



Society for South Asian Studies

Council Meeting
Thursday 8 March 2007 at 10.00h

Minutes

Present: Prof. Peter Robb, Dr. Javed Majeed, Mr. Diccon Pullen, Dr. Michael Willis
Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Mrs. Susan Stronge, Dr. Maya Unnithan, Dr. Dominik Wujastyk,

Apologies: Dr. Shailendra Bhandare, Dr. David Hardiman, Dr. Adam Hardy, Dr. Alison Shaw, Dr. Andrew Wyatt

In attendance: Mrs. Brenda McGregor

1. Minutes 05/06:

The minutes were approved by Council.

2. Matters arising:

No matters arising

3. Treasurer's Report:

- With reference to the Society's last AGM the treasurer remarked that 2006 was an expensive occasion. In the future taxi fares to and from the airport, incurred by our guest lecturer, are not going to be reimbursed. **Action: Assistant Secretary**
- Some invoices are still outstanding and as a result £4,500 is unallocated. Contact the various project managers and monographs. **Action: Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Monographs Editor**
- The research Group for South Asian Medicine under-spent this year; approximately £500 will be returned, preferably before the end of March

- The remainder of the budget for this year will be tight; the rent still has to be paid.

Council accepted the treasurer's report.

4. Letter BA – invitation to apply:

The Society was invited by the BA to hand in another application for a research project, preferably in cooperation with another organisation. The deadline is 20 April 2007.

Dr. Mawdsley proposed to focus on a contemporary issue and on the relationship between Africa and India, considering the strong historical connections. She is happy to explore and to prepare a project proposal. Dr. Michael Willis suggested to contact Dr. Derek Kennet who also worked in the Golf and discovered many links between East Africa and India. **Action: Monographs Editor.**

Dr. Mawdsley is authorised by Council to contact the BA (Margot Jackson), the Middle East Society and the School of East Africa for a joint proposal. She will also contact BASAS for their involvement. At the end of the year the Society could set up a workshop. Dr. Maya Unnithan would like to participate in the organisation. **Action: Dr. Emma Mawdsley will consult with BASAS, contact the above mentioned societies and will draft a proposal. Dr. Maya Unnithan is available for the organisation of the workshop.**

- Council further announced the BASAS conference in Cambridge on 28-30 March and urged its council members to attend.

5. BASIS grant-in-aid 2007/8 is discussed in tandem with 6. Budget forecast for 2007/8:

- The Society is spending more on outreach than funds received from the BA.
 - £8,000 is allocated for Language Training Grants
 - £6,000 for BASAS activities
 - Monographs: Shookoohy: £4,200, Crispin Branfoot: £3,500, Julia Shaw: £5,800
 - Research Group Grants: £2,000
 - £12,000 unallocated funds
 - £20,000 reserves, reset from £25,000 due to our reduced turnover
- The Society will honour the projects by Lucy Blue and Julia Shaw
- Some funds could be spent on web design
- The Society has to start thinking about the coming Bid in cooperation with BASAS. Council authorised anybody to come forward to propose 4-5 projects in total at the cost of £40,000 each making a grant total of £150,000. Dr. Michael Willis will prepare a paper with Dr. Derek Kennet to represent the ancient sites' aspects. The roundtable discussion with BASAS should address the above. **Action: Dr. Michael Willis**

- With regards to the Research Groups the Society will not be able to fund them anymore. The networks will remain very helpful and as a result their web existence should remain. However the Society will sponsor specific projects so a project proposal could be handed in.

Council accepted the budget forecast under the stipulation that Council has to take a decision about the unallocated funds in the future.

7. BASAS/SSAS merger update:

- The new name of the joint society is still a problem. The AGM will have to approve it. In the end BASAS did not ask their members about the new name. Historically it took BASAS a long time to get the BASAS.ac.uk address hence BASAS reluctance to give it up. Council will remain in a neutral position but agreed that a name change is necessary. Council will await the result of the BASAS meeting in Cambridge.
- Council accepted to have two conferences: one in March and one in November.

8. The format of our grant letters & 10. Research visas South Asia are discussed in tandem:

- The Society should make clear in its offer letters to grant recipients that the application for research visas is a long procedure. Unfortunately the Society has no power to facilitate these visas and is in dire need of a contact person. The Society does not have the resources to set up a diplomatic network. Council suggested to form partnerships with institutes in Delhi. Also the Assistant Secretary could send a letter with an official letter head to speed up the process. Another alternative would be to apply for a business visa.
- After the merger all our formal correspondence has to be changed and updated.

9. BASIS Show case event:

The Society will need to come forward with two events. A 200 word abstract needs to be prepared including a presentation of max. 30 minutes. The deadline is 15 November. The focus of the event should be on finished work with a broad range of subjects and maximum visual impact. Prof. Graham Chapman could do a Power Point presentation on environmental issues and we could invite the recipient of a Language Training Grant to talk about his/her experiences. Other options are the Tibetan Digitisation Project.

The British Academy might showcase it at SOAS. The Society should contact Dr. Ulrich Pagel and Dr. Burkhard Quessel (Tibetan Digitisation Project). **Action: Secretary.**

11. Rules and regulations grants:

The rules and regulations need to be revised and also updated on the website. **Action: Secretary & Assistant Secretary**

12. European consortium for Asian Field Study (ECAAF) and questionnaire:

The Secretary replied and answered some of the questions. He thought they were more relevant to Higher Education. By responding to the questionnaire the Society endorsed ECAF in principle.

13. Ratification Research Group Grant:

Approved by Council.

14. Closing down Journal Account – establishing special arrangements with editor:

At the moment the Society has two accounts: One separate account for the editor, which the treasurer would like to close now. After the merger with BASAS the Society should establish one account. The deadline for the single account proposal is 30th September.

15. Request Dr. Cameron Petrie:

The request by Dr. Cameron Petrie was accepted in principle however Council would like to put a time limit. The next deadline will be 1 October 2007.

