangon and helped support the regional networks. However, attention still needed to be paid to sustainability.

Approved.

f. APPLICATION: SAAAP075 – European Study Tour 2020 – Appendix 06:

The Board agreed that the European Study Tour had been very successful in the past and was a valuable learning experience for students. Professor Thompson would lead the project now that Professor Tythacott was leaving.

Approved.

g. APPLICATION: SAAAP076 – Index for SAAAP-NUS edited volume ‘Returning SEA’s Past: Objects, Museums and Restitution’ – Appendix 07:

The Board agreed that professional indexing of this forthcoming volume was necessary and suitable for SAAAP funding.

Approved

h. APPLICATION: SAAAP077 – AAS Conference Panel – Appendix 08:

It was noted that this was the largest annual conference of Asian specialists in the world and crucial for raising profile and networking. BM added that although the Alphawood funded PhD student wouldn't be presenting a paper she could present in the next conference, as it is bi- annual and would occur in the final year of her PhD.

SH noted that the conference is more expensive than those previously funded because it is in the USA.

SR noted that the dates for the planned activity on the application should be amended to read 2020 instead of 2019.

Approved.

i. APPLICATION: SAAAP074 – 7th ASEAN Tradition Textiles Symposium 2019 – Appendix 09:

TB noted that the conference was already halfway through and no retro-funding is permissible without the approval of the Chair. TB approved funding the second half of the trip, from 7 November onwards. The School of Art will pay for the first half of the trip.

Approved on the above basis.

7	<p>FINANCE UPDATE (AG) – Appendix 11:</p> <p>AG gave an overview of the accounts in the period August 2019 to end of September 2019. On the endowed funds, he noted that there had been a small negative movement in their value of £4k but that income from the endowments had more than offset the expenditure on the endowed posts and Academic Support Fund in the financial year to end of September 2019.</p> <p>Action 163. TB asked AG to check the basis for the split of costs of the Alphawood Chairs between SAAAP and SOAS.</p> <p>Action 164. TB also asked AG to report on SAAAP commitments against time-limited funds so that the Board could have a better understanding of the financial position.</p>
8	<p>AOB</p> <p>None.</p>
9	<p>Date of Next Meeting – 10.00 – 12.00 12 December 2019</p>

SAAAP Project Board Actions 2018/2019

Action	Added	Action Points	Deadline	Owner	Complete?
162	07/11/2019	SOAS: Alphawood proposals to be re-worked in the light of SH's next conversation with Alphawood and the Board's feedback	December 2019	AG	
163	07/11/2019	Check the basis for the costs split between SOAS and SAAAP for the endowed posts.	December 2019	AG	
164	07/11/2019	Report at next meeting on SAAAP' commitments against time-limited funds so that the board can have a better understanding of the financial position.	December 2019	AG	