



Minutes: 1/08

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Meeting of Council on
Thursday 10 January 2008 at 2 p.m.
at SOAS, Brunei Gallery, room B203

Present: Dr. Claire Anderson (guest), Dr. Tina Bassi, Prof. Graham Chapman, Dr. Adam Hardy, Dr. Apurba Kundu, Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Mr. Diccon Pullen, Dr. Lawrence Saez, Prof. Kunal Sen, Ms. Carole Spary, Dr. Michael Willis.

Apologies: Dr. William Gould, Dr. Caroline Osella, Prof. Peter Robb.

In attendance: Mrs. Brenda McGregor, Assistant Secretary.

MINUTES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Association; a short introduction of the individual Council members followed. Agenda item 12 was discussed after agenda item 4. And the questionnaire with regards to the BA was answered at the end of the meeting.

1. Minutes:

Council approved the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 November 2007 except for some mistakes. The following corrections were made:

- Item 46, last line: Apurba Kundu should read Dr. Amalendu Misra
- Item 47, last line: Professor Chapman will be the sponsor
- Item 49, first line: should read: executive members of BASAS always met at the conference.

2. Matters arising

With regards to the request of Dr. Cameron Petrie, Council is not sure about the content of his letter. If the request is about spending the remainder of his grant, £500 towards the publication of the first edition of the journal *Gandharan Studies*, Council approves. If the request is for an additional grant of £500 Council will not approve. The Assistant Secretary will ask for clarification. Action: **Assistant Secretary**

3. Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer explained the budget to the new members on Council. £9,515 will be available for grants. This excludes the balance of old-BASAS of £11,000. The treasurer urged to spend the money before the end of the financial year.
- The Monographs Editor suggested that the old BASAS money could be ring-fenced since it did not originate from BA funding and should therefore not be subjected to BA rules. Council decided against it. Funds belong to the new entity as a whole and should not be separated. The Chairman suggested that we could put the money into outreach, networking or into an increase of the conference budget. The bursaries for post-graduate students who will give a lecture, could be doubled from £50 to £100. Alternatively the reserve could be raised to £30,000. Overall Council agreed that we have merged and as a result the funds should be of one organisation. We should support the conference generously and increase the grants. Council voted to keep the reserve at the current level. The extra funds for the conference will depend on Dr. Anderson's budget, which was discussed at agenda item 8.
- Dr. Kundu suggested to support *Contemporary South Asia*. Maybe it should become a regular publication of the organisation and should be taken out of the hands of Taylor Francis.
- Dr. Bassi proposed to award a one-off grant to sponsor and develop a new artist. Alternatively we could invite a scholar from South Asia. In old-BASAS the scheme already existed through sponsorship from Lord Parekh who has now withdrawn his support. Action: **Council will discuss expenditure at a later stage of the meeting.**

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his hard work.

4.. Membership Secretary's Report

- Ms. Carole Spary gave a short talk on the membership administration. There is a substantial increase in new members. The conference served as a good pretext to join. Most memberships were paid by cheque. There were 9 new memberships for *Contemporary South Asia*.
- With regards to the standing orders the two membership lists should be consolidated first. The Assistant Secretary should liaise with Ms. Carole Spary. For the purpose of communications we have the availability of Jiscmail. Ideally it should be done before the conference.
- There are going to be some credits to the old BASAS account since some memberships were paid in to the old account. The previous treasurer Ms. Pat Ellis should contact the bank for clarification.
Action: The Assistant Secretary, Ms. Carole Spary

During the discussion on agenda item 4 various other topics were discussed. The following decisions were approved by Council:

- Council approved £1,000 for the printing of membership brochures.
- Dr. Apurba Kundu stepped down as the editor of *Contemporary South Asia*. Dr. John Zavos is his successor. The Secretary is going to contact him.
- Re. Paypal, there will be a budget to incorporate it on the new website.

5.. BASAS office issues:

- The Assistant Secretary will increase her working hours with 4 hours.
- There is a budget of £1,000 for office furniture
- How can we secure the books at our office?
- Back-issues of *South Asian Studies* can be given away at the Leicester Conference.

6. BASAS annual conference update

Dr. Carole Anderson was invited to the meeting to give an update on the Leicester Conference. She recently moved from Leicester University to Warwick University but remains the organiser of the conference. There are now 23 proposed panels up on the website.

- Dates: The end of next week will be the deadline. 18 January: submission panel papers. 25 January: submission individual papers. 28 January Dr. Anderson and Dr. Kidambi will meet again. By 8 February they will have a clear idea of the numbers. Warwick University will impose a fine for the numbers that do not show, so the costs have been bolstered.
- The Vice-Chancellor will be attending. The keynote speaker will be Professor Pandya, who is the only specialist on the Andaman Islands, and of great interest for the upcoming conference Dr. Anderson is going to organise on the Tsunami.
- In the past Lord B. Parekh provided £ 950 to sponsor and invite a scholar, but after a 3 year agreement he did not want to continue as President.
- There are no secretaries available; we should ask volunteers to help with the registration admin.
- Council approved 20 bursaries at £100 for the people who will give a paper. The bursaries should only be paid upon attendance. Dr. Anderson will put up a big notice re. the bursaries.
- Council approved to increase the budget for the conference from £1000 to £3000.
- The Treasurer asked clarification with regards to the fines.
- Council agreed to offer a £250 prize for the best presentation. There will be no second prize to make it more prestigious. The winner will not have a guaranteed publication. It will have to fit in *Contemporary South Asia* and so has to adhere to the same vetting process. Deadline: 14 March 2008.
- Warwick University has set up a South Asia Group and have shown interest in setting up the next conference. They will have excellent admin. support but they are quite pricy and will probably charge double. Council urged Dr. Anderson to inquire about the price so the next conference can be announced as soon as possible.

- The BASAS exec. will pay the same entrance fee as others. Only the student helpers will get in for free.

There will be a press release from the university but Dr. Anderson could contact the local press as well. **Action: Dr. Anderson will contact the university press officer Mr. Nathan Mercer. If extra help is necessary Dr. Anderson will contact Dr. Saez. She handed the contract with Leicester University over to the Treasurer.**

The Chairman thanked Dr. Anderson for her talk and for the excellent work.

7. Araxus controversy

The Chairman apologized to Council and admitted he should have taken legal advice earlier. The Treasurer inquired whether there were contingency arrangements in place, since the situation deteriorated quickly. In the future the Treasurer would like to offer his involvement in verbal agreements. The Association is not allowed to get involved in commercial contracts and to avoid misunderstandings in the future, the Association has to be clearer with regards to terms and agreements. The Secretary expressed deep dissatisfaction with the way that this controversy was handled and insisted that it should not be repeated in the future. The Secretary suggested that in cases where there is potential legal action against the Association or its trustees, the Association should follow a clear protocol and structure of command. He proposed that a meeting of the Association's officers should be convened, the issue discussed and, if necessary, legal advice sought. The Secretary will deal with it to avoid mistakes in the future. According to the rules of the Association the Secretary will be the director.

8. Relations with the British Academy

Council wanted to know what the follow-up was of the meeting with the BA. The South Asia panel is going to meet on 21 January. Ms. Jane Robinson, Secretary asked if BASAS would be available to join the Council with a BASAS representative. Prof. Peter Robb is on Council but not a representative. The Chairman asked to send the agenda for the meeting to the Secretary and Prof. Peter Robb. Council agreed that BASAS should have a representative on the Arts and Humanities Committee. The Secretary

reported that the chair of the South Asia panel, Dr. Jonathan Parry, is very interested in BASAS and is going to meet our Secretary shortly. The Secretary reported that our initial meeting with the British Academy was very positive and that they communicated their appreciation for the activities of our Association. The Secretary also mentioned that the Academy officials had been particularly complimentary of our Corporate Plan and he thanked Michael Willis for playing such an instrumental part in drafting it. Council also agreed that the BA should give the Association funds to foster relations with South Asia. Action: **The Secretary**.