16. Request Dr. Lucy Blue:

Council acknowledged her request and requested a new project proposal. Dr. Emma Mawdsley will have a talk with Dr. Blue regarding the adjustment of the project. Dr. Blue will have one year to finish it. The Society will support Dr. Blue to finish her project but will not provide additional funding for the second year.

16. Monographs:

- The Charsadda project has been cancelled; there will be no monograph. £6,000 is now available.
- Anuradhapura has been finalized; Council approved to pay the outstanding invoice.
- Dr. Shookoohy would like to have a publication contract, however the Society does not engage in commercial contracts. Council agreed to allocate £4,200. The money has to be taken up by 30th September.
- The amount for Dr. Branfoot's Gods on the Move has been increased to a maximum of £3,500. It will have to be finalized this year.

- Dr. Richard Shaw's Siddhas: There is no further action. The money has already be taken up. The issue will carry over until after the merger.
- Council approved £200 for the reader re. Julia Shaw's Buddhist Landscape.
- There will be a dedicated article for the journal by Dr. Robert Elgood.

17. New members

Dr. Jon Wilson, Department of History King's College

Mr. Chris Bayliss

Dr. Jyoti Rohilla, Assisitant Professor Dept. History of Art & Tourism Management
Faculty of Art, Banaras Hindu Unversity Varanasi India

The new members are approved by Council.

The treasurer remarked that there should be more emphasis on the journal and memberships. Maybe Council could appoint somebody after the merger.

18. Any other business

- Council approved to reduce the reserves from £25.000 to £20.000
- After the BASAS conference there should be a joint meeting. Council has to schedule one. The Secretary will contact Prof. Chapman. The membership and office issue should be put on the agenda. **Action: Secretary**
- With regards to the merger main issues are going to be the office and the position of chairman
- The Assistant Secretary requested the purchase of a recorder for the minutes. Council approved. **Action: Assistant Secretary**
- Unfortunately Dr. Dominik Wujastyk will have to step down from Council due to a change of job. Dr. Wujastyk would still like to promote the Indology website through a better link and suggested to add a text to the website mentioning the Society's support.

19. Next Council meeting

The next Council meeting will take place on 30th April at 10.30 at SOAS.

SSAS/BASAS Informal Meeting

**Friday 18 May 2007 at 2.15 p.m.
SOAS, room 100**

Minutes

Present: BASAS: Graham Chapman, Katherine Adeney, William Gould, Apurba Kundu, Amalendu Misra, Kunal Sen, Pritam Singh, Emma Tomalin, Bhaskar Vira, Arif Zaman. **SSAS:** Peter Robb, Javed Majeed, Diccon Pullen, Michael Willis.

In attendance: Brenda McGregor.

1. Financial and governance issues:

i) The arrangements for this financial year, which will fall into two halves, from 1 April until 30th September 2007 and then from 1 October 2007 to March 2008, and the merging of bank accounts:

Noted without discussion.

ii) Adjusting the existing Rules of SSAS (9 full pages to be found on the SSAS website) to accommodate BASAS Constitution (1 page to be found on the BASAS website):

iii) The arrangements for an Extraordinary General Meeting prior to 30 September to approve the change of Rules effective 1 October, including any change in name, which is required to be circulated at least 21 days in advance:

The above mentioned agenda items were discussed in tandem:

- The meeting agreed that a new narrative and a proper procedure were necessary with as little changes as possible since every change will need to be approved at an SSAS Extraordinary General Meeting, highlighted item by item to the Charity Commission, and noted by the British Academy.
- The size of the Council also needs to be discussed further. The procedure for electing Council members is outdated. Nowadays with the availability of e-mail this could be done electronically or by postal voting.
- The SSAS mentioned that the BA has 1 vote in addition to the Council. If BASAS is generally happy with the way the overall rules are framed, we could modify them and send the BA a letter with our intention, but a representative of the BA must be present at the SSAS Extraordinary General Meeting. The complete document could form the basis for a new document.
- The number of Council members should be changed. The merger will be a good opportunity to increase the members of the Executive.
- BASAS would further like to have a webmaster. The merger is going to generate a lot of work and maintenance. The current webmaster does not intend to continue. The problem with the SSAS website is that the BA does not allow to make any changes directly. Rafael Malanga usually does the interface for the SSAS and deals with the BA. The meeting agreed that there

should be a webmaster on the board. This person will take care of publicity and will be very important. The webmaster will not be responsible for mailing lists. The BASAS webmaster is more project-based. Katherine suggested further that we should have a person on the UKCASA Committee.

- The meeting also proposed to have an assistant treasurer, who could be in training. This person would have to come to London once a week. The SSAS treasurer is not entirely sure how this would work. The SSAS chairman does not feel for it very strongly either. The matter was left unresolved.
- The conference liaison person should be somebody with experience.
- A research person could be involved in the grants commission.
- Do we need a P.R. officer to forge links with other organisations? Maybe this post could be linked to the research aspect. The SSAS has been struggling with the idea for a South Asia Director.
- The SSAS editor is in favour of 2 editors: One for Arts & Culture, one for Social Sciences. BASAS pointed out that currently they had a guest editor each year for a special edition of CSA, and there was no need for an SSAS social science editor. The SSAS chairman mentioned that the editor issue depended on our new budget and the willingness of the BA to finance it. It will need to be discussed further in preparation of the new budget and the corporate plan. The meeting does not need to address it immediately. The SSAS further proposed to have a Publications Officer.

In conclusion the meeting decided that we need to agree what the rule changes are going to be and we need to decide a plan of action now. The deadline for the changes should be the end of June. However the SSAS mentioned that we do not need to change the rules at once. There will always be an opportunity to change them later on. The SSAS are not going to propose the rules changes to each individual member but will present them with a package. The SSAS Executive will change the rules. BASAS could do the same.

