

**Joint SOA Board and SOA TC meeting      May 15, 2016      2 – 3 PM Pacific time via SKYPE**

Present: Connie (board Chair), Shin (TC Chair), Jim (TC), Sandra (TC), Joe (TC), Michael T (TC and Board), Brad (Board), David F.(board) (via text/audio only)

Absent: Nancy B., Bela B., Rob G., Byron R., Ito

**I. Updates from ISC and TNEC – see attachment sent with agenda**

Major themes and needs identified are: clarification on how the Kenjutsu program will be introduced; how the SOA TC members will be prepared for this additional area of curriculum; how the communication on new Kenjutsu rankings will be done within SOA and the explanation of equivalent rankings (i.e. not replacing or eliminating other rankings). Additionally the group recognized this next period of time will be fluid with more input to come; that the current Dai-shihan and Sei-Shihan can be asked to join the Doshu in the new R&D project team. SOA TC members felt it was healthy to separate Shintaido and Kenjutsu and creates lots of room for Kenjutsu. Michael T. was clear to state the current Shintaido curriculum was not being changed; that Shintaido Kenjutsu was being added as a fourth subject.

**II. Individual opinions of future directions/needs of an international Shintaido organization**

Members discussed benefits for an international group as well detriments to an international group. Benefits are disseminating curriculum, especially the new Shintaido Kenjutsu curriculum, providing exams and having international events every 2 – 4 years. Communication such as Facebook and other social media methods was another benefit. Detriments are not providing tangible results for the members; is having ‘membership’ necessary?, having the ISC board become distracted with every 2 week meetings yet not resulting in something the customer can see. Michael T confirmed that Europe/France says Shintaido should be regional and that without keiko for the ISC TC, there is little meaning for an international gathering. Having the international group be ‘streamlined’ was identified as important as well as having one body of people that combine management duties and TC duties. The update is that a revision of ISC bylaws has been a goal yet no revision has been presented for review at 2016. ISC board members attending 2016 is Georg, Charles and David F.

**Input to Joe Z.** Joe requested and received confirmation from the SOA TC that the TC agrees no high level changes need to be made to the Shintaido curriculum. Michael T. confirmed no changes are planned. Individual members are to email Joe with their recommendations on an international organization to help him to speak for group opinions.

**III. Discussion on question if Ito-sensei as Doshu can be allowed to give the Shodan exam by himself in Quebec.**

The consensus of the group is that Ito-sensei can give the Shodan exam in Quebec. The SOA TC suggested that Joe Z. could attend with financial support from SOA, this would continue to promote the ‘cross pollination’ of the Quebec group and the SNE/SOA group. Connie to respond to Ito-sensei. Connie to request from Ito-sensei more about the Quebec group – who is involved, is there an organization? Connie to ask the SOA board for the financial support at the June SOA Board meeting.

The group requested to meet one more time before the 2016 event. Connie and Shin to look at dates and email the group. ‘ Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Connie Borden, May 15, 2016.