The Treasurer informed Council that the BA sent a questionnaire with reference to the existence of the British Academy. The Chairman proposed to address the questions at the end of the meeting. The following questions were posed:

1. What is the British Academy for?
2. What will the British Academy look like in ten years?
3. What will the British Academy look like in three years?

The Treasurer informed Council that it would be advisable to have a timeline with regards to the BA-Bid. Last time the Bid was submitted in great haste. The deadline for submission is in September 2008. The Treasurer suggested that the Secretary should create a timetable for the next Council meeting. The Secretary proposed for Council to meet more often and to create a Management Committee. A meeting should be fixed before the Leicester Conference. The management committee could meet Friday 28 March in the afternoon. Action: **Secretary**

9. BASAS website

- At the moment there are two existing websites. The Secretary proposed to consolidate the two and have one single website. The British Academy has a preference for the entry portal on the BA website. The Treasurer asked for a budget and a meeting with Dr. Michael Willis and our web designer Mr. Raffaele Malanga. Dr. Apurba Kundu agreed to close down his website and be available for help in the interim. The procedure to change things on the BA portal could be through a quarterly update. The other option would be to have a centralised person who decides what goes up on the website.

- The following features will have to be addressed: Creation PayPal, search facility, additional pages for the integration of content, conference page, new features. Council will have to decide which content on the old-BASAS website will be moved to the single site.
- Council proposed a Directory of Experts: BASAS members could be included.
 - Dr. Kundu would like to exit a.s.a.p. since he is not paid. The upkeep of the website will be the most important issue. The Secretary proposed to make Dr. Kundu a paid consultant, since changes should be done immediately and make him the centralized figure for IT issues. Dr. Raffaele Malanga could be hired for the quarterly upkeep. Dr. Kundu declined and wants to step down. Ms. Carole Spary proposed to step in but is not sure about her expertise. Dr. Kundu and Dr. Willis will assist her.
 - Mr. Malanga has to be briefed that the site has to be user-friendly.

Council approved a budget up to £3000. £1000 for a quarterly update plus a one-time £550-1000 for the other features. Action:

- **set up working party: Dr. Saez, Dr. Willis, Dr. Kundu, Mr. Malanga.**
- **Keep the SSAS domain for now.**

The Chairman thanked Dr. Kundu and Dr. Willis for their excellent work.

10. Funding of monographs

- The proceeds of *Gods on the Move* will go to new publications. Potentially new monographs could come out of research projects (e.g. Dr. Mawdsley's project), but the Monographs Editor will also accept new proposals, provided it is approved by Council. A call for new proposals will have to feature on our website.
- Dr. Adam Hardy passed around his new book *The Temple in South Asia*.

Council approved £6,000 for the first volume of EASAA. All the proceeds go to the Association.

The budget for Dr. Shaw's monographs *Buddhist Landscapes* was increased from £5800 to £6500. The Treasurer would like to have some control over the stock, so eventually the books will be stored at the office.

11. BASAS Occasional Papers

Dr. Willis will not be the occasional papers' editor anymore. There are no more new monographs in the pipeline.

12. Guidelines for circulating potentially sensitive emails

The Treasurer sent out an e-mail with regards to the guidelines on political advocacy by the Charity Commission. The rules are very liberal. We are allowed to campaign politically to support scholarship and academic freedom. However the Treasurer stressed that we ought to exercise prudence. The Secretary expressed deep reservations about using the BASAS membership list, via Jiscmail, for political advocacy or other purposes that did not coincide with the aims of the Association. He argued that members should continue to receive information about the activities of the Association or other relevant information pertaining to South Asia related events that would be of interest to most BASAS members. However, he argued that political advocacy was not in the remit of the Association. He argued that potential misuse of the Jiscmail list could be very damaging to the reputation of the Association. In order to avoid misuse of the Jiscmail list, the Secretary proposed that only members of the Management Council have the ability to post to the Jiscmail membership list. In general, the Secretary is responsible for posting messages to the members. The Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Ms. Spary are the owners of the list. The Secretary asked that the organisation has to decide whether the BASAS Jiscmail list will be an open discussion list with unrestricted posting rights by all BASAS members or a restricted list for the dissemination of information. Dr. Apurba Kundu expressed the view that all BASAS members should have unrestricted ability to post to the Jiscmail list. In general Council agreed that the Association had to abide the guidelines stipulated by the BA. All the information circulated on the website or communicated to members via Jiscmail should promote the issues stated in our Corporate Plan and our Constitution. The Secretary noted that there are already discussion groups, if needed a BASAS-sponsored blog could be

created in the future. Council voted on the two proposals: an open discussion list or a restricted one and opted for a restricted list. The Council also agreed that if there was doubt as to whether a given message sent to members via Jiscmail could be of a contentious nature, then the Council should be consulted beforehand to make a determination whether the message should be posted to members.

13. Any other business

- BASAS have offered to be guest editors. Dr. Kundu offered to be the occasional papers' editor but not on a voluntary basis. However Council members are trustees of the organisation and cannot be paid. Council declined payment and the issue will be left for now.
- Dr. Anderson asked if she could get a large banner for the conference similar to our letter head. Action: The Chairman
- Dr. Emma Mawdsley has secured £20,000 for the BIEA project. 7 projects are involved and Dr. Dwyer is the only person who has finalised the budget. 2 projects will not have any financial implications. Dr. Mawdsley might have to return £5,000 because guidelines have to match.
- Who will lead the ASEA Group UK? We could use the BEIA model. Action: The Secretary. Mr. Pullen will send information and the link.
- Questionnaire BA:
 - 1) What is the British Academy for?
The BA exists to promote the best and to be a more flexible counter to the big funding institutions. It is innovative and dynamic. It is crucial that the government will get involved. It is the ultimate pot of funds.
 - 2) What will the British Academy look like in ten years?
Hopefully it will have more funds in the future. The Association would want to see the diversity promoted.
 - 3) What will the British Academy look like in three years?
The answer was similar to answer in the second question.
- Council approved to have the Seed grants on offer again in the next grant giving round. There is £8,000 left.

- Dr. Basi's proposal to sponsor and artist was accepted by Council. She is going to report to the Chairman. It should be advertised on our website. Council allocated £750 to fall under outreach. Action: **Dr. Bassi**
- The Assistant Secretary informed Council that there are no conditions of award on the website with regards to the Seed Funding Grants. Successful candidates need to receive the conditions of award as part of the offer letter. Action: **The Assistant Secretary, The Monograph's Editor, Dr. Kundu.**

14. Date of next meeting

Friday 28 March in Leicester.



Minutes: 2/08

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Meeting of Council on
Friday 28 March 2008 at 1:30 p.m.
at Beaumont Hall, University of Leicester.

Present: Prof. Graham Chapman, Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Mr. Diccon Pullen, Prof. Peter Robb, Dr. Lawrence Saez, Prof. Kunal Sen, Dr. Michael Willis.

Apologies: Dr Tina Basi, Dr. Apurba Kundu, Mrs. Brenda McGregor, Dr. William Gould, Adam Hardy, Ms. Carole Spary.

