



## SU Executive Minutes

<b>Time:</b>	18:00
<b>Date:</b>	27/10/2014
<b>Location:</b>	116
<b>Members Present:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Suber – CP Democracy &amp; Education <b>[DS]</b></li> <li>• Georgie Robertson – CP Campaigns &amp; Welfare <b>[GR]</b></li> <li>• Kabir Joshi – CP Activities &amp; Events <b>[KJ]</b></li> <li>• Simon Campbell – Academic Affairs Officer <b>[SC]</b></li> <li>• Max Lohnert – Academic Affairs Officer <b>[ML]</b></li> <li>• Manuella Schwarz – Black Officer <b>[MS]</b> - <b>Chair</b></li> <li>• Roisin Crowley – Disabilities Officer <b>[RC]</b></li> <li>• Tom King – LGBTQ Officer <b>[TK]</b></li> <li>• Phoebe Fisher – Environment Officer <b>[PF]</b></li> <li>• Hattie White – Environment Officer <b>[HW]</b></li> <li>• Mollie Hanley – Women’s Officer <b>[MH]</b></li> <li>• Luna Cottis – Entertainments Officer <b>[LC]</b></li> <li>• Grace Mason – Campaigns Officer <b>[GW]</b></li> <li>• Wael Omar – Postgraduate Taught Officer <b>[WO]</b></li> <li>• Ana-Luiza Olanescu – International Students Officer <b>[AO]</b></li> <li>• Karmel Carey – Disabilities Officer <b>[KC]</b></li> <li>• Mohamed Taha – Postgraduate Research Officer <b>[MT]</b></li> <li>• Ruman Hasan – Anti-Racism Officer <b>[RH]</b></li> </ul>
<b>Others Present:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None (Minutes taken by GR)</li> </ul>



<b>Apologies:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hannah Slydel – Women’s Officer [HS]</li> </ul>
<b>Absent:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tom Oliver – Accommodation Officer [TO]</li> <li>Tracey-Ann Munroe – Mature Students’ Officer [TM]</li> </ul>

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Discussion / action</b>
1) Nate’s Resignation ☹️	<b>DS</b>	<p>Summary of discussion:</p> <p>Nate has resigned as LGBTQ officer, both because of personal reasons and because of concerns about democratic representation.</p> <p>It does not say anything in the constitution about what happens when one of the officers in a job-share resigns. Question of whether the other officer in the job-share continues in that role, or whether this person is co-opted by the Exec or new elections are held for the position.</p> <p>Suggestion of emailing students to ask what they think, also about Wael’s position. Question raised the fact that students will have different opinions on this, so how many students would have to say want re-elections? And those who don’t think there should be re-elections are less likely to say so.</p> <p>Vote on:</p>

	<b>DS</b>	<p>1: Co-opt Tom</p> <p>2: Re-open elections for the position</p> <p>3: Co-opt Tom until re-elections</p> <p>4: Tom continues as Officer</p> <p>5: Email students to ask what they think</p> <p>Results:</p> <p>12 votes for option 4) Tom continues as officer, accept that he has a democratic mandate and from last year's elections.</p> <p>3 votes for option 1)</p> <p><b>ACTION POINT:</b> Inform students of Nate's resignation and that Tom is continuing as LGBTQ Officer</p>
2) Democratise SOAS: Student & Staff Forum	<b>GR</b>	<p>This Friday at 5pm in the Lucas Lecture Theatre. First Student &amp; Staff Forum of this academic year, we'll receive updates on staff and student struggles to improve SOAS, all of which are fundamentally linked to lack of democracy within the institution, updates on what's been happening with Democratise SOAS, and discussion of how to take the campaign forward this year. Hugely</p>

		important and exciting! ACTION POINT: <b>Everyone!</b> Join the Facebook event, invite people, share it around - spread the word!
3) End Migrants' Detention	<b>GW</b>	Motion to campaign on this passed at the UGM. This week's pub quiz about migration and detention to raise awareness, and having an event on Thursday, a stall with information. Building for the Surround Harmondsworth (detention centre) demonstration on 8 <sup>th</sup> November. Had hoped to arrange a coach to take students to and from the demonstration but can't tell how many students will come and therefore if will be able to fill it. Suggestion that we take the tube and keep receipts of our tickets and claim them back on the Union. This was agreed.  ACTION POINT: <b>GW</b> To keep us updated on the campaign and the protest
4) SOAS Goes to Calais	<b>DS</b>	This motion also passed at the UGM and there is a planning meeting this Thursday. Planning to take SOAS students, hopefully including societies and musicians, to demonstration in Calais on 15 <sup>th</sup> November, to show

