

THE SOCIETY FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Council meeting of the Society held on Monday 26th April 2004
at SOAS

Members of Council present:

Prof. M. Willis (Chairman)	*Dr. Ulrich Pagel (Hon. secretary)
Mr. D. Waterhouse (Treasurer)	*Dr. Adam Hardy (Editor)
Dr. Shailendra Bhandare	*Dr. Crispin Bates
Prof. G. Chapman	*Dr. Emma Mawdsley
Dr. Vinita Damodaran	
Dr. Jennifer Howes	
Dr. Javed Majeed	
Mrs. Sue Stronge	

*Unable to attend

In attendance : Mrs. Brenda McGregor (Assistant Secretary)

MINUTES

11. MINUTES 01/04 were approved and signed by the chairman after some minor changes.

12. MATTERS ARISING:

An additional item for the next agenda was proposed: relationship SSAS-BASIS.

13. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer gave a brief report on the Society's commitments and the available budget. The treasurer's report was accepted by Council.

14. GRANT APPLICATIONS:

Language Training Grants:

Mr. Lewis Doney:	£2000
Mr. Tsering Gonkatsang	£1000
Dr. Elinor Keane	£700 pending
Mr. Mattia Salvini	£2000
Ms. Salla Sariola	£1000 pending

Conference Grants:

Dr. Shailendra Bhandare	£2000
Dr. Anindita Ghosh	£2000
Dr. Michael Petraglia	£1545
providing attendance to the conference is free for SSAS members.	
Dr. Tadeuz Skorupski	£3220

Small Personal Research Grants:

Dr. Crispin Branfoot	£1284
Dr. Prashant Kidambi	£1010
Dr. Rowley-Conwy	£800

Aided Projects:

Dr. N. Mookherjee	£2500 continuation funding depending on satisfactory progress
Dr. Giles Tillotson	£3000 pending

14. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

Council approved the election of the following new members:

FULL MEMBERS:

Ms. Ellie Collier

Dr. Anindita Ghosh, University of Manchester. Recipient SPR Grant

Mr. David Smith, University of Wales Newport.

Action: Assistant secretary

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Council members requested a more efficient way of receiving information regarding the grant applications. A C-D Rom is one of the options. **Action: Assistant Secretary**

The Society's old computer will be donated to De Montfort University.

16. The next meeting will be at SOAS on 13th May 2004 at 1 p.m.

THE SOCIETY FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Meeting of Council to be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday 13th May 2004
at SOAS, Room 106

Members of Council present:

Prof. M. Willis (Chairman)	*Dr. Adam Hardy (Editor)
Dr. Ulrich Pagel (Hon. secretary)	*Dr. Crispin Bates
Mr. D. Waterhouse (Treasurer)	*Mrs. Brenda McGregor (Assistant Secretary)
Dr. Shailendra Bhandare	
Prof. G. Chapman	
Dr. Vinita Damodaran	
Dr. Jennifer Howes	
Dr. Javed Majeed	
Dr. Emma Mawdsley	
Mrs. Sue Stronge	

*Unable to attend

Minutes

17. Letter Peter Brown

Council reviewed the letter from Peter Brown (British Academy) and, after discussion, authorised the Chairman to reply. **Action: Chairman**

18. *Strategy for BA September Bid*

Council discussed the new arrangements and agreed to suspend immediately Small Research Grants and Travel Grants. In their place the Society will offer project development grants. The Assistant Secretary has been instructed to start making appropriate changes to the website and other application materials. **Action: Assistant Secretary**

19. In addition, Council sanctioned a special meeting on 21 June 2004 at the Wellcome Trust to alert colleagues in South Asian Studies to the Society's new funding structure and invite discussion. Council authorised the refund of apex train fares to those attending the meeting from outside greater London. **Action: Chairman and Graham Chapman**

20. Funding Application Jonathan Lee

Council agreed to notify Dr Lee of the impending changes in the funding regime and to invite him, in due course, to submit a proposal that takes these new structures into account: **Action: Secretary**

21. *Language Training Grant Application (Ms Rachael Stevens)*
Council sanctioned a grant of £2000 to Ms Stevens. **Action: Assistant Secretary**

22. *Annual lecture 2005*
Council confirmed that Prof Dr Harry Falk will give the SSAS annual lecture in 2005. **Action: Chairman**

23. *Election new Council members*
Council agreed to put forward Dr John Smith and Dr Dominic Wujastyk as Council's nomination at the forthcoming AGM, November 2004. The Secretary invited nominations for a third vacancy.