MINUTES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

15. Minutes:

Council approved the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 January 2008 with the following corrections:

- Tina Basi and Clare Anderson's names are spelled incorrectly
- Adam Hardy was not in attendance at the meeting
- Correct the 'exact old BASAS amount' was £12,549.26.
- Emma Tomalin, not Pat Ellis was previous Treasurer
- Budget points (sub points 5-7) should run together
- Subsidy, not deficit (point 6) to BASAS conference
- Change Carol to Clare Anderson
- Araxus: advise to advisor. Delete last two sentences
- Website – figures don't fit. Take out £550-1000. The £3000 is a one off for the merger; the £1000 will be required annually
- Point 12: "if there was doubt". Further additions – majority vote and disclaimer

16. Matters arising

No matters arising

17. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that there were no specific budgetary concerns, but that we needed to be clear on which monies would need to be carried forward. At this meeting we would determine the outcome of the Language Training Grants. Other matters will be discussed in individual agenda items.

18. Membership Secretary's Report

In her absence, the Secretary and the Chairman reported that the conference has attracted new members, the actual number to be reported at the next meeting. The Secretary reported that the conference was very helpful in increasing interest in membership and that several participants had approached him to become members on the spot. In his view, the conference should be used more effectively to increase membership.

The Secretary reported that Carole Spary and he had worked hard to produce a membership application form and BASAS information flyer in a timely manner. The Management Council evaluated the forms and commented favourably on the professional quality of the membership forms and BASAS information flyers. The Secretary stressed that most of the hard work had been done by Carole Spary and that she deserved most of the credit. Consensus on the need to continue publishing these forms (with alterations on a need basis).

Discussion about the need to be consistent in notifying the members about the correct fees. There still appears to be lack of clarity among members about how much their membership fee is and what items such membership fee grants them (e.g., subscription to a given journal). There was some general discussion about the duties of the Membership Secretary vs. those of the Assistant Secretary. The Secretary clarified that the Membership Secretary would be in charge of marketing and membership promotion, whereas the Assistant Secretary would be in charge of membership record maintenance and membership accounts. The Secretary reported that both the Membership Secretary and the Assistant Secretary would compare membership records so that there was consistency between the records maintained by the Assistant Secretary and the dataset of members that are included in JISC mail (namely for the purposes of notifying members about BASAS-related activities, etc.).

The Treasurer also reported that members need to be reminded that they cancel their old direct debit transfers and need to roll over their direct debit to the new BASAS account (for the correct amount that they owe).

The Management Council agreed that it would be impractical to chase members on outstanding fees from previous years as well as those who may have been confused about what their membership fees were this year. However, the Council also expressed hope that next year there would be a sharp decline in this type of confusion.

Action: Carole Spary to send a complimentary electronic copy of the BASAS membership flyer and the BASAS information flyer to all members of the Management Council.

Action: Carole Spary to send invoice to Treasurer for recruitment folder.

Action: Carole Spary to update JISC mailing list

Action: Carole Spary to prepare report on membership for next meeting

Action: The Assistant Secretary will be responsible reminding people in the future about the correct amounts to those members who are less than accurate in their accounting.

Action: Assistant Secretary to chase standing orders that need to be changed to new subscription level. The Secretary will send a reminder letter to all BASAS members reminding them of the correct fees.

Action: Michael Willis to work with web-designer to clarify visual presentation of fees on web-site

19. Project Funding and Language Training Grants

The Chairman discussed the need to consider seed corn or start-up funding and other projects. However, at this meeting, particular attention was given to the Language Training Grants. The Chairman reported that a special subcommittee of the Management Council had evaluated the Language Training Grant applications and made a series of recommendations.

A. LANGUAGE TRAINING GRANTS

There were three applications for LTGs. A subcommittee reviewed the applications and made recommendation to the Council on all the applications.

The subcommittee recommended the rejection of one application as follows:

Bairavee Subramanian. The applicant did not meet the stated aims of the programme. There was lack of clarity whether the language training could be helpful in achieving the level of fluency needed to enable her to complete her stated research project.

The subcommittee recommended approval of two language training grants as follows:

- Casey Kemp, the amount of £1,839 (primarily for fees).
- Pragya Dhital, the amount of £2,000 (primarily for fees and travel). Onsite accommodation costs not approved.

The subcommittee recommended that the total amount allocated for the purpose of Language Training Grants be £3,839.

Council approved the recommendations.

Action: Assistant Secretary to inform the successful applicants.

Questions were raised about the future of language grants. The Treasurer noted that under next year's budget there would be no expenditure outlays for language training grants due to difficulties in requesting language training funds using the bid forms provided by BASIS.

The Council was informed by the Chairman that £8,500 could be made available for language training grants (available due to postponement of the project led by Kunal Sen Graham Chapman and Arif Zaman, see below). Peter Robb suggested that we ask the BA for additional money for Language Training Grants.

Action: Assistant Secretary and Peter Robb to compose letter to BASIS requesting additional funds for Chairman's signature.

B. SEED CORN OR START-UP FUNDING.

The Secretary reported that the Assistant Secretary informed him that BASAS had received over 11 applications for start-up funding. Peter Robb suggested that, a subcommittee composed of members of the Management Council, to review all the applications and make comments on the quality of the submissions. However, he suggested that all Members of Council also be invited to comment, particularly in those areas where, based on their individual expertise, they would be able to guide the subcommittee. Subsequently the Subcommittee would make an evaluation. Proposal was approved.

The Management council will receive all the applications. The subcommittee will meet in May to make a final recommendation to the full Council. The subcommittee to review the Seed Project Grants will be composed of Emma Mawdsley, Caroline Osella, and Lawrence Saez.

C. RESEARCH PROJECT FUNDING

The award for this year was discussed (£34,000) and Council reminded that only those projects named in the bid and corporate plan were eligible for funding from the grant-in-

aid. BASIS guidelines stipulate that Association projects have to be organized in the following categories: Flagship, Staff, Collaborative and Start-up.

Flagship project: East Africa. BASIS declined to fund Emma Mawdsley's post-doctoral post without further particulars. These were supplied and BASIS provided £31,000. Council accepted this funding as ring-fenced. Additional funds for the project to be approved when needed. Project director to submit plans and bids as required.

Action: EM to prepare post-doc particulars, advertise the post and prepare a report for Council.

Flagship project: **Electronic Kangyur.** Council agreed to rollover £7,250 for the final year of this project.

Action: Ulrich Pagel (up1@soas.ac.uk) to be asked to check on progress and inform Council by email.

Collaborative project: **Relic cult in Burma and India.** Council agreed that funds were potentially available to complete this project, but that the project director, Janice Stargardt, will have to submit a detailed plan and bid for Council's consideration. The Chairman noted that the funding available was likely to be less than the amount given in the narrative portion of the in corporate plan.

Action: Assistant Secretary to write project director.

Staff project: **Establishment of the Gods Project.** Director, Michael Willis, was excused while Council discussed this project. Council agreed to award the staff grant of £10,000, payable quarterly. It was a condition, for potential 'conflict of interest' reasons, that Michael Willis step down from Council at the next AGM. The chairman thanked Michael Willis for his long service to the Association.

Action: Assistant Secretary to write the Keeper, Department of Asia at the British Museum informing them of the award (Michael Willis to provide details).

Start-up: **Modern South Asia. Project.** Directors Kunal Sen, Graham Chapman and Arif Zaman announced through the Chairman that they would have to delay commencement of this project.

Start-up: **Indian Ocean.** Council agreed to provide £6,500 from the grant-in-aid to start this project. The Treasurer pointed out that an element of this was collaborative and that further funds could be secured from BASIS under the collaborative heading. The Chairman ruled that however that might be, an undertaking had been made based on earlier discussions with the director of BIEA that the Association was obliged to fund the start-up in the first year from the grant-in-aid.

Action: Assistant Secretary to inform project leaders (Michael Willis to serve as contact).

D. GENERAL POINTS

Concerns were raised about the corporate plan which names specific individuals and staff projects for six years in the future. While not ruling out those named in the plan, it was agreed that the staff project element of plan would have to be reconsidered each summer in anticipation of the September bid. The research committee to consider the matter; it will be chaired by Kunal Sen who will co-opt members at his discretion.

