



UGM Motion 04/12/2014 – 1

Title:	Solidarity with the Students Killed in Mexico - ¡Vivos se los llevaron, vivos los queremos!
Proposal:	Giovanna De Meneghi (616846)
Seconder	David Suber (ds60)

This Union Notes

- 1.1 That on September 26th 2014, 43 male students from a school of Ayotzinapa, Mexico, were kidnapped while they were going to demonstrate against a government motion.
- 1.2 That after being stopped by the police, while travelling to Iguala (the location of the demo), nobody knows exactly what happened to these guys. Official reports claim that, from the police "hands" the students have been passed to the local drug cartel of Guerreros Unidos, who presumably killed them.
- 1.3 That local authorities believe Iguala's mayor and his wife commissioned the kidnapping and subsequent killing of these students to Guerreros Unidos.
- 1.4 That on November 7, 2014, Mexican authorities gave a press conference in which they announced that several plastic bags containing human remains, possibly those of the missing students, had been found by a river in Cocula, Guerrero.
- 1.5 That the authorities said that over 70 suspects had been arrested, including members of Guerreros Unidos who had confessed to killing the students and disposing of their remains.
- 1.6 That investigations are underway to identify the remains.
- 1.7 That a lot of students are trying to organize commemorative moments for these guys, but it seems that part of the local authorities is trying to impede them in doing such things.
- 1.8 That indeed, some guys involved in the organization of these moments have been kidnapped and tortured.

This Union Believes

2.1 That we are students as much as those 43 guys from a school of Ayotzinapa; and we believe that demonstrating, peacefully, and voice our critiques and concerns (also if this means demonstrating against any government) is our right as citizens and as students.

2.2 That It's important to underline that fighting against drug-trafficking in Mexico can't mean and can't be perceived by some authorities as fighting against the government.

2.3. It's essential that also the students' international community shows its commitment in denouncing this enormous violation.

This Union Resolves

3.1. To raise awareness through the organization of a demonstration, with a stand outside SOAS.

3.2. To distribute some leaflets telling what happened and what it is still happening to these guys, and to spread and sign the petition Vivos se los llevaron, vivos los queremos is

3.3. To try to be part of a European network of students (some students studying in Amsterdam are trying to organize it) committed in raising awareness on what happened to these guys

UGM Motion 04/12/2014 – 2

Title:	Change "Students with Disabilities' Officer" to "Disabled Students and Carers' Officer"
Proposal:	Karmel Carey (584498)
Secunder	Roisin Crowley (563459)
This Union Notes	
1.1 That disabled students are represented in the Union by the Students with Disabilities' Officers	
1.2 That carer students don't currently have any official representation in the Union	
This Union Believes	
2.1 That students who are carers face similar challenges to disabled Students	
2.2 That carer students are not given adequate representation	
2.2 That giving carer students official representation in the Union would ensure that their interests are considered in making Union decisions	
This Union Resolves	
3.1 To change the role name of "Students with Disabilities' Officer" to "Disabled Students and Carers' Officer"	
3.2 To change schedule 10.1 to "The DSC Officer shall represent the interests of students personally affected by disability (people who are disabled themselves, or who are a carer/close relation to someone who is disabled) to the Union and the School, particularly on issues of exclusion and prejudice on grounds of being affected by disability and its various intersections"	
3.3 To change schedule 10.2 to "The DSC Officer shall liaise with Student Advice and Wellbeing to help improve facilities at SOAS for students personally affected by disability"	

UGM Motion 04/12/2014 – 3

Title:	Build a new smoking area in the Students' Union Bar
Proposal:	Kabir Joshi (KJ9)
Secunder	David Suber (DS60)

This Union Notes

1.1) The outside area of the bar has been closed during the day by the school.

1.2) The school's reasoning was that smoke would go in to the offices through the ventilators placed in the smoking area.

1.3) The bar has been losing money from the closure of the outdoor space during the day.

1.4) After a long consultation with the school, the SU and the school have come to an agreement in which the SU would be allowed to build a new open area that could be used for smoking during the day.

1.5) The new area would consist of a door near the pool table in the bar, and curve around the side of the building.

1.6) The cost of the refurbishment will be up to £70,000, however the Union will be able to claim VAT back due to it being an expenditure on a commercial enterprise (the bar), VAT should be around £10,000.

1.7) As this is a capital spend, it will come out of the Students' Union reserves, which holds just over £400,000)

1.8) The reserves are predominantly used for maintenance expenditures and backup in case the Union ever runs in to financial trouble, i.e: in case the school ever cuts the Union's funding.