Action: Set up a committee to formulate a new text. The new text could be circulated including the comments. The Executive could then decide and propose it to the SSAS EGM. The committee could come to the next Council meeting during which the changes can be minuted. Action: SSAS & BASAS

iv) The continuance and the future membership of the existing SSAS Advisory Board:

The above is not a rules issue. The Advisory Board was created to enhance the stature of the Society and to mitigate the cuts in funding. The impact of the Board was not felt and the meeting proposed a different set-up with 2 appointed advisors by BASAS. The current president of BASAS is an FBA and a member of the House of Lords. He has been very influential on behalf of BASAS. He could become an Honorary President in the merged society. If we chose this option a rules change will be necessary. **Action: Scrap the Advisory Board (let it fade away!), but have an Honorary President. This will entail a modification of rule 6.**

v) Drafting the merged entity Corporate Plan 2008-10, to be posted on our merged website on 1 October and form part of our next annual bid for funds to the British Academy:

The SSAS has a Corporate Plan until the end of March 2008 and £80,000 in funds. As of April 2008 the merged society will have no funds yet. The current budget contains money earmarked for April 2008. The BA wants us to name x-amount for a project in a defined area, specified by us. By October 2007 we need to have 2 or 3 good, sexy projects of £30,000 per annum. In effect the whole plan has to be re-designed. In addition the SSAS put in an extra-bid in a joint-effort with ASEASUK designed by Emma Mawdsley. The SSAS would like to reserve £10,000 for Language Training grants and additional funding for a couple of research grants. The SSAS journal will come out of the core-outreach. A time table will be necessary and the application of the SSEAS, which received more money than the SSAS, could serve as a template for the new corporate plan. There needs to be consultation on the corporate plan early on. **Action: A committee consisting of Emma, Diccon, Michael, Arif and Kunal will draft a proposal which has to be approved by the amalgamated Council and which will be part of the Bid. The main focus will centre on the direction of research in South Asia. The deadline for the Bid is 25th September. Michael will send out the first e-mail.**

2. Structure of the new body:

The following task needs to be taken into account and subsumed under the remit of a number of committees:

i) Communications/outreach/publicity

a) Website maintenance, design and updating:

The meeting suggests to create a temporary link from Bradford University to the SSAS. In the future however, and as a matter of urgency, one site should be created. The Bradford site can be used as a host and we could continue to use the ac.uk address. A big-bang approach is needed. The cost is estimated at £3,000-4,000. The BA regime is very rigid hence the website maintenance should come from the budget. There should be a gateway which can lead to our site and which can be changed at will. The site should remain flexible and should be able to move in the event the webmaster is to leave Bradford University.

Action: Professional help should be hired for the big-bang approach on the Bradford site. BASAS' reserves are over £12,000 which can be used towards the website.

b) Publicity for two annual lectures and one annual conference:

For future discussion.

c) Publicity for grants:

For future discussion.

d) Editing of two journals and monographs:

For future discussion.

e) Harmonising membership subscriptions, and retention and expansion of membership:

We need to combine the membership lists. BASAS contact person: Carol Spary/Bristol. The membership fees will be set at the next AGM in November.

Action: Brenda will contact Carol and send her the SSAS membership list.

f) BA showcase event for November 2007 (proposal submitted to BA April 14th):

BASAS has to be part of it as stipulated by the BA.

g) Links with other organisations and bodies:

For future discussion. Needs to be discussed in depth.

ii) Conferences and annual lectures/events management:

Organising the conference of two annual lectures (inviting keynote speakers, arranging the venue, financing, handouts for participants, arranging panels, accommodation for guest speakers and for participants):

BASAS appoints a local organiser each year. In 2007 the organiser was Bhaskar Vira, Cambridge. The date for the next conference will be 26-28 March in Leicester. It will be jointly organised by Clare Anderson and Prashant Kidambi. The first call will be for panel proposals. The conference has been self-financing each year. The lecture may or may not make a profit. The other source of income is from publishing. BASAS has a good model at the moment, so any suggestions should go to the organisers.

By 30th of September everything should be handed over. We need an EGM beforehand.

Action: EGM date 3rd week of September.

iii) Organising the allocation of grants (receipt and scrutiny of applications, decision-making process for acceptance and rejection of applications, administering of grants, scrutinising of reports).

Drafting of bids for funds from the British Academy, attendance BASIS meetings:

- The system should not be changed now. The SSAS has floating funds of £12,000. BASAS has £12,000 so after the merger approximately £20,000 could be invested in research. Subsequently we could advertise for that amount. The treasurer suggested to use the funds or at least allocate the money for research. Any BASAS person is welcome to attend the next Council meeting to get an overall idea regarding the award procedure for the Language Training Grants.
- The SSAS usually receives invitations for the BASIS meetings, so somebody will have to attend.

3. The following posts need to be filled:

- i) Director/Chairperson (or whatever name is deemed appropriate) of merged body as whole**
- Treasurer of merged body as whole**
- Secretary of merged body as whole**
- Membership for Council/Executive Committee (or whatever name is deemed appropriate) of merged body as whole**
- Chairperson and secretary for each committee**
- Members for each new committee (size of committees' membership to be decided)**
- Editors for two journals and monographs**
- Website editor.**

We need to look at existing nomination models and chose a good one. A democratic model should be considered. The nominations can be done at a later stage. A democratic approach regarding nominations is a great idea in principle but the practical execution will be a nightmare. We might need external, legal help with extended changes. The meeting decided that the following posts were going to be up for election: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Webmaster, Conference Officer, Membership Officer, Grant Officer, Editor / Publication officer.

Action: In October - November BASAS will propose people for Council to be accepted by SSAS for the interim until the first election to the new Council was held.

- ii) The procedures for filling these posts need to be defined and members of both bodies need to be informed of these vacancies and procedures.**

PLEASE NOTE: There are a number of Financial and Governance issues that must be addressed and completed prior to the close of business on 30 September 2007. It would be useful if the first holder of the position of Hon. Treasurer of the merged entity were exceptionally decided and duly minuted at this Merger Meeting.

The SSAS treasurer Diccon Pullen is a trustee of the SSAS so he wants compliance to go well (see paragraph 24 of the SSAS rules). The trustees of the Society are compliant to the Charity Commission, so somebody has to be responsible.

Action: Diccon will be responsible for compliance until 30 September 2007. The meeting further decided that Diccon should remain until the AGM. BASAS will close its accounts by 30 September. The meeting appointed Diccon treasurer and compliance officer until the AGM. All financial issues should be solved by 30 September. Emma Tomlin and Diccon will arrange to meet at some stage.