	<b>DS</b>	<p>solidarity with migrants who are trapped there in appalling conditions and suffering abuse.</p> <p><b>ACTION POINT:</b></p> <p>To keep us updated</p>
5) SOAS Festival	<b>DS</b>	Will have some updates about this soon and will bring these to the Trustee meeting.
6) Exec meeting minute taking	<b>TK</b>	<p>Things are often left out of minutes or sometimes what people say is misrepresented.</p> <p>Suggestion that Sabbs speak to Vic about this, and that Sabbs check minutes after meetings.</p> <p>Also reminder to everyone that if anything's been left out or misrepresented in minutes to email Vic and he will change them.</p> <p>Suggestion that we try different form of minute taking: summarise the discussion, rather than trying to report what each person says because does not seem to be working.</p> <p>Continue to action point to people.</p>
	<b>GR</b>	Currently taking minutes in this format.
	<b>DS</b>	Will inform Vic of this discussion and new way of minute taking
7) Library closure over previous	<b>GW</b>	Library and other parts of



weekend	<p><b>GR</b></p> <p><b>Everyone</b></p>	<p>the rest of the building closed because of filming, which meant that some students could not access their lockers. Students were not informed this would happen</p> <p><b>ACTION POINT:</b></p> <p>Sabbs to speak to the School, meeting with Paul Webley this week, will raise it there.</p> <p>Encourage students to tell us if they experienced this problem so we can raise complaints</p>
8) Fortnightly Campaigns Meetings	<p><b>GW</b></p> <p><b>GW &amp; GR</b></p>	<p>Want to hold fortnightly meetings for people who are involved in campaigns or who want to be, to meet up, coordinate, get things done, to make more organised.</p> <p>Also organising regular campaigns assemblies</p> <p><b>ACTION POINT:</b></p> <p>To organise these!</p>
9) Open Day protest	<p><b>GW</b></p>	<p>Protest / alternative open day this Wednesday, come and help!</p> <p>Concern raised about smaller departments needing to recruit students in order to have funding, good to inform people about the campaigns but also show it's a great university, not be saying</p>

	<b>GR</b>	<p>don't come here this place is terrible.</p> <p>Clarification that not about saying don't come to SOAS, it's terrible, but about saying we love SOAS, our SOAS, the community and the values that are preached in the classroom, and we're campaigning to improve the institution.</p> <p>Suggestion that JFC be very present, showing what can happen when the community comes together.</p> <p>Suggestion that Exec try to be there to help out and answer questions.</p> <p><b>ACTION POINT:</b></p> <p>To send information about protest to Exec, who should share this and try to come. And to make doodle for people to sign!</p>
10) Class officer	<b>MH</b>	<p>Very middle class institution, should have working class representative within the Union. But Hannah's suggestion so will bring back to another Exec.</p>
11) Brunei slots	<b>KJ</b>	<p>Every year societies apply for slots in the Brunei and Exec decides who gets them, based on written proposals. Currently</p>

	<p><b>KJ</b></p>	<p>looking at applications, for 17<sup>th</sup> November, a 3 hour slot for which there are 3 applications.</p> <p>Suggestion of two of events taking place, each an hour and a half, but decide would be too difficult and chaotic, because of the time it takes to set up and because each proposal expects more than 100 people so would be a lot of traffic.</p> <p>Decide should be one event in the slot, for logistical reasons.</p> <p>Vote on which proposal: majority of votes for Middle East and North Africa society event, because think will get the most use out of the space as it involves an exhibition, speeches and spoken word.</p> <p><b>ACTION POINTS:</b></p> <p>Inform societies of the decision</p> <p>HIV Awareness Week is the following week, so should try to find another venue for Chasing Zero event, that can link in with over events in HIV Awareness Week. KJ to arrange this.</p>
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	<b>ML</b>	<p>it to be a Students' Union project, would like people's feedback on it.</p> <p>Question of whether this will include SOAS' colonial history. Answer: yes, especially in Development Studies and Anthropology.</p> <p>Question of how these talks are different to seminars organised by departments. Answer: these events are about self-reflection within each discipline and q&amp;a, opportunities for people to critique.</p> <p><b>ACTION POINTS:</b></p> <p>To keep us updated!</p>
14) Timetable security	<b>MH</b>	<p>Anyone can see someone else's individual timetable on the SOAS website, just have to type in ID number, concerning for student safety.</p> <p>Sabbs have spoken to Paul Webley about this two weeks ago, management said they would speak to IT about making individual timetables password protected, have not get back to us. Have another meeting with Paul this week, will ask about it again and chase it up.</p>



