



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

**Minutes of the Board of Governors
Held on 1st June 2020 on Zoom
Meeting No. 7/20**

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
Miss Nishat Taranum
Mr Shams Vellani

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 June 2020 was noted.
- b) Governors inquired after the welfare of staff during the pandemic and how they were performing at home. It was noted that management had made sure that regular contact was maintained with staff of all departments at various levels.
- c) It was noted that Mr Shams Vellani's book, *People of the Faith*, has been published

3. DARP Quranic Studies Unit (QSU) – A Short Survey of Arabic competency in the Unit

- a) It was noted that the QSU have a very good team of researchers who have become more proficient in the process of translations of the Quran from Arabic into English.
- b) The team were congratulated for their fine work in Quranic studies.

4. Ismail Special Collections Unit (ISCU) – Manuscript Analysis Project Annual Report

- a) Progress of the Manuscript Analysis Project was noted.
- b) The governors asked for details of specific manuscripts that had been identified for in-depth research to be included in the annual report.

- c) Some insights from this year's work on mapping of manuscripts were table for information.

5. *QAE – Degree Awarding Powers (DAP)*

- a) It was noted the OfS had temporarily suspended all DAP activities, including access to the portal with relevant documents.
- b) Dr Lobetti was requested to prepare a short paper on improving our academic governance.
- c) It was agreed that IIS should apply for full DAP as the consensus was that we meet almost all the requirements.

6. *Any other business*

- a) Governors noted recent media commentary about SOAS' financial position.

Selina K Ramji
IIS Board Secretary
1 June 2020