Action: Acting chairman Kunal Sen to lead a research committee to evaluate the corporate plan and other projects in preparation for the bid.

20. AHRC and European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH) controversy

The Secretary reported attendance to a meeting by the AHRC regarding the presentation of the European Research Index for the Humanities (ERIH). Controversy among learned societies about the implications of the index and the way in which such an index could be used for the next step of the research assessment exercise (RAE).

The Secretary expressed reservations about the confrontational approach taken by some of the other learned societies regarding the AHRC. Although he was aware that many BASAS members could be adversely affected by the usage of ERIH as a tool in evaluating research quality, he (as a social scientist) was supportive of the usage of journal rankings and citation indices as a way of evaluating the quality of research outputs. For that reason, he proposed that a member of the Council in the Humanities, and one who was more disposed to side with the opposition to citation indices, should take the lead and represent BASAS at future AHRC gatherings.

The management council agreed that we should take a position in response to the ARGH. Peter Robb, Michael Willis, and Graham Chapman proposed that we support opposition to the ERIH. Agreement that there are concerns about the index, by first querying the British Academy and informing them what our position on this issue is likely to be.

Action: Peter Robb will draft a response which will be evaluated by Graham Chapman and others in the Management Council for comments. Graham Chapman would sign the document.

21. Relations with European Consortium for Asian Field Study (ECAAF)

The Secretary reported on attendance to a British Academy event to introduce the European Consortium for Asian Field Study (ECAAF). Both the Chairman and the Secretary were in attendance to this presentation and expressed some scepticism about the long-term benefit of such a consortium. Nevertheless, they both expressed the view that some BASAS members could benefit from our continued participation in this Consortium.

22. BASAS website

The Secretary reported that Apurba Kundu had agreed to allow the BASAS website to be hosted at Bradford until the time in which we were able to access our own website within the confines of the British Academy. The Secretary also reported that he was following up on the creation of a BASAS blog, one which would enable BASAS members to discuss issues freely and to alert others about their events, publications, etc.

23. BASAS annual conference evaluation and update on next conference

The Chairman reported that Clare Anderson and Carole Spary withdrew their offer to host the BASAS conference next year. For that reason there was no venue for the next conference. The Chair and Secretary will be delegated to find an alternative venue. The Chairman asked for members of the Management Council to make informal queries on this matter.

24. Funding of monographs

No items to report. No further commitments on future monographs.

25. Language Training Grants

No items to report aside from those previously discussed in item 5.

26. Project Seed Grants

No items to discuss aside from those previously discussed in item 5.

27. Any other business

Transition issues: Graham Chapman announced that he will step down as Chairman in August, but before the AGM. Michael Willis tentatively proposed David Arnold. Offer from Kunal Sen to serve as interim Chairman. Peter Robb proposed that we appoint Kunal Sen as interim chair beginning 1 July. The Council agreed to this proposal.

Diccon Pullen confirmed that he would step down as Treasurer at the next AGM after his committed three year appointment. He expressed the need for the person who will act as the new Treasurer to contact him before October as the auditing process will begin in May.

28. Date of the AGM

Date of the next AGM to be 3 November 2008 at 2 p.m. The venue would be the RAS or the British Academy, whichever is most economical. Proposal by the Secretary to have either the outgoing Chairman or the incoming Chairman to deliver the annual lecture. Proposal by Peter Robb to have Chris Bayly as the speaker.

29. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 08 July in Manchester. Further details to be announced.



Minutes: 3/08

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Meeting of Council on
Monday 8 July 2008 at 12:30 p.m.
at Amazon room, Arthur Lewis Building, University of Manchester

Present: Dr Apurba Kundu, Dr William Gould, Dr Adam Hardy, Dr Caroline Osella, Mr. Diccon Pullen, Dr. Lawrence Saez, Prof Kunal Sen, Dr Carole Spary, Dr Michael Willis.

Apologies: Dr Tina Basi, Prof Graham Chapman, Dr Emma Mawdsley, Mrs Brenda McGregor, Prof Peter Robb.

Present: Dr Crispin Bates, Dr John Zavos

MINUTES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

30. Minutes:

Council approved the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 March 2008 with the following corrections:

- Items: p. 5. add “to write to” to 3rd action, “Assistant Secretary to write”...
- Add Caroline Osella and Peter Robb as being present.

31. Matters arising

No matters arising.

32. Contemporary South Asia

The Council introduced itself to Dr. John Zavos, the editor of Contemporary South Asia (CSA). John Zavos discussed the profile of CSA and discussed the possibility of firming

up the relationship between BASAS and CSA. Members of BASAS can already opt to get a subscription to CSA at a reduced rate. He stressed that there was a need to determine the level of potential collaboration. Dr. Zavos noted that his discussions with Gerald Dorey about the possibility of making CSA a BASAS journal were positive and that he would favour a tie-up that would be advantageous to BASAS. Nevertheless, Dr. Zavos pointed out that there could be some potential financial costs to the Association, although the exact amount is not certain at present. He stressed that further details about these details are to be discussed with the Chairman and the Secretary. The Secretary discussed the importance of Contemporary South Asia to the Council. The Secretary commented very favourably about the quality of the journal. He noted that Dr. Apurba Kundu, the CSA's previous editor, had been instrumental in making CSA a very well regarded journal. The Secretary expressed a strong interest for Contemporary South Asia to become a BASAS journal.

Dr. Apurba Kundu outlined the nature of the CSA's association with the old BASAS association, particularly stressing the types of membership rates that were offered. At present he highlighted that one of the special issues of CSA is devoted to some of the best papers presented at the BASAS conference. Dr. Zavos suggested that this was one area where the relationship could be firmed up, and Dr. Apurba Kundu introduced the possibility of more than one 'BASAS' issue. The Chairman focused the Council's attention to the key distinction between the CSA and South Asian Studies (SSA) being one of the potential levels of contribution that BASAS would provide. CSA is supported by a commercial franchise (Taylor and Francis), whereas SSA is self-financing. Michael Willis noted that the financial picture from the Academy suggests that the journals that they finance are self-financing. Prof. Sen also raised the issue about potential branding with Taylor and Francis. Discussion revolved around the appropriate level of membership rates associated with the participation and some members expressed concerns that post-graduates might find a compulsory subscription to CSA with a BASAS membership too financially burdensome, especially if they were not researching 'contemporary' South Asia. Apurba Kundu discussed a possibility of spreading scholarship by having a different tiered membership rate that would allow for all members to get both the journals or perhaps be given a choice. The Secretary stressed that the Council should discuss these details at a later date, once the new membership rates are agreed upon. The Chairman thanked Dr. Zavos for meeting with the Council to discuss this potential collaboration.

33. BASAS conference 2009

Dr. Crispin Bates (University of Edinburgh) introduced himself to the Council and announced that there was a meeting at his department and reported that they had agreed to host the BASAS conference next year. Dr. Bates, however noted, that there had been no firm agreement on the actual date when the conference would take place. He noted that the Secretary had given him a list of suitable dates. Dr. Bates promised that he would provide the Council with a firm date over the next two weeks. Dr. Bates expressed that his main anxiety about hosting the conference is that that they should have additional

secretarial support. The Secretary discussed the type of support that BASAS would be prepared to offer, including assistance with registration and promotion. He commented that the Assistant Secretary had been informed that she would provide such assistance to the conference organisers, in order to minimise the problems associated with registration. Dr. Bates requested an advance of £2,000 for secretarial support, needed to organize the conference. The Chairman argued in favour of providing this money to them. The Treasurer asked Dr. Bates to provide him with an invoice rather than to organise the amount as an advance.

