

## Campaigns Officer:

I've seen the role as being about championing Students' Union campaigns, coordinating campaigns at SOAS and generally facilitating student activism.

SU campaigns: decided by Union members in UGM's. For example Democratise SOAS, Justice For Cleaners, and Fractionals For Fair Play, Fair Pay in Higher Education, and the fight for public higher education in the UK and the fight against austerity, Save ULU, Stop the Selling Off of Student Debt, etc. I've tried to support, facilitate and help organise these campaigns.

Working with part-time officers: working with the liberation officers to ensure there is no sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia or any other kind of prejudice on our campus, as well raising awareness about issues relating to discrimination and oppression and campaigning for liberation. Working with other part-time officers (Academic, Environment and Accommodation officers and International and Mature students and students with Disabilities officers) on campaigns in each of these areas to ensure that student's interests and needs are being represented and met.

Helping societies, groups and individuals to advance the causes that SOAS students care passionately about, as well coordinating with other Students' Unions, the University of London Union and other movements to promote our campaigns.

All of this can involve helping to organise protests, pickets, events, writing or helping others to write UGM motions, and circulating information and petitions to the rest of Exec and encouraging them to circulate it and to other campaigns and UCU and UNISON members, and to students via all student emails sent out by the Sabbs and via social media (i.e. SOAS groups and pages) and through FLYERING!

This involves being a point of contact for both campaigns and students, answering queries and requests. One of the most important parts of the role has been promoting campaigns, UGMs and political activism to students both on campus and through social media, including by clarifying questions and correcting misunderstandings and misinformation.

Communication has been especially vital in relation to the numerous strikes this year, in which we have had to make clear the reasons for the strike, what it means the reasons for the SU supporting the strike, the details of the day, and advice for students, including alternative places to study. We also tried to promote a code of conduct on the picket line to ensure that students entering the building are not being intimidated. This has been more successful on some occasions than others and more will need to be done on this for future strikes.

It can also involve linking different campaigns and groups together, helping to put people in contact with one another, or helping to put campaigns in touch with members of the School.

Examples of some of the events I've helped to organise this year:

- Campaigns Carnival: in freshers week, the purpose of which was to spread information about SOAS campaigns and facilitate more collaboration between campaigns, and discussion about how campaigning at SOAS could be improved. Next year: another Campaigns Carnival and regular campaigns assemblies.

- Student and Staff Forums: part of Dem SOAS campaign but serve a wider purpose of creating a space in which students and staff can air their grievances and discuss issues beyond the campaign itself, e.g. strikes.

- 'Stop the criminalisation of peaceful protest' event in which Carol Duggan and student and staff arrestees spoke, and discussion took place about University of London's criminalisation of protest on campus and the general crack down on protest during austerity. Attended by hundreds of people.