1.9) The board of trustees have approved the expenditure pending a yes vote from this Union General Meeting.

This Union Believes

2.1) The loss of the outdoor space was an infringement on the Students' Union autonomy.

2.2) The SU would justify this expenditure by increased revues in the bar from the renovation, increased space in the Student's Union and the ability to again have an outdoor space in the Students' Union.

2.3) The contractors have said the new area should be finished by the end of the Easter holidays.

This Union Resolves

3.1) To give the trustees the authorisation to spend up to £70,000.

3.2) To call the new area the moat, due to it being shaped like a moat.

3.3) To campaign for the school to let us open the old outside area at 5PM whilst we wait.



UGM Motion 04/12/2014 – 4

Title:	Amendment to Union Schedules - LGBTQ Officer
Proposal:	Tom King (349872)
Secunder	Grace Mason (565820)
This Union Notes	
<p>1) That the LGBTQ Students' Officer represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer students,</p> <p>2) and that the current Union Schedules are outdated and do not reflect this</p>	
This Union Believes	
<p>1) That the role of each liberation officer is to represent the interests and support the campaigns of the members of their liberation group.</p> <p>2) That each liberation group should have the autonomy to decide the direction of their campaign.</p> <p>3) That autonomy does not exclude non-self-defining students from engaging with each campaign.</p> <p>4) That the Union should continue to encourage liberation officers to work as widely as possible with the Union community in order to tackle the intersectional nature of oppression and gain non-self-defining allies, but that the primary duty of liberation officers is to their liberation group and so these self-defining groups should determine each officers' campaigning agenda.</p>	
This Union Resolves	
<p>1) To amend Article 17 of the Union Schedules to reflect the above; replacing all instances of LGBT with LGBTQ and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Students' with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer Students'</p>	



UGM Motion 04/12/2014 – 5

Title:	Formation of a Research Students' Association (RSA)
Proposal:	Mohamed Taha (576852)
Secunder	Ahmed Baya (611600)

This Union Notes

1.1) The creation of SOAS' Doctoral School from the academic year 2012/2013, with additional space dedicated to research students and a new managerial structure (Head of the Doctoral School);

1.2) That the Research Students Association formerly known as Research Students Society, formed in 2007, carries out a variety of activities, both social and academic-related, relevant to the interests of research students at SOAS, and has gained considerable visibility amongst the body of SOAS research students;

1.3) That the Students' Union currently provides and coordinates academic representation at departmental, faculty and School level for research students through the student reps system, and that the research student reps coordinate through the research reps forum.

This Union Believes

2.1) The co-existence of the RSA and the research reps forum coordinated by the Students' Union has led to a certain level of internal competition over human resources and confusion about representational functions and responsibilities over the years;

2.2) An organisational structure for the research students representative body is needed with clearly defined responsibilities, which can promote consistency, accessibility, and efficient procedures, and which can provide a united, strong voice for the research students at SOAS.

2.3) The activities of the RSA have shown that there are interests specific to the PhDs, which fall under the objects clause of the constitution of the Student Union. To ensure continuity and enough funding, it is in the interest of the research students to integrate this work more effectively under the SU structures.

2.4) That, to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure continuity and better, more organized representation, it would be in the best interest of SOAS research students if the representative activities carried out by the research reps and the social, cultural and academic activities organized by the RSA could be brought together under one structure within the Students' Union structure.

This Union Resolves

3.1) To create a Research Students' Association from 2012/2013 as a sub-section within SOAS Students' Union, with the following structure:

a. An RSA Board, chaired by the newly created post of Research Students' Officer (part time officer, trustee and member of the executive committee of the Students' Union), and comprising three members of the Research Reps forum (one per each faculty) and three members from the Activities Committee of the RSA (former RSS); the RSA Board would facilitate the coordination between the two wings of the RSA, that of representation and that of activities, and would act as the main point of contact and negotiation between the new Doctoral School management and the body of research students;

b) A Research Reps forum, comprised of all the elected research student reps at departmental and faculty level; the Research Reps forum would facilitate the coordination of all activities relating to the formal academic representation of research students within the School's structures, and would act as the primary forum for the articulation of research students' academic and work-related needs, demands and priorities at School level;

c) An Activities committee, comprised of volunteer students chosen by internal election to carry out different functions relating to the organization of social and academic activities for the benefit of research students.

3.2) That the internal organizational structures of the RSA shall be further outlined in the RSA Constitution, which will become part of the SOAS Students' Union Constitution Schedules, and that will be approved at the UGM in December 2014;

3.3) That all research students shall be automatically members of the RSA in virtue of their membership to SOAS Students' Union;

3.4) That the fundamental RSA activities will be funded from the budget of the Students' Union, and that an agreement will be sought with the Head of the Doctoral School to guarantee additional funding for the RSA activities from the School's budget.