Michael Willis expressed some reservations and suggested that there should be no diminution of monies available to post-graduate student bursaries. Dr. Bates reported that the administrator he had in mind for the job was highly efficient and experienced and would probably save BASAS money by negotiating down the other costs. The Chairman thanked Dr. Bates for his support and for agreeing to host the conference.

Council has agreed to provide Dr. Crispin Bates £2,000 as advance for secretarial support for the 2009 conference. The £2,000 advance will be payable by way of invoice(s) submitted.

34. Treasurer's Report

The Current Budget as at 2 July 2008 was circulated to Council Members in advance. A copy of this Excel spreadsheet is attached to these Minutes.

The Treasurer raised several items from the Current Budget spreadsheet on a line item basis. Council discussed and formally approved the Budget.

The Treasurer commented that holding the Annual Conference over the financial year end was always going to provide a few bookkeeping challenges, especially with regards to booking Conference income and expenditure in the same financial year.

35. Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary offered a detailed report based on the available data from the membership list. She highlighted the fact that more than half of the attendees to the BASAS conference were not BASAS members. The Chairman asked the Membership Secretary if there had been any decline in the number of members as a result of the merger. The Membership Secretary clarified that there had been a small decline in membership resulting from the fact that some members of the previous associations had been members of both association. After the merger, these individuals became members of one association. The Secretary reported that there was some overlap in old membership lists and that once they were merged together there was a decline in the total number of members. However, he noted that the Membership Secretary's efforts to increase membership had been very successful and that the promotional materials that

had been crafted were having the desired result to increase the visibility of the Association. He noted that 29 new members had requested to join the Association recently.

There was general discussion about the BASAS registry, and whether the association should carry on publishing it. At the BASAS Bulletin, Prof. Chapman reported that there had been a decline in the number of BASAS members who submitted details to him. There was a general discussion about the registry of members. The Secretary noted that many members chose not to include their details in the BASAS registry produced by Prof. Chapman. He highlighted that there was no relationship between the combined membership list and the BASAS registry. The Secretary proposed that the details from the BASAS membership registry be integrated into a directory of experts; such a Directory was being designed by the BASAS webmaster. Dr. Apurba Kundu discussed the problems of undertaking a Directory of expertise.

The Membership Secretary expressed some concern that the Assistant Secretary had not conducted a recent update of the membership list. The Secretary reminded the Council that at the previous Council meeting he had outlined the duties of the Membership Secretary and those of the Assistant Secretary on the issue of record keeping. He reminded the Council that the Membership Secretary would be in charge of marketing and membership promotion, whereas the Assistant Secretary would be in charge of updating membership records and membership accounts. The Secretary discussed the need to have an updated membership list as soon as possible and argued that the Assistant Secretary would be notified to conduct such an update as soon as possible.

The Membership Secretary turned her attention to membership promotion. She proposed a range of potential ideas for promoting membership of BASAS. She discussed the proposal for a BASAS post-graduate network, compilation of a directory of South Asian courses and course directors in the UK. She also talked about BASAS publicising the presence of institution-specific South Asia research clusters or working groups. She proposed that BASAS should consider our links with other South Asian academic organisations and to think about ways of publicising BASAS and raising its profile at the major international South Asian Studies conferences. The Secretary argued that these were excellent ideas and that it may be a good idea to approach the South Asia Panel for concrete proposals which they may be interested in supporting. The Membership Secretary also suggested that we should promote the BASAS Annual Conference and encourage non-member delegates to join and renew their membership. Members also discussed the issue of disciplining or ejecting existing members. The Membership Secretary also discussed building up links with South Asian communities and NGOs in the UK, perhaps by broadening the membership to non-academic members. However, it was felt that the core membership of BASAS should comprise academics.

The Membership Secretary expressed that some membership approval procedures needed to be updated or clarified. For instance, she proposed that there was a strong need to renew the details in the existing membership forms. She presented the Council with a draft membership form. The Membership Secretary also proposed that there ought to be

fast track approval for past members. The Treasurer mentioned Rule 7 which only specifies for new members to be approved by Council. The Council discussed and interpreted this rule to stipulate that new members have to be approved by Council. More importantly, the Council came to an agreement that Rule 7 does not stipulate to mean that the approval of new members needs to take place at a council meeting. Dr. Kundu proposed that in order to streamline the approval of new members, it would be most efficient to have the Assistant Secretary circulate a list of new members on a monthly basis. Unless there are any specific objections, then the new member will be considered to be a new member.

The Council approved the proposed change in the procedures so that all the members would receive an updated list of new members (to be submitted by the Assistant Secretary to the Council on a monthly basis). Unless there were any voiced objections to any of the proposed new members, then these individuals would be considered new members (once their dues had been received).

Action: Assistant Secretary to update membership list as soon as possible. The Assistant Secretary to provide the Membership Secretary with an updated version of the membership list.

36. Project Seed Funding and Language Training Grants

The Chairman introduced the Project Seed Funding and Language Training Grants under consideration. The Chairman reported that a special sub-committee of the Council had evaluated the Project Seed Funding Grants' finalists and Language Training Grant applications. Council approved the sub-committee's recommendations on the Project Seed Funding and Language Training Grants:

A. PROJECT SEED FUNDING GRANTS

The Secretary reported that the sub-committee composed of Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Dr. Caroline Osella and Dr. Lawrence Saez had carefully evaluated the four finalists for the Project Seed Funding Grants. On behalf of the sub-committee, the Secretary commented favourably on the high quality of the applications made by the finalists.

The four Project Seed Funding Grant finalists were: Dr. Dibyesh Anand (University of Westminster), Dr. Michael Collyer (University of Sussex), and Ms. Emilie Medeiros (University College London).

The sub-committee recommended approval of the Project Seed Funding grants as follows:

- Dr. Dibyesh Anand, the amount of £2,210

- Dr. Michael Collyer, the amount of £2,600 [the grant is to exclude costs associated with the hiring of a post-graduate student]
- Dr. Emilie Medeiros, the amount of £1,640 [the grant was to fund proposed funding travel only]

The subcommittee recommended approval of the Project Seed Funding Conference Grants as follows:

- Dr. Balusubramanyam et al., the amount of £1,800

B. LANGUAGE TRAINING GRANTS

There were two Language Training Grant applications. A sub-committee reviewed the applications and made recommendation to the Council on all the applications. The sub-committee noted that the two Language Training Grant applicants had already started their language training.

The sub-committee recommended approval of the two Language Training Grants as follows:

- Ms. Emma Martin, the amount of £2,664.
- Mr. Robert Upton, the amount of £1,659.

The sub-committee recommended that the total amount allocated for the purpose of Language Training Grants be £4,323.

Council approved the sub-committee's recommendations on the seed project, project seed funding conference, and language training grants.

Action: Assistant Secretary to inform the successful applicants as soon as possible.

37. Electronic Kanjur Project

The Chairman introduced a general discussion about the application of Dr. Burkhard Quessel regarding a final payment request. There were some favourable responses to the high quality of the project. The Chairman explained that there appeared to be some positive reasons to approve Dr. Quessel's request. Council agreed that £6,900 should be allocated to complete the project. No further funds will be granted by the Council under this scheme.

Action: Assistant Secretary to notify Dr. Quessel.

38. Continuation of the Indology website

There was a discussion about whether the Association should commit financial resources in maintaining the Indology website. The Chairman noted that Prof. Dominik Wujastyk sent the Council a set of positive endorsements and feedback about the Indology website. Its maintenance would be around £900 to £1,000. Council approved the continuation of the funding for this coming year in the first instance.

Action: Assistant Secretary to inform Prof. Wujastyk.

Action: Dr. Michael Willis will contact Dr. Burkhard Quessel and other members of the British Library to enquire about the long-term sustainability of the website.