4. The name of the new body:

[Note: Diccon Pullen's e-mail 27th February: I have today again spoken to the Charity Commission Direct (0845 3000 218) who are now advising that they have no set guidelines on Registered Charity name changes, and that all they will require from us is a formal letter of request enclosing a formal resolution signed by the existing registered SSAS Trustees approving the name change –Diccon]

- BASAS told members there would be a vote of possible names. There should however not be a list of names but the option of two names. The SSAS proposed that there should be a recognizable change of name so people will notice that the merged entity is different. BASAS questioned whether there should be a change of name since the existing name is a good brand. SSAS Council has been given authority by their AGM to agree a new name.
- The journal will reflect the new corporate plan. This issue needs to be discussed further. BASAS does not focus on contemporary issues and the SSAS journal has its own niche. The meeting suggests to keep the individual journals. There is a blank chapter on the website for occasional papers.
- The BASAS Annual workshop in November is co-financed with another organisation. It will need to go in the corporate plan.

Action: The BASAS voting process should just go ahead. The SSAS will go back to Council regarding the issue on 4 June. Both logos should remain to bridge the gap. BASAS would like to keep the flags because they communicate who they are. The SSAS logo of the lotus pool could be become the symbol for the grant pot. The change of name has to be finalized 21 days before the EGM.

5. Timetable for future joint meetings preceding merger on October 1st:

Brenda will send a list of e-mail addresses of the SSAS Executive to Katherine in order to communicate with regards to future meetings.

Important dates:

- **End of June:** dead-line rules change
- **August/Sept. (21 days before the EGM):** completion name change
- **3rd week in September:** EGM
- **25 September:** dead-line BA Bid
- **30 September:** closing accounts
- **5 November:** SSAS AGM
- **Oct – Nov.:** BASAS proposal Council members

Minutes: 2/07



Society for South Asian Studies

Council Meeting

Monday 4 June 2007 at 1 p.m. at SOAS room: 116

Minutes

Present: Prof. Peter Robb, Dr. Javed Majeed, Mr. Diccon Pullen, Prof. Graham Chapman, Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Dr. Alison Shaw

Apologies: Dr. David Hardiman, Dr. Adam Hardy, Mrs. Susan Stronge, Dr. Maya Unnithan, Dr. Michael Willis, Dr. Andrew Wyatt

In attendance: Mrs. Brenda McGregor

20. Minutes:

Some comments were made with reference to minutes 1/07:

Item 14 was deferred

The Assistant Secretary was in doubt regarding the decision about the project grant of Dr. Lucy Blue. The Treasurer reiterated that Council would not be able to finance the second year of Dr. Blue's second project grant. However if Council deemed necessary the decision could be reversed at the end of the meeting.

21. Matters arising:

Item 14 has been deferred

22. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report:

Total financial forecast is £ 80,000

- The office cost are in line with last year
- The treasurer has met with Burkhard Quessel at the British Library for an audit of the Tibetan Digitisation Project. There will be an audit every 6 months from now on.

- £8,000 has been reserved for Language Training Grants
- The monographs funds have to be allocated by the end of September
- £12,300 unallocated funds
- Dr. Emma Mawdsley will hand in a detailed budget for our new joint-project.

Action: Council approved the budget. The budget will be adjusted after the allocation of the Language Training Grants and the grant for Lucy Blue during the meeting.

Prof. Graham Chapman (BASAS) pointed out that BASAS handles its budget differently. The SSAS Treasurer will travel to Leeds to sit in on their meeting. BASAS turn-over is £6,000

The Treasurer reserved £5,000 for BASAS which will be added to the post "Available money to spend."

There was a suggestion that the money could go towards the joint-project with the BIEA or towards the event with the British Council at the British Academy. However Council decided that we should not put all our funds in one basket and proposed to solicit new project proposals for approximately £17,000 each. A meeting should be scheduled before the merger with the grants committee.

23. Grant-in-aid 2007 – Letter BA:

Dr. Emma Mawdsley will have to reply to the BA offer letter regarding the joint-project. Council decided that she will remain in control but has to hand in a revised plan and budget. Emma will pre-circulate a request for comments. The chairman will send a letter of acceptance.

24. BASIS showcase event:

Council will propose three events for the BASIS showcase event at the BA before the 18th June. The participants are not quite sure about the logistics, publicity and funds. Prof. Graham Chapman informed that his presentation will consist of a simple printed A4 with info.

Council agreed to allocate £100 per event totalling £300. Council also agreed to allocate £100 plus travel cost to BASAS member Dr. Arif Zaman for an extra event; a business case with BASAS for the final panel. The Secretary is awaiting Dr. Arif's reply.

25. Update merger BASAS:

With regards to the new name Council agreed that the number of Council members present was not sufficient for a decision. Consultation will therefore be done via e-mail. Council would like to dismiss both names and come up with an entirely new name, however BASAS would not mind to retain the old names. Prof. Chapman stated that BASAS was going to ask its members about the name change. Besides the old names it would include British South Asian

Society. The Treasurer reiterated that neither name should be retained and should not be proposed to the BASAS members. Dr. Shaw suggested BRASAS.

Some members had questions about the voting procedure BASAS was going to conduct. Was there going to be any explanation, pro/contra with each name? Prof. Chapman responded that BASAS still needs to convene a meeting about the procedure. It was decided by majority to see an explanation with regards to the old names.

With regards to the rules Council agreed that the change of rules was not going to be a typing issue. The SSAS has not been democratic and as such the rules might not be without contention. Council decided that for the first year only the first committee convening should be 50% BASAS and 50% SSAS Council members. Both traditions should be reflected. After the first session the committee will be able to change. The Chairman suggested to have a treatise regarding Council officers. Prof. Chapman emphasized that BASAS had no intention to take over and that a proper balance should be the objective.

Action: Council will be asked how to proceed next via e-mail.

Council further agreed on the financial details and the fact that the rules of this body should be maintained.

