

# Union General Meeting Minutes

<b>Time:</b>	17:00 – 19:00
<b>Date:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2014
<b>Location:</b>	JCR

## Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes from Previous Meeting
3. Matters arising from previous UGM and update
4. Report from Sabbatical Officers
5. Report from Executive Officers
6. Motions:
  1. Change "Students with Disabilities' Officer" to "Disabled Students and Carers' Officer"
  2. Sweatshop Free SOAS
  3. Campaign to overhaul the Student Loans System
  4. Write a letter to Cher
  5. Disabled access to SOAS needs improving
  6. To Campaign for Free Education
  7. Support Justice for Sanaz
  8. Quiet study room in vernon
  9. Energy Bill of Rights
7. Emergency Motions
8. Any Other Business (AOB) and announcements

<b>Ref#</b>	<b>Action/Discussion</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes from Previous Meeting</b>  The minutes of the previous UGM had been available on the website.  The minutes were passed	<b>No Questions or challenges to the minutes submitted</b>
<b>3</b>	Matters arising from previous UGM and update	<b>No Actions taken</b>

<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Report from Sabbatical Officers</b></p> <p>Kabir Joshi – Co-President Activities &amp; Events; David Suber – Co-President Democracy &amp; Education; and Georgie Robertson – Co-President Welfare &amp; Campaigns presented their verbal reports to the UGM.</p> <p><b>All Reports Accepted</b></p>	<p><b>No questions about the reports</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Report from Executive Officers</b></p> <p>The following Executive Officers gave a verbal report to the UGM.</p> <p>Simon Campbell – Academic Affairs Officer Karmel Carey – Students with Disabilities Officer Hannah Slydel – Women’s Officer Phoebe Fisher – Environment Officer Grace Wilcocks – Campaigns Officer Tom King – LGBTQ Officer Mohamed Taha – Postgraduate Research Officer Grace Wilcocks – Campaigns Officer</p> <p><b>All Reports Accepted</b></p>	<p><b>No questions about the reports</b></p>
<p><b>6.1</b></p>	<p><b>Change "Students with Disabilities' Officer" to "Disabled Students and Carers' Officer"</b></p> <p>The Meeting did not meet the required Quorum so this motion has been sent to the next UGM to be discussed.</p>	
<p><b>6.2</b></p>	<p><b>Sweatshop Free SOAS</b></p> <p>Speech For – Rob Abrams (617046) Speech Against – none</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion Passes</b></p>	
<p><b>6.3</b></p>	<p><b>Campaign to overhaul the Student Loans System</b></p> <p>Speech For – Grace Wilcock (565820) Speech Against – none</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p>	

	<b>Motion Passes</b>	
<b>6.4</b>	<p><b>Write a letter to Cher</b></p> <p>Speech For – Adam Barr (296340) Contributions from Grace Wilcock (565820) &amp; Ed Dukes (537800)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion Passes</b></p>	
<b>6.5</b>	<p><b>Disabled access to SOAS needs improving</b></p> <p>Speech For – Grace Wilcock (565820) Speech Against – none</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion Passes</b></p>	
<b>6.6</b>	<p><b>To Campaign for Free Education</b></p> <p>Speech For – Georgie Robertson (GR14) Speech Against – none</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion Passes</b></p>	
<b>6.7</b>	<p><b>Support Justice for Sanaz</b></p> <p>Speech For – Hannah Slydel (541349)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	
<b>6.8</b>	<p><b>Quiet study room in vernon</b></p> <p>Speech For – Yasmin Akhtar (568417) Speech Against – none</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion Passes</b></p>	

<p><b>6.9</b></p>	<p><b>Energy Bill of Rights</b></p> <p>Speech For – Clare Birkett (608006) Contributions from Grace Wilcock (565820) &amp; Pietro Autorino (573707)</p> <p>Friendly Amendment to 3.4</p> <p>3.4 To Discuss training one or more of the SOAS Union's Executive Committee Members in the energy Rights at the next Executive Committee Meeting so that they can provide support to students. The training should be aimed to be taken by but not limited to Welfare, Campaigns, Accommodation and Environment Officers.</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion Passes</b></p>	
<p><b>There were no emergency motions submitted or Any Other Business, so the meeting came to an end.</b></p>		