24. *New Members*
Council elected the following members:

Dr M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury
Ms Ellie Collier
Ms Ann David
Dr Anindita Ghosh,
Mr Mark G. McKerrell
Ms. Preet K. Nijhar
Mr Zulfiqar Shah
Mr David Smith

THE SOCIETY FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Council meeting of the Society held on Monday 21st June 2004
at the Wellcome Trust at 3:30 p.m.

Members of Council present:

Prof. M. Willis (Chairman)	*Dr. Adam Hardy (Editor)
Dr. Ulrich Pagel (Hon. secretary)	*Mr. David Waterhouse (Treasurer)
Dr. Crispin Bates	
Dr. Shailendra Bhandare	
Prof. G. Chapman	
Dr. Vinita Damodaran	
Dr. Jennifer Howes	
Dr. Javed Majeed	
Dr. Emma Mawdsley	
Mrs. Sue Stronge	

*Unable to attend

In attendance: Mrs. Brenda McGregor (Assistant Secretary)

MINUTES

25. MINUTES 03/04 were approved and signed by the chairman after the addition by the Assistant Secretary of the attendees who had been omitted.

26. MATTERS ARISING:

Council had authorized the chairman to write a response to the letter of Peter Brown, Secretary of the BA. Subsequently a response from the BA was received. Council discussed the letter.

**27. CHAIR'S BUSINESS:
WAS DISCUSSED UNDER 31 AND 33**

**28. PROPOSAL: TO ADOPT THE SMALL GRANT APPLICATION FORM FOR
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GRANTS UNTIL THE NEW FORM HAS BEEN
DRAFTED:**

The proposal was turned down by Council. The website has to be changed urgently. Council approved the budget for Raphael Malanga (SOAS) to update the website. An entire overhaul of all the grant application forms is needed. **Action: Michael, Ulrich and Brenda** The Assistant Secretary should be able to do minor modifications to the website herself. Council approved purchase of necessary software and training for Assistant Secretary.

29. Set deadline for Project Development Grant applications 2004/5:

The deadline for the PDG will be 13th September 2004. The April deadline will remain for the Language Grants.

30. STATUS OF CONFERENCE GRANTS:

Council provisionally cancelled the Society's Conference Grants. Small scale Workshop Grants will be researched. **Action: Honorary Secretary** The application of a Conference Grant by Dr. R. Jeffery was turned down due to lateness.

31. STRUCTURE OF SSAS BID TO BA IN SEPTEMBER 2004 + 33.

FORMATION OF RESEARCH GROUPS TO BE INCLUDED IN BA

SUBMISSION IN SEPTEMBER 2004:

Both agenda items were discussed simultaneously. During the Wellcome Trust meeting organic groups were formed to brainstorm ideas and projects. The Assistant Secretary will send a list with personal data of attendees via e-mail and will send reminders to attendees to give feedback. Council will distil and discuss the ideas and projects and before the deadline of the BA Bid. Council decided to advertise the new grant structure and invite applications for projects that are distinctive. Council will have to formulate new criteria in terms of:

- distinctiveness
- crossing of funding council boundaries
- trans-nationality
- inter-disciplinary
- institutional bias.

The projects will have to follow BA guidelines. Council decided to plan another

meeting before the handing in of the BA Bid.

32. COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL: NEW MEMBERS FOR AGM 2004:

Council proposed Dr. Mayan Unnithan from Sussex University and Dr. Viona Candlin, Birkbeck/ Museum Studies. **Action: Honorary Secretary**

34. UPDATING OF SSAS WEB-SITE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CURRENT

DEVELOPMENTS:

Council authorised the budget for the update of the SSAS Website.

35. NEW SSAS MEMBERS:

Council approved the election of the following new members:

FULL MEMBERS:

Mr. Brandon Cord Bradshaw.

Dr. Dhurba Rizal

Ms. Shimona

Ms. Pushpa Arabindoo

Action: Assistant secretary

36. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Conference Grant of Dr. Michael Petraglia is still pending.
Confirmation has not

been received yet regarding the free access to SSAS members.

Action: Assistant

Secretary will send a reminder.

37. DATE OF THE 2005 SSAS ANNUAL LECTURE:

The Annual Lecture for 2005 will be given by Harry Falk on 21st November.

38. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The next meeting will be on 1st July 2004 at 2 p.m.

THE SOCIETY FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Council meeting of the Society held on Monday 27th September 2004
at SOAS at 1:00 p.m.

Members of Council present:

Dr. Ulrich Pagel (Honorary Secretary)
Mr. David Waterhouse (Treasurer), Acting Chairman
Prof. Graham Chapman
Dr. Shailendra Bhandare
Dr. Jennifer Howes
Dr. Emma Mawdsley
Mrs. Sue Stronge

In attendance: Mrs. Brenda McGregor (Assistant Secretary)

MINUTES

53. MINUTES 6/04 were approved and signed by the acting chairman.

54. MATTERS ARISING:

No matters arising.

55. CONSIDERATION AND EVALUATION OF ON-GOING PROJECTS:

The treasurer remarked that some of the grant reports are still in arrears and that financial information is often incomplete or missing. The Assistant Secretary will set up a monitoring system. The grant reports of the following projects are long overdue: Kashika (Haag-Bernede), Relics and Relic Worship (Stargardt) and Action Cinema (Vitali).

Action: Assistant Secretary.

56. ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS 2003/04:

Council adopted the accounts for 2003/04

57. FINALISATION OF BUDGET FOR 2004/05:

Council thanked the treasurer for an excellent job done and accepted the budget for 2004/05. The acting chairman announced that the BA has granted the Society an extension for the BA Bid.

58. CORPORATE PLAN FROM 2005 ONWARDS AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2005/06:

The proposed changes re. the Corporate Plan have now been implemented. Council decided to prioritize the cost of the grant scheme and draft a research-group document. Money should be earmarked for these research groups. Council also decided to reserve £1500 to organize a workshop during the BASAS conference (March/April 2005) to discuss the research strategy for South Asian Studies.

59. PURCHASE OF NEW OFFICE COMPUTER:

The purchase of a new office computer was accepted at an approximate cost of £850 plus additional funding for software and a printer. **Action: Assistant Secretary.**

60. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS:

The following applicants were awarded with a Project Development Grant:

Name applicant:	Title Project:	Amount:
Dr. Imre Bangha:	Kavitāvalī Statistical Analysis	£1500
Dr. Lucy Blue:	Traditional Craft in Context	£1500
Dr. Rachel Dwyer:	Bombay Talkies: language and emotion in Hindi cinema'	£3000
Dr. Burkhard Quessel:	Digitisation of the Tibetan Kanjur	£2170
Dr. Deborah Sutton:	Identity, Mobility and Exclusion: India and Mauritius, 1947-1965.	£1500

The following applicants were awarded with a Project Grant:

Dr. Robert Harding:	Kashmir Smast Exploration, Pakistan	£ 500
Dr. Ted Proferes:	<i>Kashika</i> : The Encyclopaedic Grammar of the Sanskrit Language	£5000

The following applicants were deferred for further consideration:

Dr. Graham Chapman: Human intervention and dynamic environmental change in Bengal.

Dr. Vinita Damodaran: The British East India Company and the natural World.

