

Southeast Asian Art Academic Programme (SAAAP) Project Board
Minutes: 23 May 2017 (Meeting 26)

Membership	Dr Tamsyn Barton	Chair
	Professor Anna Contadini	Head of Department (School of Arts)
	Dr Heather Elgood	Course Director (Diploma in Asian Art)
	Matt Gorman	Director of Development, Alumni and External Engagement (DAEE)
	Dr Ben Murtagh	Senior Lecturer (Indonesian and Malay)
	Liam Roberts (Secretary)	Project Manager
Apologies	Baroness Valerie Amos	SOAS Director

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>The minutes of the meeting held 22 March 2017 were agreed as accurate.</p>
2	<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BM noted that, having had the Postgraduate Internships proposal to the Academic Support Fund endorsed in principle at the Project Board meeting of 22 March 2017, the proposal has not yet been submitted through the formal application process, nor assigned an ASF project number. He assured that this would be produced before the next Project Board meeting, scheduled for 27 June 2017

<p>3</p>	<p>Update on discussions with Alphawood Foundation (Standing Item)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MG reported that the SAAAP Midterm Review had been submitted to the Alphawood Foundation in advance of his visit with Jim McDonough of Alphawood in the second week of May. The Review was well-received, with information on alumni achievements post-award considered “compelling,” and the SAAAP Project Board and Sub-boards were thanked for their work • MG reported that he discussed financial forecasting for the scholarships scheme going forward, and that it looked financially viable to recruit more PhD candidates than originally forecast, potentially by three or four, should we receive applications of sufficient quality and focus. MG noted that Alphawood were happy with SAAAP making decisions on awards and on recruitment and that SAAAP should actively explore strategies to recruit further MA, Diploma and PhD scholars in the next round of applications, as permitted by financing available • MG noted from his discussions with Alphawood that the appointment of a Director on a non-interim basis remained a priority, with all sides recognizing the excellent work carried out by TB as interim Chair. Alphawood are not planning to make available an additional grant to support new SAAAP activity before 2019, but would consider future endowments to support (in part) the appointment of a permanent Director before 2019. It was recognized that it would likely be up to one year before this post could be filled • MG also noted that a number of new activities that SAAAP may consider pursuing between now and 2019 were well-received in discussions with Alphawood. These included the establishment of robust partnerships with institutions in-region, the establishment of split-site scholarships between SEA institutions and SOAS, and n MA in Southeast Asian Arts at SOAS. Alphawood did not discourage any of these ideas, while emphasizing that scholarship support remained the central priority for the foundation. • BM noted that, should we succeed in recruiting more PhDs than originally anticipated, we would need to consider supervision capacity. It was agreed that any PhD recruitment strategy would need to consider capacity in advance of the next round of applications • BM also noted that split-site scholarships between SOAS and in-region institutions was an attractive idea in principle, though we would need to consider language of instruction between degree programmes as well as ensuring that QA frameworks between any participating institutions were complementary. All concurred with this point and agreed to revisit this discussion in future
<p>4</p>	<p>Scholarships Sub-board composition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC reported that the Scholarships Sub-board had met on 17 May 2017, with one agenda item being to agree composition of the Sub-board for the coming academic year. It was proposed that both Mulaika Hijjas and Elizabeth Moore be invited to join the Sub-board as full voting members to expand the pool of assessors in the next round of scholarship applications, as well as to diversify and grow the Sub-board to help ensure meetings would be quorate across the selection period • AC noted that all Sub-board members discussed the proposal, with the majority of the Sub-board recommending that the Project Board authorize the Sub-board to formally invite Mulaika Hijjas and Elizabeth Moore to join the Sub-board as full voting members. In addition, Ashley Thompson requested that the Project Board instead consider inviting Elizabeth Moore to continue on the Sub-board in a non-voting but advisory capacity • TB thanked AC for tabling both these approaches to composition of the Sub-board, and suggested that the majority view of the Sub-board should be accepted by the Project Board, with both Mulaika Hijjas and Elizabeth Moore joining the Sub-board as full voting members. This was agreed by the Project Board • It was also agreed by all that the Sub-board would need to continue to ensure that evaluation and assessment processes for incoming scholarship applications were robust and consistent across the newly-composed Sub-board.

