

## Minutes SOA NTC meeting 23 June 2019

11am to 12:30pm West Coast time via SKYPE

Present: Shin (chair), Jim, Connie, Rob G., Chris, Mike, Sandra, Ito

Absent: Michael T., Bela, Lee S., David

### I. **Update from Shin on Shintaido Karate Curriculum**

Shin presented that he, David and Gianni have met 4-5 times on SKYPE to check the inventory and agree if there are any questions on the curriculum. They are doing individual practice. David and Gianni had private lessons with MM and Ito and Shin had a private lesson with MM in January 2019. The three have agreed to do this project freely and independent from financial support of ESC, SOA or ITEC. Perhaps in the future they will have a product to offer to one or all of these three groups. At present they plan for an exchange of ideas over the next 2 years. Their focus is how to use the Tenshingoso curriculum from MM to develop a bridge between karate and other Shintaido curriculum.

One question was the relationship of this project group to ITEC. The answer is that this project is R & D with no specific task, no problem to solve.

Another question is should there be a budget item for ITEC to take to the ISP board?

The answer is these three do not expect to be paid, the three will pay privately should they plan together in person as well if they decide to do private lessons with MM or Ito.

Once this group gets further, there might be an outcome that needs to be disseminated and there could be a request of ESC, SOA or ITEC to help fund distribution of any product/outcome. (Ito sensei updated group on ESC, the Boh group and historical background on these various task force groups).

### II. **Proposed criteria for letter of recommendation to take Shintaido Kenjutsu Shodan exam**

The group reviewed the 23 February minutes to agree that they decided: Anyone can APPLY to take the Shintaido Kenjutsu Shodan exam IF recommended by HF Ito or Minagawa as well as by a SOA NiDan Kenjutsu instructor. The group had requested to outline the criteria of what is included in a letter of recommendation. Connie presented a first draft of 5 items.

After discussion the group agreed:

A letter of recommendation by a NiDan or higher SOA Kenjutsu instructor could include, but not to be limited to these items:

- 1) Length of time studying Shintaido Kenjutsu
- 2) Length of time studying Open-hand Shintaido or other Shintaido curriculums
- 3) Comments, if applicable, about impact student has on class or keiko group
- 4) Letter can include personal recommendations on the person's professional career, prior martial arts, prior body movement studies or other relevant experience that reflects dedicated study.
- 5) A photo of the student

The NTC recommends this letter be submitted at least 2 months prior to the examination. The letter is submitted to the exam coordinator and the exam coordinator will submit the letter to the panel of proposed examiners as well as the chair on SOA NTC, ETC chair and ITEC chair. The SOA NTC will review the request and if a majority of

the SOA NTC agree on accepting the request, the person will be eligible to challenge (no guarantee of passing) the Shintaido Kenjutsu Shodan exam. The SOA NTC might recommend a time of further study before taking this examination. (The ETC chair and ITEC chair are notified as a courtesy to these groups; not as a decision-making groups).  
**Action item:** Shin as Chair of the SOA NTC will ensure these minutes are distributed to all NiDan and above Shintaido Kenjutsu instructors so that instructors are aware of this procedure.

### III. **Proposed criteria for Examiner for Shintaido Kenjutsu**

Connie presented a draft of the criteria of Shintaido Kenjutsu examiners. As the current group of SanDan Shintaido examiners are individuals who achieved this rank from their Shintaido rank, the SOA NTC determined it is important to have clear criteria about examiner status. Therefore, a Shintaido Kenjutsu examiner is 1) ranked San-Dan or above as a Shintaido Kenjutsu Instructor 2) has attended TWO workshops or private lessons with HF Ito or MM between 2016 to 2019 and 3) desires to be a Shintaido Kenjutsu examiner. As Shintaido Kenjutsu examinations move forward, a person obtaining San-Dan Shintaido Kenjutsu rank from an examination is ALSO determined to be eligible to be an examiner.  
**Action item:** Shin or designee will develop a letter to current SanDan Shintaido Kenjutsu instructors on the current changes to examination and examiner criteria.

### IV. **Proposed modification to NiDan Shintaido Kenjutsu examination from the current requirement of Two General Instructors to SAY One Master (MM or ITO) OR two General Instructors**

The SOA NTC reviewed the above proposal. There was clarification that ITEC has given guidance that whenever possible a Master Instructor include others from the TC. HF Ito clarified that this proposal is useful in frontier groups or smaller groups where individuals cannot travel to a larger group or cannot pay two General Instructors. In addition, he clarified that he does include other General Instructors whenever possible or other qualified Shintaido practitioners as a temporary examination committee.  
 Jim clarified that a later date ITEC will clarify about its role on examiner criteria.  
 The above proposal passed with 6 yes votes and one abstain to state that for SOA Shintaido Kenjutsu NiDan exam the examiner can be one Master (MM or HF Ito) OR two General Instructors/Yondan Shintaido Kenjutsu Instructors.

### V. **West Coast Video project outline; clarifying dates and topics**

The group agreed to extend discussion time to look at the proposed west coast video project. Sarah Baker will be in SF for one month from 23 July to 22 August. The uses of a SOA video reference library are 1) Marketing: use of basic videos to demonstrate a basic keiko; 2) Reference: a collection of Shintaido teachings by SF Bay Area Shintaido Teachers; 3) Technical: kata, kumite and Shintaido techniques. Connie gave an outline of classes by Mike, Rob, Shin, Ito and Sunday's class. 27 July and 3 August – Saturday will be at Rob's Boh class. 10 August – Saturday will be at Shin's Karate class. It is requested that students wear white keiko Gi and that Instructors wear Hakama. Additional ideas include narration within the edited segments; interviews of student's impressions.

**Action Item:** Connie to start email chain with Sarah and the SF Bay Area group.  
Instructors continue to refine their inspirations of curriculum to be show via keiko.  
Sandra to check on Marin Academy New Gym availability for Sunday 4 August and 11 August  
as well as for any additional time for indoor space to do kata.

**Next meeting 18 August 2019. 11am**

Potential topics: Follow up on the Video project; updates on 2020

Respectfully submitted by,

Connie Borden

June 23, 2019