The application of Dr. Graham Chapman was turned down on the following grounds:

The content of the submission (as well the content of the letters of reference), identifies Dr Chapman as the lead applicant responsible for project design and implementation. Charity Commission law prevents trustees (and, as member of SSAS Council Dr. Chapman is a trustee) from obtaining any financial benefit through their association with the charity. While the application did not explicitly indicate whether Dr Chapman would benefit from the application or not, the very fact that he identified himself as lead applicant indicated that he might personally benefit from a grant awarded to the project. As a result, and in spite of the obvious scholarly value of the application, Council had no choice but to reject this application. Council also noted that the sum requested substantially exceeded the means of support available to SSAS. Council agreed to invite resubmission of the application in next year's round of grant provision.

The application of Dr. Damodaran was turned down on the following grounds:

First, the application fails to specify the exact role of Dr. Damodaran in the project. Several passages in the application (as well as numerous email communication with the Society's assistant secretary) appear to identify Dr. Damodaran as lead applicant. Charity Commission law prevents trustees (and, as member of SSAS Council Dr. Damodaran is a trustee) from obtaining any financial benefit through their association with the charity. In Dr. Damodaran's case Council would have to be satisfied that this was not the case. However, her submission failed to establish this beyond doubt. Second, the application did not contain any proper budget proposal. A one-line statement (last page) is not adequate evidence of careful fiscal planning. Third, the application is completely out of scale with the support SSAS can provide, vastly exceeding the entire annual SSAS budget. However, in light of the undisputed scholarly value of her project, Council would welcome if the project's team could redraft the application taking the above considerations into account and submit it as a Project Development Grant application in next year's grant-giving round.

Council noticed the high percentage of applications for digitization purposes. This could potentially become a separate funding item.

61. NEW MEMBERS:

Council approved the election of the following new member:

Full Membership: Dr. Sushil Jain, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Interests: Religion: Sikhism, Jainism. Law: Legal pluralism

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62. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business.

63. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The Annual General Meeting on 22 November 2004.

THE SOCIETY FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Council meeting of the Society held on Monday 22 November 2004
at The Royal Asiatic Society at 3:00 p.m.

Members of Council present:

Prof. Michael Willis (Chairman)
Dr. Ulrich Pagel (Honorary Secretary)
Mr. David Waterhouse (Treasurer)
Dr. Shailendra Bhandare
Dr. Vinita Damodoran
Dr. Adam Hardy
Dr. Jennifer Howes
Dr. Javed Majeed
Dr. Emma Mawdsley
Mrs. Sue Stronge

In attendance: Mrs. Brenda McGregor (Assistant Secretary)

64. MINUTES 7/04 were approved and signed by the chairman.

65. MATTERS ARISING:

Application and report forms will all be standardized according to BA guidelines.

66. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report is accepted by Council. Council is fully committed for 2004.

- Dr. Petraglia has not requested his grant yet. The rule is that grants will only be paid upon request of the applicant.
- The sensus of the Kandahar material is going to be put forward into the next financial year due to a delay in Mr. Shimada's PhD thesis.
- Dr. Lambourn's work Cambay has been written and will be published soon.
- The SSAS is eligible for tax return on gift subscriptions. The treasurer is going to follow-up. **Action: Treasurer.**

- There should be more pressure on outstanding subscriptions. **Action: Assistant Secretary.**

67. SSAS GRANT PROFILE FOR 2004/05:

Council decided to only have Language Training Grants this time due to the fact that the result of the bid is still unknown. The Language Grants will be the only grants advertised and will be subject to funding. Council will consider other grants once the result of the bid will be determined.

