



Exec Committee Meeting Minutes

Time:	17:00
Date:	12 th March 2014
Location:	B101 – Brunei Gallery
Present:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David East – CP Democracy & Education [DE] • Tom King – LGBTQ Officer [TK] • Caterina Inverso - Post Graduate Taught [CI] • Grace Wilcock – Mature Students Officer [GW] (Chair) • Leah Edwards – CP Welfare & Campaigns [LE] • Karmel Carey – Disabilities Officers [KC] • Emily Judson – Environment Officer [EJ] • David Suber – Academic Affairs Officer [DS] • Vic Casambros – Governance & Communications Coordinator [VC] • Binto Bali – Anti Racist Officer [BB] • Larni Phoenix – Accommodation Officer [LP] • Shahrzad Jahanbani – Entertainments Officer [SJ] • Simon Campbell – Anti Racist Officer [SC] • Mustafa Zafar – Academic Affairs Officer [MZ] • Georgina Robertson – Campaigns Officer [GR] •
Apologies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resham Akhtar - Womens Officer [RA] • Connor Youngberg – Post Graduate Research [CY] • Vithyah – Womens Officer & [VCh] • Jivan Mohanty – Disabilities Officer [JM] • Johann Barbe – CP Activities & Events [JB]
Absent:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kabir Joshi – Black Officer [KJ]

Action/Discussion	Who	When	Notes
<p>The problem of harassment on the picket lines</p> <p>TK Lets include the Anti-Harrasment policy in any emails we send about the strikes.</p> <p>KC We should aim to try and stop the harassment from happening in the first place. Make it clear to people on picket lines about what they can and can't do.</p> <p>CY Can we send a 101 on picket line behaviour.</p> <p>SC These complains happen all the time, and its discussed after every strike, but exec aren't present on most picket lines. In future should support the picket lines together as an exec and show people</p>			

<p>how we want them to behave rather than complain after the fact.</p> <p>LE Can we make our self visible on picket lines, wear the orange t shirts so people know who to complain to. Come up with a Rota of who's helping out.</p> <p>SC lets have an exec space/table next to the picket.</p> <p>GW We need to ensure that exec aren't forced to strike and be on the picket if they don't agree with it.</p> <p>Actions: Send out Harassment Policy during comms about strikes Hold open meeting ahead of strikes</p>	<p>Sabb s</p>	<p>When relevant</p>	
<p>J4C statement/article in Spirit</p> <p>LE gave her position on the situation, she is upset as it's divisive and felt like a personal attack. Exec have worked well together this year</p> <p>Several Exec Members stated they signed the letter because EXEC as a whole had been unable to write a statement by the given deadline last week. They also said it wasn't meant to be sent to the SOAS Spirit or made public.</p> <p>BB said that personal statements sent out give the impression that the message is coming from the whole Union and shouldn't be sent.</p> <p>LE Disagrees</p> <p>TK Suggests splitting up up the two issues for discussion</p> <p>BB Suggests writing a statement as an exec to be written and issued.</p> <p>KC Suggests writing a statement but putting it on the website rather than sending it out as an email.</p> <p>DS The Cleaners want an apology not for the actions of two sabbaticals but the exec not fully supporting</p>			

the Justice For Cleaners Campaign. If any students don't want to support Justice For Cleaners, they should bring a motion to the UGM on March 20th.

TK We need to ensure in future we follow the mandate of the UGM and fully support the cleaners.

LP The decision made by the Emergency Exec was not to do anything but let the shop/bar workers do the cleaning they would do as normal.

GR Spoke to the cleaners and they said it was fine for the students workers to clean as they normally would.

SC The Union shouldn't be entering into any form of negotiations with management during the strike.

MZ We need to look forward now and make a statement that makes the political stance of the exec clear. We support the Strike, in future we wont negotiate and we should move on.

GW In statement we should say what was done had the students in mind. There are students who are opposed to Strikes but never come to UGMs. They would be in uproar if the JCR was closed when they came on campus. The statement should say that in future we will follow the UGM and any actions will be based upon that, they will have to come to a UGM to voice an opposition.

