



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

**Minutes of the Board of Governors
Held on 6th July 2020 on Zoom
Meeting No. 8/20**

Governors Present: Dr Shafik Sachedina
Professor Afzal Ahmed
Dr Aziz Esmail
Dr Mohamed Keshavjee
Mr Naguib Kheraj
Mr Zauhar Meghji

Governors Absent: None

Quorum present: Yes

Others present: Dr Farhad Daftary
Mr Aryn Kassim-Lakha
Mrs Selina Ramji
Mr Shams Vellani
Dr Fayaz Alibhai
Mr Shiraz Allibhai
Mr Nazir Mulji
Dr Laila Halani

The meeting was called to order at 3.00pm.

1. Conflicts of interest

- a) There were no declarations of interest over and above the current standing list of interests notified to the Board.

2. Co-Director's Report

- a) The Co-Director's Report for July 2020 was noted.
- b) Governors inquired after the welfare of staff during the pandemic and how they were performing at home.
- c) Dr Daftary reported that a virtual all-staff meeting was held at the end of June in which 102 staff members participated. Management have made sure that regular contact is maintained with staff of all departments at various levels.

3. DARP – Ismaili Heritage Project (IHP) Summary and 2020 Plan and Gap Analysis

- a) The governors endorsed the importance of this project and reiterated the IIS' support.
- b) The good work done by the team in the last [four] years was acknowledged and it was agreed that the project needs to be properly resourced in order to achieve its goals.

- c) The proposal should be refined and represented to the Board of Governors with clear multi-year outcomes, timelines and financial and human resources required.

4. *Department of Graduate Studies – Proposal for the 2020/2021 Academic year*

- a) The proposal for online teaching in term one was considered.
- b) The governors requested for further investigation to be undertaken on the options of face-to-face classes. Unlike universities, the IIS has only a few cohorts and the numbers are not prohibitive for the Aga Khan Centre to accommodate while observing social distancing guidelines. Also, students live within walking distance of the AKC.
- c) The department should therefore develop options for online teaching as well as face-to-face teaching so that either can be implemented at the start of the new academic year depending on the situation of the pandemic at the time.
- d) An updated proposal should be circulated via email.

5. *Any other business*

- a) None.

Selina K Ramji
IIS Board Secretary
6 July 2020