UGM Motion 04/12/2014 – 6

Title:	increased accountability for Student Union Sabbatical and Executive officers:
Proposal:	Grace Wilcock (5658207)
Secunder	Adam Barr (296340)

This Union Notes

1.1: The sabbatical and executive officers of SOAS Students' Union should be held to account by the student body.

1.2: Officers make decisions regarding the future of the Students' Union and are required to explain these decisions to the student body in a mandatory setting.

1.3: Elected officers at other university student unions required to submit reports and also answer questions explaining their actions as a requirement of their position on a regular basis.

1.4: There are some executive officers who have not yet attended a UGM.

1.5: There are also a number of website pages belonging to different officers that have not yet been updated with information regarding their post and activities.

This Union Believes

2.1: Currently, officers are not held to account and the lack of accountability makes it easier for decisions to be made regarding the future of SOAS SU that may not necessarily be representative of the student body as a whole.

2.2: By not holding officers to account and questioning their actions, students are inadvertently accepting decisions that are made and reducing the extent to which SOAS SU can be seen as democratic.

2.3: The Student Union website should be a primary point of information for students wanting to access information about the activities of their elected officers.

2.4: The current status of the officer's reports section of UGMs has taken on the appearance of advertising speeches for events officers are running rather than explaining the extent to which activities are helping officers to reach the goals of their manifestos.

This Union Resolves

"3.1: Ensure all sabbatical and executive officers submit a written report a least a week before all UGMs, summarising their activities and decisions taken regarding the student union within the context of their position.

3.2: Ensure that officer reports are included in information sent to all students regarding upcoming UGMs so that the information is accessible to all students and that students have time to formulate any questions they may have regarding the actions of officers.

3.3: Elected officers should be engaging with the website pages to provide information on their activities in between UGMs.

3.4: Ensure officers who cannot attend UGMs prepare a recorded report in advance which can be shared with the UGM, and send their apologies regarding their non-attendance.

3.5: To encourage students to question the actions of their elected officers and hold them to account in a critical and constructive manner."



UGM Motion 04/12/2014 – 7

Title:	Solidarity with the Syrians refugees in Calais
Proposal:	Morgane Macé (572641)
Secunder	Remy Geoffroy (540453)
This Union Notes	
<p>1.1 There are 70-80 Syrians currently in Calais, who have been living there for 1 to 3 months.</p> <p>1.2 These are refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria which has been going on since 2011. They have been fleeing with the aim of reaching the UK but their journey has been forcedly stopped in Calais by the UK border regime, even though the Immigration and Security Minister, James Brokenshire, prides himself for the UK's history of "granting protection to those who need it".</p> <p>1.3 They are currently living in terrible conditions, with no access to income, lodging, and health services.</p>	
This Union Believes	
<p>2.1 That the UK should live up to its stated commitments, namely that it has agreed to take in 500 Syrian "vulnerable" refugees, while as of June 2014 only 50 have been granted "humanitarian protection status".</p> <p>2.2 No one should live under the conditions which the Syrians refugees are currently living in, and no one should be forced to enter the UK "illegally" potentially at the cost of their life.</p> <p>2.3 That SOAS prides itself for being a place where students can learn "beyond borders" and where you can "meet the world" as it is an "indispensable interpreter" of a complex world. This is why it should officially support the Syrian refugees in Calais and their right to asylum in the UK.</p>	

This Union Resolves

3.1 To officially support the Syrian migrants in Calais.

3.2 To deliver a petition and a letter written by the Syrian refugees to the home office and the queen, while also spreading awareness of the inhumane situation in Calais through various media.

3.3 To organise a conference where various SOAS actors (lectures, students, activists etc.) give their view and create a platform for SOAS to 'speak out' about migration issues and how to create a more positive public discourse.

