



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

**Minutes of the Board of Governors
Held on 3 June 2019 at the Aga Khan Centre
Meeting No. 06/19**

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

Governors Absent: Professor Afzal Ahmed

Quorum present: Yes

Others present: Dr Farhad Daftary (permanent guest)
Mrs Selina Ramji (permanent guest)
Mr Aryn Kassim-Lakha (permanent guest)
Mr Shams Vellani (permanent guest)

The meeting was called to order at 2.30pm

Minutes of Meetings No. 04/19 and Meeting No. 05/19, held on 8th and 25th April 2019, were approved as submitted.

1. Conflicts of interest

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

2. Co-Director's Report

2.1 The Co-Director's report for May 2019 was considered.

2.2 It was noted that the Arkoun archives are planned to be officially opened in September.

3. Department of Academic Research and Publications-Constituency Studies Unit (DARP CSU) – Muslim Biomedical Ethics (MBE) – End of Life

3.1 The submission from DARP CSU was considered.

3.2 This is a difficult and complex subject and the Governors felt that using the community's traditional approach of starting where we are today and drawing on existing wisdom and philosophical debate might serve better in addressing the topic rather than basing the approach solely on current thinking in the wider society. The notions of hope and compassion should be considered.

- 3.3 The summary paper for the Board should cover current law. It should provide some explanation of the key findings from the analysis paper and index. It should include the practical implications of various choices.
 - 3.4 The paper should exercise caution in presenting the analyses and rationale –it should not be prescriptive but rather should provide information for people to make their own decisions.
 - 3.5 The Governors felt that DARP CSU had approached this subject with sensitivity and maturity and they commended the team for their work. It was felt that this work has benefitted from the IIS’ approach of promoting analysis and scholarly enquiry to underpin academic research.
4. Department of Graduate Studies (DGS) – Annual Programme Reviews
- 4.1 Reflections on the Post Graduate Preparatory Programmes (PGPP) should be included in the annual report.
 - 4.2 The report would benefit from the addition of qualitative data such as reflections from the students and the faculty.
 - 4.3 The approach used in the review – to identify and understand the successes, challenges and gaps in the programmes – would be useful in some other areas of IIS’ work as well.
5. Department of Graduate Studies (DGS) – Proposal for the third year of GPISH
- 5.1 The proposal to make the third year conditional upon performance and nature of the area of study was endorsed. It was noted that the proposal is a natural step in the evolution of the programme.
 - 5.2 The criteria for third year subjects should not be narrowly focussed on the immediate discernible needs of the network institutions.
6. Aga Khan Library – Proposal for the training of librarians
- 6.1 It was noted that this could become a pioneering initiative if handled properly. We should be careful not to raise expectations or incur long term commitments.
 - 6.2 With regard to the content of the course, it should focus on one area only in the initial phase – providing Islamic Studies to professional librarians.
 - 6.3 The Governors were in principle supportive of piloting the programme subject to receipt of a revised proposal with clearly articulated short and long-term goals, proposed course content and a budget. This should be submitted before the 2020 budget cycle commences.

7. Any other business

None.

The meeting closed at 5.00pm.

Selina K Ramji
IIS Board Secretary
June 2019