

## SU Executive Minutes

<b>Time:</b>	18:00
<b>Date:</b>	27/04/2015
<b>Location:</b>	B101
<b>Exec Present:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hannah Slydel – Women’s Officer <b>[HS]</b></li> <li>• Wael Omar – Postgraduate Taught Officer <b>[WO]</b></li> <li>• Georgie Robertson – Co-President Welfare and Campaigns <b>[GR]</b></li> <li>• Phoebe Fisher – Environment Officer <b>[PF]</b></li> <li>• Karmel Carey – Disabled Students and Carers’ Officer <b>[KC]</b></li> <li>• Kabir Joshi – Co-President Activities &amp; Events <b>[KJ]</b></li> <li>• Tracey-Ann Munroe – Mature Students Officer <b>[TM]</b></li> <li>• David Suber – Co-President Democracy and Education <b>[DS]</b></li> <li>• Luna Cottis – Entertainments Officer <b>[LC]</b></li> </ul>
<b>Others Present:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy Dawson – Governance and Communications Coordinator <b>[AD]</b></li> </ul>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Max Lohnert – Academic Affairs Officer <b>[ML]</b></li> <li>• Manuela Schwarz – Black Officer <b>[MS]</b></li> <li>• Grace Wilcock – Campaigns Officer <b>[GW]</b></li> <li>• Hattie White – Environment Officer <b>[HW]</b></li> <li>• Tom Oliver – Accommodation Officer <b>[TO]</b></li> </ul>

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Discussion/Action</b>
<b>1. Governing Body Meeting – debrief</b>	<b>DS</b>	<p><b>DS</b> reported on the recent Governing Board meeting in which Fossil Fuel Divestment was passed. A Democratise SOAS review group is to be set up within the next month, to be taken over by the incumbent team next year.</p> <p><b>DS</b> reported on the conversation regarding BDS. The proposal discussed the formation of a working group. In the July Board meeting, the School will have sought legal opinion from 2 sources, and will form an</p>



		<p>ethics panel.</p> <p><b>GR</b> stated that with ethics being such a broad topic, it may be necessary to push for a sub-group specifically about BDS. The team will ensure BDS will be addressed within the panel.</p> <p><b>WO</b> emphasised the need for the campaign to keep going so as not to lose momentum.</p> <p><b>HS</b> suggested workshops in freshers' week regarding the Union's key policies.</p> <p><b>LS</b> highlighted the momentum kept for the Justice for Cleaners campaign &amp; thought BDS would be the same.</p>
<b>2. Exec Handover</b>	<b>GR</b>	<p><b>GR</b> proposed 2 dates for exec handover; 2<sup>nd</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> June. A doodle poll will be sent out to current and future exec members.</p>
<b>3. Trustee Meeting</b>	<b>DS</b>	<p><b>DS</b> proposed the 27<sup>th</sup> May for the final trustee meeting of the academic year. This date was agreed.</p>
<b>4. Rent Strike</b>	<b>KC</b>	<p><b>KC</b> reported on the rent strike. 153 students have signed up, with many more supporters who have already paid. The strike has had positive media coverage and seems to be having a positive influence on the halls providers.</p> <p><b>GR</b> told the group about a negotiating meeting to be held on Wednesday at 9am with Sanctuary.</p> <p><b>KC</b> and <b>GR</b> encouraged the group to sign and share the petition on change.org.</p>
<b>5. Solidarity Statement with Bahar, Welfare and Diversity Officer at</b>	<b>GR</b>	<p><b>GR</b> outlined the situation with Goldsmiths' Welfare and Diversity Officer, who organised an event for BME self-defining women. She has been accused of being discriminatory and <b>GR</b> proposed the exec</p>

<p><b>Goldsmiths</b></p>		<p>release a solidarity statement.</p> <p>A debate followed regarding the event and whether excluding groups of people was appropriate.</p> <p><b>WO</b> argued that it is wrong to exclude groups when aiming to diversify the curriculum</p> <p><b>KJ</b> raised the point that the reason for holding an event with just BME women was to create a space where specific issues can be discussed without becoming problematic</p> <p><b>HS</b> highlighted that this event was part of a series of workshops and events aimed at diversifying the curriculum. This event was to feed into a larger network.</p> <p>It was agreed unanimously that a solidarity statement would be issued.</p> <p><b>GR</b> to draft something and circulate to the group before releasing the statement.</p>
<p><b>6. Provisions for Parents at SOAS</b></p>	<p><b>DS</b></p>	<p><b>DS</b> reported on an email she had received regarding student parents. Issues addressed in the email included childcare &amp; nursery provisions and a lack of places to store breast milk. He asked Exec for advice about how to take this forward.</p> <p><b>KJ</b> recommended the fridge space in the Russell Room</p> <p><b>TM</b> said this space needs to be advertised more. She agreed with the problems faced by student parents and had felt them herself.</p> <p><b>GR</b> suggested turning the first floor rest room into a breast-feeding room, and when North Block opens space and fridges can be requested.</p> <p><b>TM</b> highlighted the importance of a</p>

		<p>comfortable space. She also mentioned the problems of half term and reading week not coinciding.</p> <p><b>KJ</b> suggested bringing this up at the next informal.</p>
<p><b>7. Any Other Business</b></p>		<p><b>GR</b> told the group that on Friday night there may have been a spiking incident. It has since been revealed that this incident did not take place. However, it has highlighted the need for awareness about this issue and the Union will take the necessary steps to ensure students feel informed about drink spiking.</p> <p><b>LC</b> told the group about SOAS Festival and asked for advice about how to encourage involvement.</p>