68.SSAS WEBSITE:

The website went into remission whilst the chairman was in India. The Language Grant has to be put up. The British Academy prefers to know the names of members of Council and as result our website will have to reflect that. In the light of the transparency stipulations all the minutes will be available on our website as well. The Chairman will follow up on the progress of the website over Christmas. Paypal will also be looked into. **Action: Chairman.**

69. FUNDING SUDESHNA GUHA:

Dr. Guha's project was accepted by Council in 1999 and council committed for 5 years. In 2003 Dr.Guha handed in a revised proposal. The Secretary checked the original proposal and research report and came to the conclusion that there had been a significant departure from the original proposal and that the revised proposal was used as a justification. Dr. Guha was going to work on archives, but learned before her departure that she would have no access to these archives. Dr. Guha left nevertheless and ended up networking in Calcutta. As a result Council decided to reject the continuation of her funding. Council can accept changes in a proposal but in Dr. Guha's case the report did not conform to the rules and regulations. Networking in itself is considered a natural part of the research and not a main topic. Council also referred to the BA guidelines. The Secretary will draft a letter. Decision: discontinuation of funding and Council will not ask Dr. Guha to return the money. **Action: Secretary.**

70. APPLICATION PAT SAUNDERS:

Council does not finance capital expenditure, so the amount for the laptop had to be deducted. Council found that Ms. Saunders' project was ambitious and fitted well within the BA distinctiveness guideline. Council decided to grant Ms. Saunders £2350. **Action: Assistant Secretary.**

71. NEW MEMBERS:

Council approved the election of the following new member:
Full Membership: Mr. Brian Fitzsimmons (SOAS student).

72. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- The treasurer mentioned the Charity Commissions Annual Return form and requested the personal data of each Council member.
- The treasurer mentioned that Council was in breach of its rules due to the delay in the Annual Report and Accounts. The procedures for next year have to be clearly established. Council discussed the option of changing the AGM to another date. The issue will be discussed again at the next meeting. The research reports should be ready in September. Project leaders should be alerted to keep to the deadline for handing in grant reports. Council should draft a definite time schedule and should clearly define the responsibilities of council members. The chairman proposed to draft a Society calendar with all the events and responsibilities for the next meeting. **Action: Chairman**
- *'Nim' at Nama: The Sultan's Book of Delight* should be published soon.
- Council members are invited to introduce new council members.
- Professor Steinkellner declined the invitation for the Annual lecture in 2005 but was available for 2006. The chairman also welcomes suggestions for the Annual Lecture from other Council members.
- Dr. Petraglia's conference is open for Council members. Please send an e-mail to confirm attendance.
- The Society can nominate candidates for the RAE (Research Assessment Exercise). For information visit www.rae.ac.uk
- The Chairman announced that on the occasion of the AGM the back-issues of the journal will be on sale for £5.00 each.

73. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

t.b.a.

THE SOCIETY FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

The Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Monday 22 November 2004 at the
Royal Asiatic Society at 5:15 p.m.

Members of Council present:

Prof. M. Willis (Chairman)
Mr. David Waterhouse (Treasurer)
Dr. U. Pagel (Secretary)
Dr. A. Hardy (Editor)
Dr. Shailendra Bhandare
Prof. G. Chapman
Dr. V. Damodoran
Dr. Jennifer Howes
Dr. Javed Majeed
Dr. Emma Mawdsley
Mrs. Sue Stronge

In attendance: Mrs Brenda Laarhoven (Assistant Secretary)
21 members of the Society.

MINUTES

1. Minutes 6/03 of the A.G.M of the Society held on 27th November 2003 at the British Academy were approved and signed.
2. The Chairman stepped down this time and presented the report of Council for 2003/2004 for the last time. In his farewell speech he thanked the Honorary Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary for their cooperation with a gift.
3. The Treasurer presented the accounts of the Society for 2003/2004 which were approved. Mr. Peter M. Duffell, FCA, CTA was re-appointed auditor for 2004/05.
4. The following were elected Officers for 2004:

Chairman: Prof. Peter Robb

Treasurer: Mr. David Waterhouse
Secretary: Dr. Ulrich Pagel
Editor: Dr. Adam Hardy

5. The following were elected new Ordinary Members of Council from January 2005:-

Dr. David Smith
Dr. Maya Unnithan
Dr. Dominik Wujastyk

6. Professor Giovanni Verardi gave a lecture entitled: "The Brahmans and the End of Indian Buddhism".