26. Language Training Grants:

Council awarded the following LTG grants:

Frank Arthurs (Tibetan): £2,500
 William Barnes (Sanskrit): £2,500
 Catherine Bollinger (Tibetan): £1,700
 Martin Saxer (Tibetan): £2,500

Project grant:

Dr. Cameron Petrie: declined

Asia Conference grant:

Dr. Crispin Bates: declined

Fieldwork Access grants:

Alexander Adwick
 Joanne Shoebridge
 Eleonor Kingwell-Banham
 Jonathan Robinson

All the above applications will be kept on file for next year.

- Council decided that due to Dr. Pagel's departure. Dr. Javed Majeed will be the sponsor of the Language Training Grants programme
- The Language Training Grants should be advertised better. Prof. Chapman offered to post a note on the BASAS website as part of the merger.

- The LTG offer letter should mention that payment of the grant will be subject to proof of visa and PhD offer letter of relevant university.
Action: Assistant Secretary

27. Revised proposal Dr. Lucy Blue:

Dr. Mawdsley emphasized that she would like to support the payment of the second instalment providing Dr. Blue will provide a detailed budget. The Treasurer indicated that the previous decision not to support Lucy Blue's project could be re-instated. Council decided to award her with the second instalment up to £5,625 in expectation of a detailed revised budget. The SSAS will not exceed the above mentioned amount. The project has to be finished by 31 March 2008.

Action: Dr. Mawdsley will contact her.

28. Request LTG Katja Riikonen:

Council accepted the request of Katja Riikonen. She should use up the funds in the period indicated or pay it back.

Action: Assistant Secretary

29. SSAS lecture 2007 – hosting the event:

The chairman offered to approach somebody, perhaps David Moss from SOAS. Prof. Graham Chapman proposed to also involve somebody from BASAS. Funds are available.

Action: Assistant Secretary will send a reminder.

30. New members:

In principle the Society will accept every new member, but wants to reserve the right to reject people. No change of rules is necessary. The Treasurer proposed to ask for payment before the acceptance of the membership. In case of a rejection the money could be returned. **Action: Accepted - Assistant Secretary.**

The following new members were approved:

Arnold Antiporda, Pratik Chakrabarti, Asuka Nagao, Husnain Qayyum, Hasan Sayed, Arora Shipra, David Smith, Ashwini Swain, Santosh Thannikat, Jonathan Watson,

31. Any other business:

- The chairman mentioned the thank you letter from Dr. Dominik Wujastyk re. his reasons for stepping down. Council agreed that Dr. Dominik's Indology website is an asset to the Society and should be maintained. The item will be discussed further at the merger meeting under "new sponsorship."
- Regretfully Dr. Andrew had to step down due to other engagements. Council agreed that the vacancy could be filled by Prof. Chapman, who accepted.
- With regards to the merger the treasurer mentioned that a former letter will have to be sent to the new auditors and to CAF Bank for the release of financial information to our external auditors.
- The BA Bid needs to be ready in July. A new meeting needs to be scheduled to discuss the Bid. Dr. Willis will do the preparations and will initiate the process via e-mail.
- The EGM is scheduled for 17 September at the RAS. **Action: Assistant Secretary will ask Ms. Allison Ohta at the RAS.**

32. Date of next meeting:

To be determined later.

Minutes: 3/07

Society for South Asian Studies



Council Meeting

Wednesday 11 July 2007 at 1 p.m. at SOAS Room: B203

Minutes

Present: Prof. Peter Robb, Mr. Diccon Pullen, Dr. Javed Majeed, Prof. Graham Chapman, Mrs. Sue Stronge, Dr. Michael Willis
 Apologies: Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Dr. Adam Hardy, Dr. Maya Unnithan, Dr. Alison Shaw, Dr. David Hardiman
 In attendance: Mrs. Brenda McGregor

33. Minutes:

Agenda item 22, page 2 should read: Council approved the budget.
 Agenda item 25, page 3, second paragraph should read: "it was decided by majority"
 Agenda item 26, page 3 under Fieldwork Access grants, it should read: "All the above applications"
 Agenda item 27, page 4 should read: "her second instalment up to £5,625"

34. Matters arising:

- With regards to memberships Council decided to change rule 11. It will be difficult to chase new members.
Action: Rule 11 will be modified. Simultaneously modification of membership forms.
- Lucy Blue has now been paid £3,285
- The Chairman will find somebody to host the annual lecture. The title of the lecture will be: 'Traditional Hierarchy and Modern Technology Engineering, Information Technology and Caste in South India'
- Contact Society for South Asian Anthropology Group. Contact the chairman.
Action: Assistant Secretary
- With re. to the advertising of the lecture: the website will have to be updated immediately. Inform Apurba Kundu to put it on the BASAS website. Maybe a flyer could be created to be forwarded to SOAS, LSE, Cambridge Centre. The Chairman will forward it to Barbara Harris-White in Oxford. There is £1,000

available for the maintenance of the website. **Action: Monographs Editor will contact Raffaele Malanga to update the website, Assistant Secretary: flyer**

35. Ratification change Council decision re. name change:

Council agreed to change the previous decision taken regarding the change of name.

36. Name change and procedure for voting:

Council approved the following procedure:

- The creation of a consolidated SSAS/BASAS membership list. The ballot for the name change will be sent in Pdf format by e-mail to be returned by post. Council opted for the Single Transferable Voting system, which has the advantage that in case of a tie the second best vote can be chosen. One name will need 50% to reach a majority vote.
- The ballot form will have a choice of four names accompanied by a brief explanation. Council agreed to the following names: BASAS, SSAS, BriSAS, SASA. The form should Not exceed an A4 size paper. It should have a covering note and has to be sent to the Council Officers, BASAS Executive and respective members. The deadline to return the form will be the first week of September.
- In case of a new name, a rule change will be necessary 21 days before the EGM.
- If a member has a subscription with both organisations, the member will have two votes. Carole Spary will update the membership information and collate the two lists.
- The date for the EGM will be 26 September at 2 p.m. at the RAS. A representative of the BA has to be present. Action: the Secretary will send an invitation to the BA. Alternatively the BA could delegate somebody from Council.
- EGM venue at the RAS will be charged £25.00/hour
- Rules and regulations: rule 40: If the BA does not agree they will not send a representative.

