

**UMISAA Advisory Council Meeting**  
**Fall (2017) - Meeting**

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
Time: 11:30am – 01:00pm  
Chair: Mr. Shahid Hafiz Kardar  
*Vice-Chancellor, Beaconhouse National University.*

Members Present:	Prof. Salima Hashmi	UMISAA Director, BNU
	Dr. Syeda Hameed	Trustee, Madanjeet Singh Foundation (Via Skype)
	Prof. Dr. Tariq Rahman	Dean SLASS/Acting Dean SE
	Prof. Dr. Khaver Zia	Dean SCIT
	Prof. Rashid Rana	Dean, School of Visual Arts and Design
	Mr. Nadeem Asghar Baig	Registrar, BNU.
	Mr. QuddusMirza	Subject Specialist
	Mr. Asif Nadeem	Deputy Manager, Accounts & Finance
	Mr. Abdal Jafri	Coordinator SVAD
	Mr. Asad Maqsud	Admin & Finance Coordinator

The Vice-Chancellor BNU Mr. Shahid Hafiz in his opening remarks thanked Dr. Syeda Hameed, Madanjeet Singh Trustee for her presence, and the South Asia Foundation and the Trust for their continued support to BNU and the program, which is continuing to grow and develop satisfactorily. He also welcomed all members of the UMISAA Advisory Council and thanked them for taking time out of their busy schedule to attend the meeting.

**Agenda Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the last meeting of UMISAA Advisory Council**

Minutes of the meeting of the last meeting of the Advisory Council of UMISAA held on November 02, 2015 were confirmed.

**Agenda Item 2: Report by Director UMISAA**

- 1) Prof. Salima Hashmi, Director UMISAA in her report apprised the members that since the last meeting of the Council, held in November 2015, matters had not improved as far as the challenges to the South Asian character of UMISAA were concerned. In fact new hurdles were now in place. Each student nominee from a South Asian country had to go through a complex bureaucratic process to get visas to enroll with BNU. She then explained in detail each step involved and the difficulties of getting student visa approvals and said the whole procedure took almost 5 months and required several visits to Islamabad, supplemented by phone calls and assistance of personal contacts.
- 2) Talking about positive developments she stated that UMISAA Alumni were developing their own networks and were organizing programs and exhibitions. They were facilitating visits of other alumni to their countries. She shared her experience during visit to Sri Lanka where she met UMISAA graduates who were actively supporting the development of design education in Colombo. They were also engaged in art education in Jaffna, where it was much needed.
- 3) She informed the Council members that the UNESCO Ambassador to Pakistan Ms. Vibeke Jensen visited BNU on May 19, 2017 and met the UMISAA students and was delighted with the level of work and to hear of their achievements. She was especially pleased to note the diversity of the student body.
- 4) While talking about the challenges she said that the rising cost of education and associated expenses of tuition fee, hostel costs, international transport, medical insurance, local transport, stipend etc. were emerging challenges for the UMISAA academic program, compared by the recent performance to spiraling costs on traveling back and forth to Islamabad to get the relevant approvals and clearances for student visas. To meet these expenses the UMISAA budget was under stress.
- 5) Briefing the Council members about the steps taken for the improvement of the academic program she said that school's faculty had undergone some changes, with some faculty

leaving but the School was striving to attract well qualified new faculty into its fold and was pleased to note the induction of many young well qualified faculty.

- 6) In addition she said that the effort to assess the quality and contribution of UMISAA graduates to their profession was an ongoing process and was taken very seriously by BNU.
- 7) While concluding her report she said that the programs at the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute of South Asian Arts remained a unique educational experience in South Asia and the only one of its kind.