EJ Explains the process. What the problem is, how to resolve it. E.g. Come to the UGM. As a decision making body we couldn't all be there. Need to make it clear the decision was made under pressure.

TK We need to have a strategy on how we deal with management during strikes. There is going to be more intense action, via marking boycotts + 4 Day Strikes. We need to define what 'Solidarity' Means.

EJ We need to make a clear difference between the marking boycott and the justice for cleaners

GW What provision is there for students who oppose the cleaners strike? The next strike will be after a

UGM and made when no students are about.

DE There isn't

TK There is the UGM

DS We can add information the next strike in the statement we are about to write. Mention we will not break the next strike. Exec will follow what the next UGM Says. If students who have a problem with the Union backing the Strike, come to UGM

EJ its hard for students to write a motion for an event that may or may not happen. This makes it very hard for students to oppose this strike. A four day strike would affect masters students.

TK Students can call an EGM during Easter Break

GW But do you want to tell students that?

TK I am confident we can win the argument for a strike

DS We need to make it clear that the Justice For Cleaners Campaign won't end with the strike. They have been ineffective against management. The Union should invite the J4C to come inform the union exec what the plans are so they can coordinate.

CY We need to avoid conflating the issues of Justice For cleaners and the Aims of a Students' Union. J4C is an issue between ISS and Management. It's only a minority of students who support this.

SC our Policy comes from the UGM

CY We need to avoid getting confused. LE cleaned the JCR so it could be opened for students, not because she was giving into management. She put students first.

DS If there is another strike and management close the JCR, we need to make sure that the JCR stays close.

EJ We can't just say we will support that. We need a contingency plan, both financially for the shop and bar. Also looking at the Health & Safety point of view from the school, to see their documentations.

JB We can't close the JCR for Four Days

EJ Exam time is coming up and there are welfare drop ins, the union can't close

DS This is why we need a procedure, to meet with J4C so we not what they are planning so that we can support and see where the line is of what we would follow.

JB We need to know our limits

GR We don't need to worry about the campaign vs student's interests. They don't want to piss off students. They want students to support the campaign.

KC UGMs over-represent certain types of students. We need to think about students who don't goto UGMS such as masters students, international students etc. We need to not further marginalise groups.

EJ We need to look at the health and safety issues when it comes to the JCR. There are strict hygiene issues that could affect the bar and food sales in the shop.

TK We can look at holding referendums

DE The software is in place to do them online, they are ready to go. It's the same as using the Elections systems.

EJ We should create a plan of what will happen depending on the outcome of the referendum.

JB Shop staff are happy to back the **Sabbs** saying they weren't forced into cleaning

KC what does it mean if students vote not to

<p>support the strike.</p> <p>GR We wont close the union. If they do support it we'll talk to the cleaners about what steps to take. These discussions should happen quickly so we can explain in the referendum what will happen with each answer</p> <p>Outline of Statement: Date of UGM and Motion Passed</p> <p>What happened during strike</p> <p>Will take motion to next UGM about strikes, will include referendum question.</p> <p>Invite J4C to meet with exec before any further action to coordinate as any practicalities</p> <p>Date of Next UGM when students can voice opposition.</p> <p>SOAS SPIRIT STATEMENT</p> <p>The SOAS Spirit Editor has breached the rules and needs to be disciplined.</p> <p>The exec agrees this should be dealt with internally.</p> <p>LE and JB to write a complain to the SOAS Spirit.</p> <p>TK This hasn't be done before but it's the first time. We will need to convene the board.</p> <p>DS We will aim to do this a quickly as possible.</p> <p>CY Can we have a review of the spirit in the first term of next year</p>			
<p>Policy policy</p> <p>Everyone get back to David before Monday.</p>	exec	16/03	
<p>Pedestrianisation of the area around Senate House</p> <p>EJ Explains the problems since the work on senate house started.</p>			

LE Will bring this up during meetings with School Management.

Time & Date of next meeting

12th March 2014 – 17:00 – B101