37. Changes to the Rules:

Council decided the following:

- Rule 1: The name is not yet known. 1)ii The Society shall conduct itself as registered Charity under the Charity Commission Rules for England and Wales. The Society incorporates the Society for Afghan Studies, BASAS and SSAS.
- Rule 2: no changes
- Rule 3: intentionally left blank. Useful when adding a new rule

- Rule 5: On the recommendation of the Council the Society may elect at the General Annual Meeting an Honorary President for a term of three years (renewable).
- Rule 6 & 7: Delete 'Associate Members'
- Rule 11: no change
- Delete rule 15) i. 15) ii Members of Council will act as Trustees and will be registered and responsible with the Charity Commission.
- Rule 16: add 'she' and 'her' to add gender: The Council may at any time remove any such person from office to which he/she has been appointed and appoint another person in his/her place. This will become rule 16.ii (The Charity Commission demands proper representation and diversity in gender). Council should remain the right to co-opt people.
- Rule 16 will be added under rule 22
- Rule 17 & 21 will be put together. Add clause re. diversity and co-option. The label 'ordinary members' will be changed to 'members of Council.'
- Rule 22: delete 'Ordinary Member'

Action: The Chairman and Prof. Chapman will work out the rules.

38. BA-bid – setting up a working party:

The chairman thanked the Monographs Editor for the initial draft of the BA-bid. The working party is already in place and working on it. The Treasurer will add the numbers in the end. The text now needs to be fine-tuned and another meeting has to be scheduled. Council proposes Thursday 2 August at 1 p.m. at SOAS. The Monographs Editor will check with Emma Mawdsley and Kunal Sen.

Dr. Lucy Blue was paid and will therefore not appear in the Corporate Plan. Bids for new projects will have to be put in. The Treasurer reiterated that staff members cannot apply for funding.

Officers' holidays: Chairman: July 6-20, Treasurer: part Aug/Sept, Secretary: from August 3 / 1 week, from August 17 / 1 week, Assistant Secretary 15 September – 8 October.

Action: Council delegated the working party to finalize the joint-bid.

39. New members:

Council approved the following members:

Mrs. Deepta Chopra, Wolfson College Cambridge

Ms. Rinita Dam, Birmingham University

40 Any other business:

- Council will not respond to ECAF separately. The Society is covered under the BA. **Action: The Secretary will send an e-mail to ECAF.**
- The R.R.P. of Crispin Branfoot's book *Gods on the Move* is £29.99 (excluding shipping). Booksellers normally take 40%. The title should be added to our respective websites, BASAS/SSAS. Cheques need to be sent to the Assistant

Secretary and will be listed separately. The Assistant Secretary and the Treasurer will put a proposal to the Monographs Editor. Distribution and advertising will initially be by word of mouth. The title should be announced in the new journal and annual report. **Action: Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Monographs Editor.**

- The Monographs Editor will reply to Dr. Cameron's email re. the Ancient and Medieval Gandhara Research Group. Council decided to give research groups space on our website e.g. Nasik Institute, Polly O' Hanlon in Oxford, Rachel Dwyer. **Action: Monographs Editor.**
- Council delegated the submission of the BA bid to the Officers in consultation with Prof. Chapman

41. Date of the next Council meeting:

To be announced.

SSAS Council Meeting
Sept 26th 2.45 pm
MINUTES

Present: Peter Robb (Chair), Tina Basi, Richard Blurton, Graham Chapman, Brian Fitzsimmons, Adam Hardy, Javed Majeed (Honorary Secretary), Emma Mawdsley, Amalendu Misra, Caroline Osella, Diccon Pullen (Treasurer), Susan Stronge, Michael Willis, Arif Zaman.

1) The Council Meeting was billed as 'informal' as Brenda McGregor was not to be present to take minutes. However, the Chair ruled that the meeting should be formalised with Javed Majeed taking minutes.

2) The Chair presented Sections B and C of the British Academy bid alongside the Corporate Plan. Michael Willis and Diccon Pullen are to finalise the details of the bid and send it to the BA. The Chair pointed out that the BA has set up a South Asia Area Panel, which might impact on how the present and future corporate plans will be presented. The relationship between the new BASAS as a BASIS society and the panel will have to be defined in the future.

3) The Treasurer presented the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007. These were discussed and formally approved by Council. These Accounts were signed by the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Treasurer also presented the Current Budget covering the first half of the current financial year. The Treasurer pointed out that there was approximately £20 000 unallocated. Various options for allocating this amount were discussed. It was decided that the BASAS website will advertise the availability of these funds as 'seed-corn' money for projects, with a closing date for applications of October 31st. The Treasurer pointed out that the current budget does not reflect any incoming funds from the closure of the pre-merger BASAS account.

4) The Chair raised the question of whether the pre-merger BASAS had dissolved itself in preparation for the merger. Graham Chapman was of the opinion that it had; as the organisation is not a registered charity, there are no legal requirements to meet of the kind that SSAS has had to comply with.

5) In his compliance role, the Treasurer presented the Chair and Secretary with the document of 'Amendments to Unincorporated Registered Charity's Governing'. This was duly signed by the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Chair retained the document for further completion.

6) Michael Willis confirmed that the test website was up, and asked that any comments be sent to him. Subsequent revision and updates would be reviewed by the Council of the new BASAS. The new rules will also have to be put on the website. The question of whether or not we need to support the Indology website needs to be resolved in the future.

7) The membership subscription rates of the pre-merger BASAS and SSAS need to be harmonised. Graham Chapman will produce a proposal for new rates of membership

for discussion at the AGM of November 5th. This has to be with the Assistant Secretary by October 12th.

8) With regard to the election of the new Council, the meeting appointed the Assistant Secretary as the returning officer. It was noted that, in order to ensure continuity, the merger had been agreed on the basis that in the first year, the Council members would be equally split between the SSAS and the pre-merger BASAS. The following nominations were made: Graham Chapman as Chair, Amalendu Misra as Secretary, Diccon Pullen as Treasurer, and Adam Hardy, Peter Robb, Michael Willis, Emma Mawdsley, Caroline Osella, and Tina Basi as members of Council.