### **Agenda Item 3: Report by Dean SVAD**

Dean, SVAD Prof. Rashid Rana after greeting Dr. Syeda Hameed briefly introduced himself and his association with BNU. He appreciated the initiative of UMISAA Trustees being one of its own kind and hoped that it would lead to a South Asia where there would be no hard political borders and people would have freedom of ideas and movement. He then outlined the achievements of the program and proposed the following initiatives for future development:

- The core of SVAD's vision was to stay abreast of contemporary thought with a broad-based approach to education and knowledge dissemination. To this end it had undertaken various projects that went beyond conventional classroom set ups; redefining pedagogical systems to creatively address present-day educational needs. Our students and faculty continuously engaged with the community through projects. He then shared detail of projects undertaken by SVAD's students and faculty during 2016-17 that included projects such as Humnawa by the Textile, Fashion & Jewelry Department; Stories We Tell by Visual Arts and Art Education Department; Hamari Hariyali Hamari Kamaiby Visual Communication Design Department; Nothing Fest etc. He added that such endeavors by SVAD had not only fostered community engagement but had also won International awards for strategic relevance and significance (Annex I).
- He then shared the details of workshops/visits/film screening etc organized by SVAD during 2016-17 that included talks and workshops conducted by renowned

national and international artists/professionals which had provided students a platform for interactive discussions, thereby helping them their conceptual development. Besides visits of relevant industries/historical places, museums etc film screenings were also arranged (Annex I).

- Talking about the Open House event at SVAD he said that it was the first of its kind in Pakistan that offered a broad overview of the exciting prospects of studying Art and Design. The full day of activities included talks and interactive workshops offered by SVAD's faculty to facilitate students and their parents in making informed career decisions (Annex I).
- He then shared the details of SVAD's Degree Show (Batch 11) with the Council Members and informed them that it was well attended and appreciated by the general public, artist community, professionals, students from other universities and parents which was also covered prominently by the leading print and electronic media (Annex I).
- Informing the Council members about current year's admissions he said that this year our new admissions reached 111, which was the highest in SVAD's history reflecting the relevance and market acceptability of SVAD's academic programs.
- Apprising the Council members about achievements of SVAD's alumni he said that SVAD was proud to count in its alumni innovative and dynamic CEOs, artists & designers of local and global significance; visionary curators & authors committed to leading, challenging and pushing boundaries within their varied scopes of their personal and professional lives. He then shared the key accomplishments of SVAD's alumni (Annex I).

Dr. Syeda Hameed thanked the members of the Advisory Council for scheduling this meeting. She was appreciative of the good work being done at BNU's UMISAA program. She suggested that non-Muslim students from Indian Kashmir as well as students from other parts of India should also be given an opportunity to study at BNU under the UMISAA scholarship program. Prof. Hashmi clarified that BNU's doors were open to students from all parts of India and informed her a few non-Muslim students from India had already studied at BNU. In future as well BNU would be pleased to have non-Muslim students from Kashmir and other parts of India.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Financial Report by Deputy Manager, Accounts & Finance**

Mr. Asif Nadeem, Deputy Manager (A&F) outlined the key Budget facts and the issues pertaining to finances. He presented the UMISAA budget for the year 2015-16 as follows:-

##### **Funds Available**

Carried forward from last year = Rs. 0.5 Million

Received from SAF US\$ 0.2 Million = Rs. 20.8 Million

Total = Rs. 21.4 Million

##### **Application of Funds**

Scholarship Expenditure = Rs. 11.6 Million

Transport, Boarding and Lodging = Rs. 6.7 Million

Related Expenditure = Rs. 4.3 Million

Total = Rs. 22.6 Million

**(Deficit)/Surplus: (1.2)**

The Deputy Manager (A&F) explained that "Related Expenditures" included expenses to be incurred on Visiting Faculty, Examiners & Jurors, Workshops and Exhibitions, etc. He pointed out that scholarships and board & lodging expenses were currently absorbing 85% of available funding while related expenses took up another 26.2% resulting in a deficit of Rs. 1.8 Million which would be borne by BNU.

The Vice-Chancellor pointed out that with rapidly increasing costs BNU was increasingly under pressure to absorb the resulting shortfall. In the long run this was not sustainable, requiring the urgent attention of the Trustees.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Any other item - Comments by Subject Specialist**

Professor Quddus Mirza, Subject Specialist and Head of Fine Arts at National College of Arts shared his positive experience of teaching at BNU and interacting with UMISAA students.

The VC closed meeting with a special thanks to the Trustees and the members of the Advisory Council for their participation. Dr. Syeda Hameed also expressed her thanks to the BNU UMISAA Advisory Council for the meeting.