## Summary of actions

Motion	Actions
<b>6.2</b>	<p><b>Sweatshop Free SOAS</b></p> <p>3.1) To lobby the University to affiliate to Electronics Watch and The Worker Rights Consortium</p> <p>3.2) To set up a Sweatshop Free Purchasing Group of staff and students that will monitor the reports provided by the organization.</p> <p>3.3) To work in solidarity with workers in the global south by affiliating to People &amp; Planet's Sweatshop Free campaign, and promoting campaign actions where students can get involved.</p>
<b>6.3</b>	<p><b>Campaign to overhaul the Student Loans System</b></p> <p>3.1: To start a campaign for a re-evaluation of the student loans system.</p> <p>3.2: To coordinate with other student unions, both in London and around the country to make this a priority campaign, particularly with regards to the upcoming election.</p> <p>3.3: To create forums so that all students can interact and contribute their different experiences of the student loan system so that a proposal for a new system addresses all issues that different students face when accessing it.</p>
<b>6.4</b>	<p><b>Write a letter to Cher</b></p> <p>3.1 To write a letter to Cher, through her management company asking her to consecrate the JCR in her capacity as the Goddess of Pop.</p> <p>3.2 To make Believe by Cher the secondary anthem of the SOAS union.</p>

<p><b>6.5</b></p>	<p><b>Disabled access to SOAS needs improving</b></p> <p>3.1 To lobby the University to discuss improvements to the facilities at SOAS for disabled students to allow them to study safely and without impediment at this university.</p>
<p><b>6.6</b></p>	<p><b>To Campaign for Free Education</b></p> <p>3.1 To campaign for free, democratic, representative, inclusive and supportive education.</p> <p>3.2 To continue to organise a SOAS Bloc for the National Demonstration for Free Education and to make the SOAS Bloc as safe and accessible as possible, and to do the same with future demonstrations and actions.</p>
<p><b>6.7</b></p>	<p><b>Support Justice for Sanaz</b></p> <p>3.1 To collate any available information on any similar cases affecting non-EU international students at SOAS, to form a better picture of the situation for non-EU international students and identify where support or better practice may be required. Where possible and whilst respecting privacy and data protection, contact ISA ISAS and/or the ARC for any information they may be willing and able to provide</p> <p>3.2 As a matter of urgency, contact the Law department with requests to find an immigration lawyer that is able to deliver representation for Sanaz to remain in the UK on a pro-bono basis.</p> <p>3.3 As a matter of urgency, to contact the Home Office on behalf of SOAS Student's Union expressing solidarity with Sanaz.</p> <p>3.4 Raise the profile of the Justice 4 Sanaz campaign through social media, by sharing information about her campaign and other relevant cases.</p>
<p><b>6.8</b></p>	<p><b>Quiet study room in vernon</b></p> <p>3.1 It would be great if the union could lobby SOAS to reserve one class room for silent work. I know there are the computer labs, but if you just want to read it is not sufficient.</p>



## **6.9 Energy Bill of Rights**

3.1 To sign up to Fuel Poverty Action's Energy Bill of Rights in support of the growing grassroots movement against fuel poverty and for a clean, sustainable, democratic energy system.

The Energy Bills of Rights outlines what our fundamental energy rights should be. They include: a right to affordable energy to meet our basic needs; a right to a fair pricing system that does not penalise those who use less (abolish the standing charge); a right to not to be cut off from our energy supply; a right to not to be forced onto a prepayment meter; a right to properly insulated, well repaired housing that does not waste energy; a right to energy that does not harm us, the environment or the climate; a right to energy that does not threaten health, safety, water, air or the local environment of a community; a right to energy that is owned by us and run in our interests.

3.2 To invite Fuel Poverty Action to hold an Energy Rights workshop at SOAS and to publicise the event to both the student and staff body.

3.3 To facilitate the online and offline distribution of Fuel Poverty Action's Mini-Guide to Your Energy Rights and Energy Know Your Rights cards to the student and staff body where appropriate.

3.4 To Discuss training one or more of the SOAS Union's Executive Committee Members in the energy Rights at the next Executive Committee Meeting so that they can provide support to students. The training should be aimed to be taken by but not limited to Welfare, Campaigns, Accommodation and Environment Officers.

3.5 To give solidarity and support to those who have suffered from fuel poverty and to point the finger at those responsible at Fuel Poverty Action and Reclaim the Power's Winter Deaths Action on the 28th November 2014 at 11.30am.

3.6 To continue to raise the issue of fuel poverty and an alternative, sustainable, just energy system within the school and beyond.

3.7 To explore / consider initiatives that can be pursued by the student body that will seek to raise energy efficiency awareness and deliver energy efficiency improvements across the university campus and associated student accommodation, in collaboration with the the relevant stakeholders form the university, buildings maintenance, accommodation bodies etc

**The Date of the next UGM:**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – 17:00 – SOAS  
JCR**

You can submit a motion to the next UGM on the website:

<http://soasunion.org/democracy/submit-motion/>

**The Motion Deadline is:**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November – 19:00**

Minutes Taken by Vic Casambros

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If you would like to propose any changes/revisions to these minutes or question their accuracy, please contact Vic.