39. Report from the South Asian Studies Editor

Dr. Adam Hardy discussed the range of coverage in the journal. Dr. Hardy also discussed the proposal to increase the visibility of the journal by exposing it to a greater number of academic indices.

Action: Dr. Adam Hardy to evaluate the potential for contacting different publishers to determine whether *South Asia Studies* could be published by a commercial academic publisher (such as Cambridge University Press, Routledge, or Sage). He also agreed to amend the copyright request form.

Starting from the next issue, published authors relinquish their copyrights to BASAS.

40. Update Monographs Editor

The Monographs editor discussed some of the loose ends relating to the costs associated to various publication projects, including Adam Hardy's *Temple in South Asia*, Claudine Picron's *Religion and Art*, and Julia Shaw's *Buddhist Landscapes*. The Treasurer suggested that the cost of monographs has escalated over £40,000 and requested greater clarity on the costs associated with the sales of books. The Chairman proposed that an inventory of all the books owned by the Association take place over the summer.

Discussion about the funding of £9,950 for Prof. Janice Stargardt with regards to the cost of producing a volume on *Relics and Relic Worship in the Early Buddhism of India and Burma*.

Action: Assistant Secretary to undertake an inventory of all the books and journals that are available at the BASAS office.

Action: Assistant Secretary to write a letter to Prof. Stargardt to submit a monographs proposal so that Council can evaluate the exact amount to be allocated.

41. Update on the BIEA Project

Dr. Emma Mawdsley was not present at the meeting. Electronically she reported that the project is proceeding well. She reported that the BIEA project is made up of nine smaller projects, covering a wide spectrum of contemporary India-East Africa relations, all of which are currently on track. Each project will result in a short report by October 2008, and a draft chapter for an edited collection by December 2008. In addition, she reported that they will run a workshop at the British Academy in December 2008 during which selected project findings will be presented. A short 'policy brief' will be distributed at this event and elsewhere.

Dr. Mawdsley reported that funding for the project has been augmented on two fronts: Cambridge University's Newton Trust has granted an additional £10,000, although only the two Cambridge-based projects are eligible. However this has indirectly allowed more funding for the other projects. She also reported that BASAS was also awarded BASIS funding for a post-doctoral research associate on contemporary India-East Africa, to be based at Cambridge and work with Dr. Mawdsley. The advert for the position will appear shortly, and the successful applicant will be expected to run his/her own research project (individually or in collaboration with one of the existing project teams), and assist in the management of the smaller on-going projects.

News of diplomatic visits, trade initiatives and private sector developments between India and East Africa over the last few months appear to endorse the timeliness and importance of this project; something that is also reflected in academic/policy events elsewhere (such as the India-Africa workshop at Chatham House on 21 April 2008).

Action: Dr. Emma Mawdsley to provide additional updates on the BIEA project.

42. BASAS Annual Report and Accounts

The Secretary reported that the deadline for submitting the BASAS Annual Report is 26 September 2008.

Action: The Secretary will write to all potential contributors to the BASAS Annual Report to suggest to incorporate specific items for inclusion in the BASAS Annual Report.

43. BASAS AGM and Annual Lecture

The Treasurer introduced a discussion about the elections and the need for a returning officer. He noted that according rule 16.2 of the Association's rules, such an election must take place a week before the AGM. The election officer will be the Assistant Secretary.

The Secretary reported that the BASAS AGM was to take place on Monday 3 November 2008 at the RAS. In addition, the Secretary reported that the Council's preference for Prof. Chris Bayly as speaker was not going to be possible. Based on his suggestion at the previous Council meeting, the Secretary reported that Prof. Kunal Sen had expressed an interest in being the speaker at the 3 November lecture. The Secretary informed the Council that many scholarly associations and universities have inaugural lectures delivered by incoming association leaders. Prof. Sen agreed to be the speaker at the Annual Lecture. The Secretary proposed that in lieu of an honorarium, this year's speaker should receive the offer of a one night's stay in a hotel in London and a first class return train ticket from Manchester.

Dr. Kundu discussed the setting for the Annual Lecture. There was agreement in the Council that the lecture should be a high profile event, but that it should also be congenial and engaging for the audience, and to that end they discussed the setting for the proposed lecture. The Council agreed that the lecture should be preceded by a dinner. The Council agreed to allocate £1,500 towards the cost of hosting the event. The costs of providing Prof. Sen a one night hotel stay in London and a return first class ticket from Manchester would be included in this expenditure item. Dr. Kundu proposed that there should be a minimum charge for attending the dinner and lecture. The Secretary suggested that the price for attending the dinner and the lecture would be £10.00 per person for BASAS-members and £50.00 per person for non-BASAS members. The Council agreed with this proposal.

Action: Secretary to locate an appropriate venue for the dinner and the lecture.

44. BASAS Annual Workshop

The Secretary reported that, in the past, BASAS had sponsored or co-sponsored an annual workshop. These workshops were built around a given theme and had been very popular with members. The Secretary proposed for the Council to approve BASAS as a co-sponsor for a workshop on the effect of economic reforms in India. The workshop will be organised by Dr. Manali Desai (University of Kent) and is scheduled to take place at the British Academy on Friday 28 November 2008.

The Secretary reported that he strongly supported the sponsoring of this event and emphasized that BASAS would not incur a financial obligation of any type for sponsoring the event. The Council agreed to sponsor Dr. Manali Desai's application for a BASAS workshop.

45. British Academy bid and Collaborative Research bid

Discussion about British Academy bid and collaborative research project.

Action: A sub-committee comprising the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will review the collaborative research bids and bids to be included in the Strategic Research Plan.

46. BASAS Website

The Secretary reported that Dr. Apurba Kundu had agreed to allow the BASAS website to be hosted at Bradford until the time BASAS will be able to access its own website within the confines of the British Academy. The Secretary also reported that he was following up on the creation of a BASAS blog, which would enable BASAS members to discuss issues freely and to alert others about events, publications, etc.

The Secretary proposed, based on the recommendation of the BASAS webmaster, that the Association move its website to a commercial server. The Secretary proposed that a suitable commercial server had been identified and that the estimated cost of providing this service was £116.63 per year including VAT. An optional upgrade that enables secure online transactions would also be included in this package. The Council approved the proposal.

Action: Secretary to co-ordinate with the BASAS webmaster to transfer the website to a commercial server.

47. BASAS blog

The Secretary announced that as of May 2008, BASAS had a blog. The Secretary reported that the blog had been a great success. The blog can be viewed by the public at <http://www.basas-southasia.blogspot.com/>.

Given the success of the blog for communicating events of interest to members, the Secretary proposed that the Jiscmail database of members be restricted for corporate communications between the Council and its members.

48. New members

The Council considered a list of 29 new applicants to BASAS. All members were approved.

Action: Assistant Secretary to update the membership list with names and details of all the approved members.

49. Any other business

The Chairman proposed that the Council reward Prof. Graham Chapman and Prof. Peter Robb with a present to thank them for their years of dedicated service to the Association. The Council approved £200.00 for these two gifts.

Action: Assistant Secretary to search for and purchase the appropriate personal gifts.

50. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 3 November 2008 in London.



Minutes: 4/08

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Council meeting of the Society held on Monday 29 September 2008
at 2 pm at the Royal Asiatic Society, London

Present:

Prof. Kunal Sen (Chair), Mr. Diccon Pullen (Treasurer), Dr. C. Osella, Prof. Peter Robb,
Dr. Michael Willis (Monographs & Occasional Papers Editor)

Apologies: Dr. Tina Basi, Dr. Adam Hardy (Journal Editor), Dr. William Gould, Dr.
Apurba Kundu, Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Dr. Lawrence Saez (Secretary), Ms. Carole Spary,
Brenda McGregor (Assistant Secretary)

51. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the previous meeting (3/08) were **not approved**. Council decided that the text submitted constituted an extended narrative and that the decisions and action points needed to be distilled in the usual concise form. Revised minutes will be placed before Council at the 3 November meeting.