UGM Motion 04/12/2014 – 8

Title:	Deals for Part-time students
Proposal:	Raquel Villar-Perez (616482)
Seconder	David Suber (ds60)
This Union Notes	
<p>1.1 That there are numerous benefits that full-time students have in order to make their financial struggle during the academic year easier.</p> <p>1.2 These benefits include scholarships and bursaries; 30% discounts on Oyster fares; Coucil Tax exemption</p>	
This Union Believes	
<p>2.1 That Part-time students should equally be entitled to enjoy the benefits mentioned above, based not upon the assumption that 'because they work, they can afford to pay'</p>	
This Union Resolves	
<p>3.1 To lobby SOAS to extend the upon-mentioned benefits to Part time students (scholarships and bursaries; 30% discounts on Oyster fares; Coucil Tax exemption)</p> <p>3.2 To base this campaign through evidence gathered from other Universities who provide similar services to their part-time students</p>	

UGM Motion 04/12/2014 – 9

Title:	Tackling Harassment at SOAS
Proposal:	Tom King (349872) Mollie Hanley (539420) Ella Achola (567101) Karmel Carey (584498) Roisin Crowley (563459) Hannah Slydel (541349)
Secunder	Georgie Robertson (537687)
This Union Notes	
<p>1.1) that the Union has been conducting research over the last year to gain an understanding of students' experiences of harassment at SOAS</p> <p>1.2) 16% of students have experienced harassment at SOAS</p> <p>1.3) 14% of students have witnessed harassment at SOAS</p> <p>1.4) 75% of students don't know who to report harassment at SOAS to</p> <p>1.5) 83% of students don't know who to report to if they harassed near, but not on, campus</p> <p>1.6) that the report found that women, LGBTQ, disabled and black students are more likely to experience harassment</p> <p>1.7) that the Students' Union has a zero tolerance policy set out in the Dignity policy.</p> <p>1.8) that students' trust in the SU to deal with reports of harassment is worryingly low, and confidence in the School is even lower"</p>	
This Union Believes	
<p>2.1) that all forms of harassment are completely unacceptable</p> <p>2.2) that the union has failed to adequately tackle harassment in the university and create a space where student's feel supported.</p>	

2.3) that there are currently inadequate measures and resources in place to deal with harassment

This Union Resolves

3.1) to reaffirm our zero policy stance on harassment

3.2) to adopt the recommendations of these report relating to changes the School needs to make as campaigning priorities

3.3) to work to implement the recommendations set out in the report relating to changes the Students' Union needs to make

3.4) to repeat this harassment research on an annual basis to monitor the impact of these changes



UGM Motion 04/12/2014 – 10

Title:	Meat-free Monday
Proposal:	Tom King (349872)
Seconded	Grace Mason (565820)

This Union Notes

1.1 Meat production and consumption is one of the main contributor to green house gases (Film: Meat the Truth)

1.2 1/3 of all cereal crops and 90% of soya goes to animal feed, highlighting an unsustainable future for food production where meat consumption is predicted to rise with 50% worldwide by 2050 (Care2 Healthy Living)

1.3 The 'Meat Free Monday' campaign is a worldwide initiative that signals a productive way of reducing emission of greenhouse gases as well as depleting environmental resources, as well as changing common perception on nutrition

1.4 'Meat Free Monday' implies to not eat meat on Mondays, every week, every month

1:5: The 'Meat Free Monday' policy that was previously part of union policy has lapsed and was never implemented properly.

1:6 Meat-free options in the Student union shops are limited and sell out quickly.

1:7 Shop sales are down

This Union Believes

2.1 Signing up for the 'Meat Free Monday' campaign will be a positive contribution to change consumption patterns, getting people to think more about the impact of eating meat, and to think about alternatives

2.2 it will have effects on the local as well as global level where a change in consumption patterns are dearly needed

2.3 that we should endorse such a campaign as a constructive and effective way of reducing green house gas emissions

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2:4 People who don't eat meat should be guaranteed at least one day of the week where they know they can buy something that meets their dietary requirements.

2:5 People are buying their lunch elsewhere because they cannot get veggie food in the SU shops.

This Union Resolves

3.1 To implement the 'Meat Free Monday' Campaign in the Union Shops (Russell and Vernon) as soon as possible

3.2 To educate students and staff about the impact of meat consumption by providing information

3.3 To encourage staff and students to endorse the campaign also outside university

3.4 To actively encourage the catering company Elixir to also endorse the campaign



UGM Motion 04/12/2014 – 11

Title:	Stop oppressing students in the Egyptian universities
Proposal:	Mohamed Taha (576852)
Secunder	Hannah Abdule (566153)
This Union Notes	
1.1 -Students in Egypt don't have freedom of expression.	
1.2 -Universities in Egypt are most of the time invaded by security forces and secret services.	
1.3 -Tens of students have been expelled from their universities because of their political views and activities	
This Union Believes	
2.1-Students in Egypt and around the world should have freedom of expression and should be able to express their views freely.	
2.2-Security activities should be out of universities and student's shouldn't be targeted.	
2.3-Students shouldn't be deprived from their right of education whatever circumstances are.	
This Union Resolves	
3.1-Will send a message of support for students in Egypt in their struggle for freedoms.	
3.2-Will send a message to the Egyptian embassy in London to denounce the recent attacks on some universities.	
3.3-Will try to help any of those who deprived of the right to study in Egypt to know how they find their ways to study somewhere else whether in the UK or outside.	