If posts are to be contested, then there will be a vote by email in accordance with new rule 16 (ii). Nominations have to be received four weeks before the AGM of November 5th, and the vote will be counted a week before the AGM. In accordance with new rule 16 (ii) the Assistant Secretary will be the returning officer.

9) The Secretary asked that any images for the booklet for the Showcase event of November 15th be sent directly to Margot Jackson at the BA, whose email of September 25th mentioned that she had not yet received any. Javed Majeed will contact Burkhard Quessel and Ulrich Pagel about this. Graham Chapman will see if he can send any to her.

10) The Treasurer reminded the meeting that there was to be a book launch of Crispin Branfoot's *Gods on the Move* at Asia House on October 24th. He suggested that the event be listed on the BASAS website.

11) Arif Zaman noted the existence of a number of Networks of South Asian Studies in the US and South Asia, including the South Asian Studies Alliance and SAARC. It was agreed that the new body will need to consider formal links with these networks.

12) Peter Robb is to Chair the annual lecture by Professor Chris Fuller on November 5th.

Javed Majeed 26/9/07

Minutes: 4/07

Society for South Asian Studies

Extraordinary General Meeting

**held at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London
at 2.00 p.m. on 26 September 2007**

MINUTES

Present: Peter Robb (Chair), Tina Basi, Richard Blurton, Brian Fitzsimmons, Javed Majeed (Honorary Secretary), Emma Mawdsley, Caroline Osella, Diccon Pullen (Treasurer), Susan Stronge, Dr. M. Willis, Arif Zaman.

33. The Chair reported that he had been formally appointed the Representative for the time being of the Founding Member in accordance with Rule 40 of the Constitution of the Society, as confirmed by an email from Margot Jackson, British Academy, dated 19 September 2007.

34. In accordance with Rule 40 that “No resolution to change the Rules may be brought except at an Extraordinary General Meeting”, and in consideration that twenty-one days’ Notice and Agenda papers for the Meeting had been provided to all SSAS Members, the amended Rules including a note relating to Rule 16 were discussed and put to the meeting. At an open vote at least two thirds of the SSAS Members present and voting were in favour. The Chair exercised an additional vote as the nominated representative of the British Academy.

35. The Chair declared the Resolution carried and the new Rules in effect.

36. No other business was discussed.

Certified a true copy

Peter Robb, Chair

COPY
New BASAS

At its EGM on 26 September the Society for South Asian Studies, a Learned Society affiliated to the British Academy, agreed new rules including a change of name to the British Association for South Asian Studies. This was the final step needed to accomplish the merger of SSAS and the pre-merger BASAS as new BASAS, which takes effect on 1 October 2007.

It is an exciting development achieved in the best possible spirit and holding out the promise of major developments for all of us and our fields of study. Council has submitted a bid to the British Academy for grant-in-aid, building on Council consultations and the BASAS conference. Once we are fully integrated we will expect many more important initiatives.

Technically from 1 October the pre-merger BASAS, its rules, officers and executive will cease to exist. The current website will reflect that, and have a link to the Academy-based site to show officers, rules etc. This is a consequence of the agreed merger, whereby the former BASAS adopted the SSAS charitable status and structures, including its Council, to which pre-merger BASAS members had already been co-opted.

In practical terms, this raises some difficulties of transition, pending the election of a new Council at the AGM on 5 November. Therefore after consultation I have taken chair's action as follows on behalf of Council:

To resolve (1) that from 1 October to 5 November 2007 there shall be a special purpose committee of Council under Rule 18, comprising the chair and executive of the pre-merger BASAS, for the conduct of all business derived from the pre-merger BASAS that has not been transferred to Council, provided that the committee shall not enter to any new commitments on behalf of new BASAS; and

(2) that Council and new BASAS accept and endorse all plans, obligations and actions of the pre-merger BASAS up to and including 30 September 2007.

Peter Robb
Chair of Council

Minutes: 6/07



The British Association for South Asian Studies

Council Meeting

Monday 5 November 2007 at 3 p.m. at the RAS Board Room

Minutes

Present: Prof. Peter Robb, Dr. Javed Majeed, Mr. Diccon Pullen, Prof. Graham Chapman, Dr. Adam Hardy, Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Dr. Dibyesh Anand, Dr. Arif Zaman.

Apologies: Dr. David Hardiman, Dr. Apurba Kundu, Dr. Lawrence Saez, Ms. Carol Spary, Mrs. Susan Stronge, Dr. Maya Unnithan, Dr. Michael Willis.

In attendance: Mrs. Brenda McGregor

37. Minutes:

The following minutes were all approved by Council:

Minutes AGM 13 November 2006

Minutes Council Meeting 11 July 2007

Minutes EGM 26 September 2007

Minutes Council Meeting 26 September 2007

38. Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

39. Treasurer's Report

- 'Current Budget' Review:

- Due to the departure of Dr. Dominik Wujastyk there is now a vacancy for sponsorship of the Indology website. Council agreed to appoint Prof. Graham Chapman as the new sponsor. Council considered the question whether we need a new home for the Indology website or continue it as currently. Council

decided to ask experts in the field and to reserve judgement, but recognized its importance for the academic world.