Action: Secretary

52. MATTERS ARISING:

The Chair noted that the Minutes of the previous meeting did not record that Council had agreed that Dr. Michael Willis would submit a bid to BASIS for a Collaborative Research Project grant. This needed to be recorded.

Action: Secretary

53. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer advised Council that approx **£14,000** remained in the Current Budget to be dispensed by 31 March 2009.

Council agreed to offer another round of 'Start-up' and 'Completion' grants. These grants to be used to start up new projects with potential for further development as Flagship projects, and to complete previous projects already on the Association's books. The Council also agreed to consider another round of 'Language Training' grants.

Action: Chair and Secretary

The Treasurer formally presented to Council the **Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008**. The Treasurer highlighted several financial figures including the 'Net income' from the Leicester Conference, the 'Transfer of funds' from the former BASAS, the 'Restricted Fund' figure, and the 'Designated Funds' figure. These annual Accounts were approved by Council.

The Treasurer also formally presented to Council the draft annual **Management Letter** from Thornton Springer, the external auditor, which raised concerns about the Association's control over a number of issues.

Council agreed to make the following changes in operating procedures to address the concerns expressed:

- (a) Cheques made payable to any Council Member should be signed by two other Council Members; excluding reimbursements for travel to Council and other meetings (provided the tickets in question were standard class off-peak or super saver tickets);
- (b) Cheques over £5,000.00 should be signed by two Council Members;
- (c) Petty cash system, if no longer useful, might be abandoned in favour of direct reimbursements for individual petty cash expenditures;
- (d) Secretary would retain discretionary spending up to £100.00 between Council meetings and report any such expenditure at the next Council meeting;
- (e) Council would explore mechanisms to rigorously control and carefully record the Annual Conference income and expenditure figures;
- (f) Council would explore mechanisms with the Journal Editor and Monographs and Occasional Papers Editor to supply a count of all publications undistributed and unsold at the time of the annual external audit;
- (g) Council would explore mechanisms to clarify income from annual membership subscriptions now that SSAS has merged with BASAS, and following the introduction of the new membership subscription rates;
- (e) Council would closely supervise the transition of financial responsibilities to the incoming Treasurer and would co-opt the current Treasurer to Council if further assistance was needed; Council authorized the reimbursement of travel expenses for the incoming Treasurer to meet with the current Treasurer and Chair as required.

After discussion, the draft Management Letter was accepted by Council. (*Subsequently formally submitted dated 2 October 2008*)

Council also agreed that the Treasurer should sign the annual Letter of Representation addressed to the external auditors, and that Thornton Springer be proposed to the general membership at the AGM as our external auditors for the current financial year ending 31 March 2009 at a fee of £1,680.00 plus VAT.

Action: In-coming Treasurer and Assistant Secretary

54. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Annual BASIS Bid: Council noted the difficulty of developing research proposals within the annual cycle of the BASIS bidding process. It was decided that a session at the Annual Conference should be devoted to this topic in order to have a number of research proposals at the ready should funding be offered by BASIS. It was further agreed that the research groups on the website should be expanded as a way of encouraging potential projects in the BASAS framework.

Action: Secretary to communicate with Dr. Crispin Bates in Edinburgh to schedule a room at the conference.

2. Nominations for Council: The Chair stated that there were four vacancies in addition to the post of Treasurer. Ms. Emma Tomalin has agreed to stand for election as Treasurer at the AGM. The other nominations were accepted and will be circulated to members with the Annual Report in time for the AGM.

Action: Secretary and Assistant Secretary

3. Paypal Account: The current Treasurer highlighted a number of uncertainties concerning the Association opening a PayPal Account. Council approved in principle the opening of a PayPal account but instructed the in-coming Treasurer to prepare a 'risk assessment' and a 'cost analysis' on this project for presentation to Council.

Provided Council accepts both the risks and the costs identified, it is hoped that the PayPal Account will be operational by 1 January 2009 when the next annual membership subscriptions fall due. It is also hoped to use PayPal for receipts for the next Conference.

Action: In-coming Treasurer

4. Assistant Secretary: Council agreed that the Chair might positively consider a request from the Assistant Secretary for an increase in the hourly rate in line with inflation since the last such increase. Council also agreed to the preparation of a formal Job Description for the Assistant Secretary now that SSAS had merged with BASAS. The Chair will report back to Council.

Action: Chair

5. BASAS Logos: The Treasurer reminded Council that the use of national flags posed a potential legal problem if employed by BASAS on any formal external documents, such as the Annual Report or Journal. Council agreed that the flags would continue to be used informally on all internal communications but that for official documents the SAS logo would be retained.

Action: All Members

6. Monographs and Occasional Papers: Council approved one final additional payment of £1,695.25 on BASAS Occasional Paper EASAA Volume I, Claudine Picron-Bautze, *Religion and Art*, to complete this project. Council also approved one final additional payment of £1,540.45 on BASAS Monograph Julia Shaw, *Buddhist Landscapes*, to complete this project.

Council agreed that BASAS monographs and occasional papers might be distributed through the central London retail outlets of Arthur Probsthain. This agreement was subject to the submission to Council of a clear procedure between the Assistant Secretary and Arthur Probsthain covering the delivery of the publications and the receipt of the sales proceeds.

Action: In-coming Treasurer, Monographs and Occasional Papers Editor, and Assistant Secretary

55. NEXT MEETING:

3.00 p.m. on 3 November 2008 at the Royal Asiatic Society, London.



Minutes: 5/08

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR
SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES**

Meeting of Council on
Monday 3 November 2008 at 15:00
at the Royal Asiatic Society, Board Room

Present: Dr. Tina Basi, Dr. Apurba Kundu, Dr. Adam Hardy, Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Dr. Caroline Osella, Mr. Diccon Pullen, Prof. Peter Robb, Dr. Lawrence Saez, Prof. Kunal Sen, Dr. Carole Spary, Dr. Michael Willis.

Apologies: Dr. William Gould

In attendance: Brenda McGregor

MINUTES

51. Minutes:

The minutes 4/08 were approved.

52. Matters arising:

There were three minor changes/comments with regards to minutes 3/08:

Item 34: attach current budget when sending to British Academy.

Item 35: report sets out proposals for membership promotion.

Item 43 page 5: delete references to AGM dinner.

Item 49: delete amount for gifts.

53. Treasurer's Report:

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his important contribution to the Society over the years.

The Treasurer presented the latest estimate of the budget for the current financial year. The Annual Accounts were signed. The Treasurer indicated that there was a need for a discussion with regards to the official hand over to the incoming Treasurer, Dr. Emma

Tomalin. He emphasized that the issue of the signatories needed to be resolved. Currently, three individuals who are signatories (the Treasurer, the Monographs Editor, and Prof. Graham Chapman) will be stepping down from Council. The Secretary will remain the only person with signatory powers. Council agreed that the new incoming Treasurer will need to have signatory power as well as the new Chairman. The Treasurer was willing to be co-opted on Council as an ordinary member so he would be able to assist with upcoming problems. Council declined his offer and opted for a Council member *in situ*. Dr. Tina Basi volunteered to serve as a fourth signatory and Council approved her nomination. The following persons will have signatory powers for the CAF bank account: Prof. Kunal Sen, Dr. Lawrence Saez, Dr. Emma Tomalin and Dr. Tina Basi. The Secretary is going to inform the incoming Treasurer of signatory issue.

The Treasurer announced that he left behind one bag with important financial documents at the Association's Office, to be collected by the incoming Treasurer.