UGM Motion 04/12/2014 – 12

Title:	More drinking water stations to refill bottles
Proposal:	Anna A. K. Hinrichsen (620776)
Secunder	Siel Devos (616580)

This Union Notes

1.1 There are very few places to refill water bottles with drinking water at both Vernon Square and Russel Square. Several of the toilets only have hot water, or have signs saying the water is not suitable for drinking.

1.2 This means it is often easier and faster to buy bottled water than to find a place to refill a bottle. The even easier thing being to drink less water than what you would do if it was more easily available.

1.3 Buying bottled water is expensive and bad for the environment

1.4 Drinking enough water is important for well-being and health - too little water can result in headaches, lower levels of concentration, skin issues etc..

1.5 It would be inexpensive for the school, compared to the money students now spend on bottled water, to make drinking water easily available.

This Union Believes

2.1 That a wider availability of drinking water refill stations would lead to
 1) students who usually buy bottled water buying less or no bottled water with positive effects for their personal economy and for the environment,
 and 2) All students drinking more water with benefits for their health and,
 3) students normally refilling water bottles (because they cant afford to buy it or don't want to) spending less time finding a place to refill bottles, with positive effects on their level of "pressure of things to do" and/ or academic performance (some people, no names mentioned, are often late for class because they are trying to find a place to refill water bottles :)

2.2 It is important, both morally and symbolically, that SOAS practices what it preaches about environmental sustainability, health and and

economic inclusiveness.

This Union Resolves

3.1 To ask the school to set up at least one drinking water station on each floor of each building.

3.2 To introduce the sale of chemical and toxic free refillable plastic or glass bottles in the student union shops next to the conventional bottled water (who's plastic bottles are not safe for refilling more than a few times, since they usually contain chemicals and or toxins that are released with continued use).



UGM Emergency Motion 04/12/2014 – E1

Title:	Victimization of SOAS recent student for involvement in Cleaners Campaigns
Proposal:	David Suber (DS60)
Secunder	Georgie Robertson (GR14)

This Union Notes

1.1 That Jason Moyer-Lee is an American who did his MSc and PhD at SOAS.

1.2 That throughout his studies he also worked at SOAS in various capacities including as an admissions assistant where he persuaded prospective students to study at SOAS.

1.3 That throughout his time at SOAS he was very active in various cleaners' campaigns and trade unions including UNISON, the IWGB and the 3 Cosas Campaign.

1.4 That he is currently President of the IWGB union, which is the largest trade union at the University of London's Central Administration and which has won major victories on terms and conditions for outsourced, low paid, migrant workers through campaigning via protests, social media activity, videos, and industrial action.

1.5 That after the Coalition Government's withdrawal of the post-study work visa, the only option Jason had to remain in the UK was through the new "Graduate Entrepreneur" visa scheme, which requires a recent graduate to obtain sponsorship from his university attesting that he has a "genuine and credible" business idea.

1.6 That Jason has applied for the "Graduate Entrepreneur" visa scheme.

1.7 That Jason's application was rejected the first time, but he sent it back again after having consulted with managers at SOAS.

1.8 That when he re-applied Jason was told that his idea- a small consultancy on grassroots organizing- was credible by the SOAS Student

Enterprise Manager.

1.9 That Jason received in writing an email saying that the Panel was concerned with his involvement with the Justice for Cleaners Campaign.

1.10 That the SOAS panel in charge of considering Jason's application have delayed for more than 20 days in giving an answer to Jason.

1.11 That the SOAS panel has rejected Jason's application

This Union Believes

2.1 That Jason's application is genuine, credible and strong enough to be accepted.

2.2 That Jason is being victimised by SOAS Management and the Management of University of London because of his activism and involvement in cleaners' campaigns.

2.3 That soas managers involved have dragged the process, forced Jason to jump through multiple ridiculous hoops, and has not even bothered to answer his emails until Monday 1st December.

2.4 That SOAS's behavior has also turned Jason's life upside down and essentially forces him out of the country by the end of next month after having been part of the SOAS community for five years.

This Union Resolves

3.1 To support Jason Moyer-Lee in his attempt to appeal the decision to reject his application

3.2 To pressure the SOAS Management to investigate in the process that was used to scrutinize Jason's application

3.3 To pressure SOAS Management to reconsider Jason's application