



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

**Minutes of the Board of Governors
Held on 2 September 2019 at the Aga Khan Centre
Meeting No. 08/19**

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

Governors Absent: Professor Afzal Ahmed and Dr Shafik Sachedina

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 3.00pm

Minutes of Meeting No. 07/19, held on 1st July 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 July and August 2019 was considered.

2.2 The second title in the *World of Islam* series, *Beyond the Mosque: Diverse Spaces of Muslim Worship* by Rizwan Mawani, was published in August. It is planned to have the third title in this series ready for publication by the end of this year.

2.3 It was noted that progress was being made on the *Living Ismaili Traditions* series and the first publication should be out in 2020.

2.4 Dr Daftary has contributed a chapter, *Ismailism and gnosis*, for a book titled *The Gnostic World*.

2.5 It was noted that further work was required to explain our "civilisational approach" to the Jamat. Dr Esmail agreed to speak on the subject to a group of IIS educators in the first instance.

3. Department of Community Relations (DCR) – International Training Programme for Waezeen (IWTP) English: Proposed relaunch of programme

3.1 The submission from DCR was considered.

- 3.2 It was noted that the paper had been developed in response to a need for *waezeen* in the small and medium-sized ITREBs.
 - 3.3 The success of the programme is dependent on recruiting individuals with the necessary intellectual capacity. We should explore how we can work with ITREBs to achieve this.
 - 3.4 It was agreed that the programme should be launched in 2020, subject to there being at least 30 participants.
4. Department of Community Relations (DCR) – International Training Programme for Waezeen (IWTP) Farsi
 - 4.1 The submission from DCR was considered. The paper had been developed in response to a need for Farsi-speaking *waezeen* and the earlier decision not to proceed with the Central Asian Human Resource Development Programme.
 - 4.2 It was noted that the main constraint of the programme is the quality of candidates from the region.
 - 4.3 Mr Hadi Mirshahi will be travelling to Afghanistan and Tajikistan to assist ITREBs in the marketing of the programme.
 - 4.4 DCR have identified high Farsi speaking calibre faculty who can teach on the programme.
 - 4.5 It was agreed that the programme should be launched in 2020, subject to there being at least 30 participants.
 5. Department of Academic Research and Publication-Constituency Studies Unit (DARP-CSU) – Ismaili Ritual Traditions in Central Asia and Iran
 - 5.1 The submission from DARP-CSU was considered.
 - 5.2 It was noted that the report was well researched and well written.
 - 5.3 It would be useful to consider any additional research questions from the paper that require further elucidation.
 - 5.4 There are a couple of places in the paper which refer to another paper. The summary paper needs to stand on its own and these references should be removed. A summative explanation could be used instead.
 6. Department of Academic Research and Publication-Constituency Studies Unit (DARP-CSU) – Ismaili Ritual Traditions in the Subcontinent
 - 6.1 The submission from DARP-CSU was considered.
 - 6.2 It was noted that the report contained a lot of new and interesting material.
 - 6.3 The paper contains non-English words which should be translated where possible. In addition, references to the full paper should be removed and replaced with brief summaries. The paper would also benefit from replacing some of the footnotes with additional text in the main body of the document.
 7. Action Points
 - 7.1 It was noted that a review of the action points was taking place in consultation with the Oversight Groups.

8. Any other business

- 8.1 The 2018 audited accounts have been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee. They will be circulated separately.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm.

Selina K Ramji
IIS Board Secretary
September 2019