Action: Secretary, Incoming Treasurer

54. Membership Secretary's Report, 55. New Members: Agenda item 4 & 5 are discussed in tandem:

- The Membership Secretary informed Council that there are currently 401 members and 12 new members to join. The Membership Secretary has drafted a new membership form. Membership renewals and standing orders will be discussed under agenda item 7.
- The new members were approved. Mr. S. Badami and Ms. K. Brown were listed as new members, but should have been categorized as lapsed members. The new total of members is 411 (two lapsed members).

Action: Membership Secretary, Assistant Secretary

56. Annual Membership Fees & 57 Standing Orders for 2009: Agenda item 6 & 7 are discussed in tandem:

- Council discussed an all-inclusive fee membership, which would include both journals. There were concerns that such membership would exclude some current members due to cost. Council rejected the all-in membership option for the time being.
- The Membership Secretary and Assistant Secretary are asked to liaise and update the membership list with special focus on the subscription period and journal membership.
- Council discussed the advantage of gift-aid. The issue was delegated to the new incoming treasurer.
- Council agreed that membership fees will remain the same as they have been this year. Council agreed to revisit the issue of membership fees next year.
- The Assistant Secretary informed Council that the Standing Orders for SSAS membership was done by members themselves. Council agreed that the standing

orders should be set up by the Assistant Secretary in the future to provide a service to our members.

- Council discussed whether *Contemporary South Asia* (CSA) should be made compulsory to BASAS members at a lower rate than at present with Dr. John Zavos. One issue a year would not be feasible according to Taylor and Francis. There were pros and cons with making CSA compulsory to BASAS members. Chairman will contact John Zavos, the Managing Editor of CSA, to discuss this option further.
- Council agreed that all participants to the BASAS Annual Conference in Edinburgh should be a member of BASAS.
- Council proposed one membership form; currently there are two membership forms, which are confusing. The Secretary mentioned that, once the new website goes live, there would only be a single membership form, to be produced by the Membership Secretary.

Action: Membership Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Incoming Treasurer

58. Approval of BASAS website:

- The website was placed on a temporary new server. Dr. Apurba Kundu and Mr. Raffaele Malanga amalgamated the old BASAS information onto the new site, so the old BASAS information has been incorporated. The Secretary announced that the new website can be updated more regularly. The Secretary asked the Council to approve the permanent transfer of the website to the new server and to enable all previous website addresses to be redirected to the new website. He also mentioned that the new website would have a new address, most likely www.basas.org or www.basas.org.uk. The Secretary sought authorisation from Council to acquire a new domain name. Council approved to make the site operational and authorised the Secretary to acquire a new domain name.
- The Secretary announced that the new website includes a PayPal feature. He suggested that at the next Council meeting the Council ought to decide the specific functions for which Paypal will be enabled. The Secretary will discuss the implications of adopting Paypal with the incoming Treasurer.
- The Chairman thanked the Secretary for all his hard work on getting the new website operational.
- The Assistant Secretary informed Council that the Society's former domain name www.societyforsouthasianstudies.org has expired.

Action: Secretary, Incoming Treasurer

59. Project Completion application (Janice Stargardt), 60. Language Training Grants:
(Agenda item 8 & 10 were discussed in tandem):

- Dr. Janice Stargardt – Title project: Relics and Relic Worship in the Early Buddhism of India and Burma: Council approved the project completion grant of

- Dr. Janice Stargardt who applied for £4,680, but deducted £725 for the printer, scanner and fax since they constitute capital costs. Amount granted: £3,955
- Language Training Grants:
Council approved the following LT Grants, as follows:
Ms. Sajida Zareen Ally £1,400
Mr. Ethan Kay £1,979
 - Project Seed Funding Grant:
Council approved the following PSF Grant:
Dr. Ulrich Pagel & Mr. Chris Milner (joint-project) – Title project: Songs of Porong: A Cultural Knowledge Exchange Project.
Amount granted: £3,803
Council was very interested in this application. The Secretary suggested that this project, together with some of the research from the BASAS-BIEA collaboration, could become a showcase event.
 - Council discussed the great benefits of the Language Training Grants and the possibility to make it available to postdoctoral students. Council will wait for the outcome of the BA bid and deferred the issue to next year.

Total amount approved: £11,137

Action: Assistant Secretary

61. BIEA Collaborative Research Update:

- Dr. Emma Mawdsley informed Council on the progress of her project. Dr. Mawdsley reported that everything is going to plan. Dr. Mawdsley was extremely happy with the expertise and input of Dr. Gerard McCann who started in October 2008. There are now more African scholars involved. Research articles will be peer-reviewed. Dr. Mawdsley is trying to get reviewers.
- The British Academy workshop is ready to go on 20 November 2008. Dr. Mawdsley is expecting over 50 people to attend. The event is moving towards the idea of having 4-5 speakers. Dr. Mawdsley proposed printing some brochures to promote the book. Dr. Mawdsley also informed Council that she received £10,000 from The Newton Fund and circa £1,000 from The Smuts Memorial Fund. Both funds are Cambridge University funds.
- The Chairman and Secretary will attend the BASAS Forum and will introduce Dr. Mawdsley's project. Dr. Mawdsley has posters for the event. Prof. Robb reported back to Council re: the South Asia Panel, who considered Dr. Mawdsley project as a model for other projects. The event has been announced via mailing lists. The Chairman congratulated Dr. Mawdsley on the success of her project.

Action: Dr. Emma Mawdsley, Chairman, Secretary

62. Showcase Event:

The Chairman invited all Council members to attend.

63. South Asia Panel:

The Secretary attended the South Asia Panel at the British Academy on behalf of the Chairman. Prof. Robb, a member of the South Asia Panel, was also at the meeting. Council agreed to encourage the collaboration with the panel. The Chairman thanked Prof. Robb and the Secretary for their hard work. Funds will be available in the future for certain activities which may be jointly organised by BASAS and the South Asia Panel. The Chairman invited all Council members to come up with options.

64. Composition of New Council:

- Council approved and, pending formal approval at the AGM, welcomed the following members to join Council:
Dr. Clare Anderson, Professor Robin Dennell, Professor Barbara Harriss-White, Dr. Emma Tomalin (Treasurer), and Dr. Arif Zaman.
- Dr. Spary proposed the idea of having a student representative on Council. Rather than co-opt a person Council preferred to have an official student representative in the capacity of Council member. It will not require a rule change. Council needs to simply announce it at the AGM. An open-election can then be planned for next year. Council proposed a robust procedure in case of overwhelming interest. The Annual Conference in Edinburgh will be a good occasion to announce the election procedures. Council also proposes to set up an awards panel. The vetting process through a panel will be more efficient.

Action: Chairman, Secretary

65. Co-option Prof. Patricia Jeffrey:

- After the realisation that there was no SASIN representative on the South Asia Area Panel, Council approved the co-option of Prof. Patricia Jeffrey for one year.
- Council also proposed to invite Dr. Crispin Bates to the next Council meeting. Dr. Bates is the academic convenor of the BASAS Annual Conference to be held in Edinburgh.
- Dr. Tina Basi requested authorisation from Council to mail a box of conference items. Council approved the request.

Action: Secretary

67. Any other business:

- The Monographs & Occasional Papers Editor is going to step down at the AGM. There is no new editor yet. All monographs are in their final stages and there are no new obligations. However there are still some invoices outstanding. Council

- proposes to evaluate the income streams from publications at the next Council meeting.
- The Assistant Secretary asked for the purchase of an update of various computer software programmes: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Writer, etc. Council approved the request.
 - Council approved £6,500 for the project of Dr. Derek Kennett and Dr. Michael Willis titled: Global Geographies: the Indian Ocean in Historical Perspective. A more detailed budget has to be handed in.

68. Date of next meeting:

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 8 January 2009.