



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

**Minutes of the Board of Governors  
Held on 2 March 2020 at the Aga Khan Centre  
Meeting No. 04/20**

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

**Governors Absent:** None

**Quorum present:** Yes

**Others present:** Dr Farhad Daftary (permanent guest)  
Mr Aryn Kassim-Lakha (permanent guest) – by phone  
Mrs Selina Ramji (permanent guest)  
Mr Shams Vellani (permanent guest)  
Karim Alwani (student representative)  
Yasmeen Lila (student representative)

**Others absent:** None

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The meeting was called to order at 3.00pm

1. Conflicts of interest

a) It was noted there were no conflicts of interest arising from matters to be discussed.

2. Co-Director's Report

a) The Co-Director's report for February 2020 was noted.

b) The Governors discussed the impact of COVID-19 and IIS' response in terms of staff, students and programming.

3. Office for Students (OfS) Briefing

a) The Governors were given an update on developments relating to the Office for Students and its requirement of regulated institutions.

b) The Governors requested that a proposal exploring options for Degree Awarding Powers be shared with them later in the year.

4. DARP Impact Study for the Board

a) The Governors reviewed the submission and made the following comments

i. We should include categories that were part of earlier impact studies and also consider the impact of articles written by our scholars.

- ii. It would be useful to develop an instrument to measure book reviews in order to better understand the reception of our research.
  - iii. We should broaden our approach to impact analysis by including the use of IIS books in university courses.
5. Briefing from the Higher Education Forum
- a) The Governors were briefed on the recent meeting of the AKDN Higher Education Forum which deliberated on the study of the humanities in Muslim contexts.
6. Any other business
- a) None
7. Meeting with IIS' Senior Management Team (SMT)
- a) The IIS Senior Management team joined for this item.
  - b) The Governors expressed their gratitude to the SMT for their hard work and support throughout the year.
  - c) The SMT was informed that the proposed operational plan and budget had been approved by His Highness at the meeting of the Board of Trustees.
  - d) The SMT have requested more meetings with the BoG which can be arranged during the year.

The meeting closed at 6.00pm.

*Selina K Ramji*  
*IIS Board Secretary*  
*March 2020*