5	<p>Funding applications</p> <p><i>SAAAP034 (NMCPP Book Repair Proposal) (updated)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC presented this proposal on behalf of Peter Sharrock via the Outreach Sub-board, whose original proposal tabled to the Project Board had been approved in principle at the meeting of 22 March 2017, but with the requirement that the proposal be transposed and resubmitted using the updated Academic Support Fund application form. The Board approved the proposal <p><i>SAAAP035 (Pedagogies, Pleasures, Powers – a Critical History of NMCPP)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BM presented this proposal on behalf of the Research and Publications Sub-board, noting that a publication was planned as one of the major outputs of the proposal. The proposal had the strong support of the NMCPP and would involve Alphawood alumni currently based at NMCPP in the project delivery. TB agreed that museology should be considered a key part of the Alphawood student experience, but also noted that the project proposal as worded should be visited by the Project Board to determine whether the proposal fitted squarely within the SAAAP remit. BM suggested that the proposal did fit within the remit on the basis that the objects of antiquity within the museum would be the ultimate focus of the project, and that support for museological initiatives overall have also been historically considered to be within the SAAAP remit. HE agreed, but expressed concern that the degree of focus within the remit should be made more explicit in the wording of the proposal. It was generally agreed that proposals should be crafted explicitly to focus on the remit, though it was also agreed that Sub-boards submitting proposals for consideration will have scrutinized each proposal carefully with the same criteria in mind TB suggested that the Board consider referring to Alphawood for general advice regarding ASF proposals that involve a degree of mediation, interpretation or curation alongside their focus on the preservation and understanding of the objects of antiquity themselves. It was agreed that MG would refer to Alphawood with a briefing of the issues and to seek reassurance as to whether proposals of this nature can be authorized as they stand, or whether they should generally be revised or rejected. In the meantime, the Project Board agreed that decision is pending regarding this proposal. ACTION 133: MG to discuss with Alphawood general questions faced by the Project Board regarding issues of language and focus in ASF proposals, and to seek assurance on good practice going forward. MG will feedback the Alphawood response to the Project Board in order for the Board to decide how to progress with SAAAP035, SAAAP036 and SAAAP038 (as follows) <p><i>SAAAP036 (John Thompson Workshop)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BM presented this proposal on behalf of the Research and Publication Sub-board, noting that the focus of the exhibition and workshop concerned the temple complex at Angkor and thus was deemed remit compliant at the Sub-board level. TB suggested that, as conversations with Alphawood were now planned to seek clarity on forms of mediation, interpretation and curation in ASF proposals, that the Board may consider deferring decision on this proposal as well, pending MG feedback from Alphawood. Decision pending. <p><i>SAAAP037 (Student Conference Funding)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BM tabled this proposal on behalf of the Research and Publications Sub-board, though this proposal had been earlier tabled by Sub-board Chair's Action electronically.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TB noted that the Project Board had not established consensus on whether to approve this proposal or not, and the conference had now taken place. TB confirmed that the Board is unable to release funding retroactively for past activity. The proposal could not be approved. <p>SAAAP038 (PhD Research trip to Singapore)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TB noted that decision on this proposal should also pend feedback from Alphawood on questions of mediation, interpretation and curation. Decision pending. <p>SAAAP028 (Paris Study Tour) (REPORT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LR tabled the Funded Activity Report for SAAAP028, noting that feedback from all participating students had been obtained through questionnaire, and early planning for a subsequent Study Tour would commence shortly and would take consideration of student feedback. The experience of students was very positive, and a number of ideas for future itineraries and programmes had also surfaced on discussion with Ashley Thompson and Pamela Corey, who co-led the Study Tour in 2017. TB thanked LR for this report.
6	<p>Finance update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LR presented financial update, noting that the programme overall currently carries a balance of £2.285m, comprised of £1.924m allocated to be spent down on Scholarships. With current projections, it is estimated that, without funding any further PhDs but by funding cohorts of Diploma, Certificate and Masters scholars in 2018/19 at a rate and number based on historical precedent (and also factoring in a conservative estimate of English-language tuition requirements), a final underspend was likely to be in the region of £724k at programme end (with an underspend on Scholarships allocation specifically on £363k). LR also discussed scenarios whereby numbers of MA and PhD students recruited were to be higher than the historical norm, whereby the projected underspend could be reduced to £51k in the Scholarships allocation by programme end • LR also noted that, while work has been done on forecasting Scholarships spend, further work would need to be completed by the end of the financial year on projections under CAL3 (Related Costs and Outreach) and EAL4 (Academic Support Fund) codes to be sure that all transactions processed over the past year have been allocated to consistent codes and cost centres. Initial interrogation of transaction data suggests that there is more spend under CAL3 and EAL4 than is currently reflected, but this will be confirmed at the next Project Board • ACTION 134: LR to update Project Board on CAL3 and EAL4 funding scenarios for next Project Board meeting

7	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AC noted that a new FOI request had been lodged on 17 May 2017 pertaining to SAAAP scholarship selection processes in 2017. The Scholarships Sub-board and secretary were complying with the request and bringing together data, evidence of correspondence and relevant files for submission to the Information Compliance Office to meet this request.• MG also noted that one of the endowed post holders, Louise Tythacott, would be on research leave for an extended period of time over the course of 2018. It was agreed that , in all cases where endowed post holders are planning to be committed to non-SAAAP work over an extended period, that Alphawood are made aware of measures to ensure that capacity is in place
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SAAAP Project Board Actions 2016/17

No.	Agenda Item	Added	Action Points	Deadline	Owner	Complete?
133	5 (Funded applications)	23 May 2017	MG to discuss with Alphawood general questions faced by the Project Board regarding issues of language and focus in ASF proposals, and to seek assurance on good practice going forward. MG will feedback the Alphawood response to the Project Board in order for the Board to decide how to progress with SAAAP035, SAAAP036 and SAAAP038	ASAP	MG	In progress
134	6 (Finance update)	23 May 2017	LR to update Project Board on CAL3 and EAL4 funding scenarios for next Project Board meeting	Next Board meeting	LR	In progress