	<b>GR</b>	ACTION POINT: will report back to Exec
15) Recycled Paper in the Union	<b>PF</b>	<p>Birkbeck uses much better recycled paper, much less waste involved, but slightly off-white, which is also easier to read. Brought this to School committee on sustainability but did not agree to use across the School. Can we trial in the SU?</p> <p>Clarification that can print double sided on the paper, like non-recycled, and it is cheaper than non-recycled paper.</p> <p>But currently School pays for Union paper, so in trialling this in the Union will need to pay for it ourselves in the short term, but will try to convince the School in the long term.</p> <p>ACTION POINT:</p> <p>Trial in the Union till Christmas, and try to get School to agree to use this paper in the library.</p>
16) Election poster	<b>GR</b>	Racist poster used in the

	<p><b>GR &amp; DS</b></p>	<p>elections by an unsuccessful candidate, picture of this posted online and unpleasant comments, denying that the poster was problematic. Candidate apologised to the student who complained about the poster, and candidate took down the posters. Request that Exec make a statement to make clear that we do not think this is acceptable.</p> <p>Statement will not name the person, but say is about a poster used during elections, explaining what was wrong with the poster and about general poster policy in relation to Safe Space policy.</p> <p><b>ACTION POINT:</b></p> <p>To draft this and send around to Exec, then send out to students.</p>
<p>17) UCU marking boycott</p>	<p><b>TK</b></p>	<p>National UCU has announced marking boycott over pensions beginning on 6<sup>th</sup> November, including SOAS. Suggestion that Exec votes on whether or not to support it.</p>

	<p><b>GR, DS and KJ</b></p>	<p>Question about having vote at later meeting, when have more information, can consult more widely.</p> <p>But the boycott will have begun by the time of next meeting.</p> <p>The Union has policy on supporting the Fair Pay in Higher Education campaign over 13% cuts to staff's pay. The attacks on pensions is the latest series of attacks on higher education staff, so supporting staff in this marking boycott is a continuation of our support for their campaign.</p> <p>Vote to support the marking boycott.</p> <p>Speak to SOAS UCU branch and update students on what's happening with marking boycott at SOAS and on why the Union is supporting it and why students should support it.</p> <p>Ask academics to be clear with students about whether they are participating in boycott or</p>
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	not to avoid confusion and problems.
18) Social media	<p>Question of when the Union should get involved?</p> <p>Should be statements at the top of each page/group about rules, but problem is that admins don't always ensure rules are being followed. Each year admins change.</p> <p>Pages should be autonomous from the Union so people can criticise the Union, but problem of potential victimisation, bullying, or discrimination, breaching safe space, Union is responsible for this but can't do anything about incidents in these online spaces.</p> <p>Rants and Overheard very intimidating spaces to a lot of students.</p> <p>Suggestion of the pages being moderated by people in the Spirit, because a group who can be held accountable for moderating, for maintaining safe space. However, then Spirit might have monopoly over SOAS</p>

	<b>GR</b>	<p>media.</p> <p>Could advertise for new admins, but not our place to do so because not Union pages.</p> <p>Rants created by Co-President two years ago, who is still an admin, and a current Co-President, two SOAS alumni, and one current student. Not Union page, but as the Union created the page, and now receiving complaints about it breaching safe space, so Union created a page that is in some ways intimidating.</p> <p><b>ACTION POINTS:</b></p> <p>To raise our concerns / ideas with the admins and see what they think, then update Exec.</p>
19) SWP at Free Education demo	<b>GR</b>	<p>*Trigger warning*</p> <p>Explanation of SWP having covered up sexual assault and rape within the organisation.</p> <p>Suggestion that Exec makes a statement about SWP involvement in the Free Education demo.</p> <p>We can't stop SWP being</p>

	<p><b>GR</b></p> <p><b>MH</b></p>	<p>on the demo, but problem of SWP being invited to the organising meetings. We should support the demo but say that do not want to collaborate with SWP.</p> <p><b>ACTION POINT:</b></p> <p>Agree to make this statement. GR to draft and send around.</p> <p>Suggestion of making feminist stickers to put over SWP names on placards on the demo. MH to look into stickers, and ask Vic for advice.</p>
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