- Leicester Conference income usually makes a profit. So far the treasurer has not received a budget yet.
- The old BASAS balance is £11,000 which makes the total amount to allocate for grants to £30,000. It will have to be drawn before 31 March 2008.
- BIEA has a revised budget now. Emma will explain it to Council in detail. Send a note to the BA to inform them. **Action: Chairman**
- All BASAS cheques should be clearly specified as to purpose (e.g. membership, journal etc.) and sent to the Assistant Secretary and will be cashed in the normal way.
- The Charity Commission has not yet formally registered the change of name. It will be discussed later in the agenda. The new name has been loaded as an account 'Designation' at CAF Bank, so cheques under both names will be accepted.
- The Treasurer signed the Letter of Representation.
- The external auditor sent the following comments:
 - The Assistant Secretary should use cash from the cashbox more frequently instead of credit card payments
 - There is a discrepancy between the income of the membership and the amount of members. The Assistant Secretary explained that this was due to the fact that there were many dormant members on the active membership list. **Action: Assistant Secretary will amend the list and take off the dormant members.**
 - There was one invoice with regards to the journal which covered two years instead of one.
- Thornton Springer has been re-appointed and will start working from 1 April 2008. However they are rather pricy at £1,903.50. The auditors' fee is a large amount of the Association's grant. Council decided to find a cheaper option however this has to be approved by the AGM.
- Maybe we should think about a cheaper option.
- Council thanked the Treasurer for all his help during the merger and congratulated him on a job well done.

40. Status of Charity Commission submission on Change of Rules:

A letter with regards to the change of rules was sent to the Charity Commission by our Chairman on 6 October 2007, but no reply has been received as yet. (A simple acknowledgement since received dated 2 November 2007.) The Treasurer will continue to call the organisation new BASAS previously SSAS until the formal approval of the Charity Commission. **Action: Treasurer**

41. Approval Chair's Action regarding the transition period:

Council approved.

42. Membership of new BASAS:

-Identification of Membership Secretary or Council Sponsor:

- Income from memberships is going to be important. Prof. Graham Chapman will approach Ms. Carole Spary, previously the BASAS membership secretary, to continue her role for the new organisation. Council agrees to have a membership secretary. **Action: Prof. Graham Chapman**

- Communications for retention of membership:

- The new organisation should communicate to its membership. Maybe we should launch a party. Also inform people abroad. Action: Council approved to coordinate an even. We will also need a press release.

- New members:

Council approved the following new 'ordinary' members:

- Mr. Toban, Mr. Hole, Mr. Jain, Mr. Reza, Mr. Rai, Mr. Crick, Mr. Prasad, Ms. Meece, KAAK Bonn.

- Re-confirmation of Council members:

- This item was not on the agenda but Council discussed the following: Council decided to name new members and inform the AGM. Accepted for Council were: Ms. Tina Bassi, Dr. William Gould, Dr. Apurba Kundu, Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Dr. Caroline Osella, Prof. Peter Robb and Prof. Kunal Sen. Dr. Apurba Kundu will also be responsible for the website and Contemporary South Asia.

Prof. Graham Chapman will be the Chair, Mr. Diccon Pullen will continue as the Treasurer, Dr. Adam Hardy will continue with the journal, Dr. Michael Willis will be the Monographs Editor and there is a vacancy for the Bulletin

- Revised Annual Membership dues:

- Council approved the rates suggested by Prof. Graham Chapman at the previous meeting.

- Standing Orders for 2008:

- The membership list needs to be updated at the beginning of December and the members need to be informed of the new membership rates. **Action: Assistant Secretary will update the membership list.** Council approved to purchase a new data base system via a colleague of Dr. Emma Mawdsley.
- Council proposes the creation of a grants-subcommittee and joint subcommittee with regards to project grants. It will consist of 5 people. The AGM has to be informed. The Treasurer will record the decisions and will answer all the financial questions. Prof. Chapman will find two candidates from old BASAS. He will approach Dr. Kunal Sen. Old SSAS should also find two candidates. Council delegates this issue to the next Council meeting.

43. BIEA Collaborative Research Project update:

Council approved the revised budget.

44. BASIS meeting:

The BASIS meeting will take place on 14 November 2007. Our new Chairman will not be able to make it but Prof. Peter Robb and Mr. Diccon Pullen will attend. The ex-chairman will report back to Council.

45. Grant Applications:

Council appointed a grant committee consisting of Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Dr. Lawrence Saez, Prof. Peter Robb, Dr. Javed Majeed and Mr. Diccon Pullen. The committee will meet at SOAS in two weeks. Prof. Chapman suggested to do the voting via email and to copy in the Assistant Secretary. **Action: Chairman will invite new Secretary.**

46. Announcement new Secretary:

Dr. Lawrence Saez was voted in as the new Secretary.

The Treasurer recommended amending the authority with regards to the signing of cheques to Prof. Graham Chapman and Dr. Lawrence Saez, in place of Prof. Peter Robb and Dr. Adam Hardy. (Dr Michael Willis and Mr Diccon Pullen to continue as signatories.) These signature amendments were approved by Council. **Action: The Treasurer**

Council agreed that there should be a hand-over meeting with Dr. Saez, Dr. Amalendu Misra and Dr. Javed Majeed. **Action: Dr. Javed Majeed.**

47. Annual Conference in Leicester March 2008:

Ms. Claire Anderson and Dr. Prashant are responsible for the conference. Council approved the budget. Prof. Chapman will be the sponsor.

48. Showcase Event:

Prof. Chapman brought the poster for the event. Mr. Diccon Pullen and Prof. Chapman will attend. Prof. Chapman would like to invite 3 guests (see e-mail 1 November 2007). There are a further twelve invitations. Council suggests to invite all the embassies and High Commissions of South Asia including Lord Bikkhu Parekh. **Action: Assistant Secretary.**

49. Timetable of the year's meetings:

Executive members of BASAS always met at the conference. Prof. Graham Chapman as the new Chairman should organise the potential meetings. It will be tabled for the next meeting.

50. Update website:

The new website is up and running.

51. Request Dr. Nayanika Mookherjee:

Council approved her request.

52. Request Dr. Cameron Petrie:

Council approved his request but the additional support of £500 should be considered by the new Council at the next meeting.

53. Any other business:

The request by Ms. Asha Gangadharan for a hardship grant was turned down by Council and was referred to the Mountbatten Trust. **Action: Assistant Secretary.** Dr. Adam Hardy asked Council's permission to plug his book at the AGM. Council approved.

54. Date next Council meeting (see item 44)

The next Council meeting will take place in January. Dr. Lawrence Saez will be asked to plan the meeting. If the meeting will be attended by few Council members the meeting will be done by circulation. **Action: Chairman will inform Dr. Saez.**