

Participatory Budgeting

Time:	17:00
Date:	20th January 2016
Location:	JCR
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Welcome 2) Intro to Participatory Budgeting 3) Funding for Refugee Solidarity Convoy to Calais: Application for £500 4) African Development Forum Committee (2016). 5) "100 Years of Anti-Colonial Writers" Graffiti Event 6) Games Society 7) Kashmir Awareness Week/Israeli Apartheid Week Poetry Night 8) Queer in Asia Conference 9) SOAS Community Free Film Festival proposal - 7th-12th of March 2016 10) 180 Degrees Consulting SOAS 11) Documentary, "The Plight of Freedom" 12) SOAS Ceilidh Band 	

Participatory Budgeting – 20th January 2016

Title:	Participatory Budgeting Procedure
<p>1. Bids:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Bids must be sent to the Co-President Democracy and Education or Union General Manager no later than 5 working days before a Participatory Budgeting meeting. The acceptance of late submissions is at the discretion of the chair. b) Bids should consist of the amount required, the justification and the payee's details c) The Union cannot be committed to ultra vires payment; this means that union cannot fund anything outside of its aims and objectivities, as stipulated with the constitution and regulated by the Charities Commission and 1994 Education Act. In particular, the union cannot make donation to external charities, either directly or in kind. d) A cap shall be placed on the total amount of resource available at each participatory budgeting session, bids cannot exceed this cap. The cap will be announced when the notice for the participatory budget session is announced. e) <p>2. Procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum is present. 30 persons entitled to vote upon the business to be transacted, each being a Member, shall be a quorum. b) If such a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such other day, time and place as the Trustees may determine and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting the Members present shall be a quorum. c) The meeting shall begin with a review of the bids, where the chair shall rule out bids that do not fall within the remit of Participatory Budgeting, breach the constitution, or can be sourced through an alternative, more favourable, means. d) Proposers of bids will be asked to give a three minute presentation 	

- of their bids at the start of the meeting.
- e) The Chair will then invite the meeting to discuss each bid in turn in the order of the agenda. At any point a proposer can amend their own bid downwards or withdraw it. The order of discussion will be
 - i) Questions to the proposer
 - ii) Amendments to the bid (Amendments can either be accepted by the proposer or will go to a vote)
 - iii) A speech against the bid
 - iv) A vote on the bid
 - f) This is continued for each of the bids. If at the end of the meeting the cap for the meeting is reached, the Chair will suggest reducing each bid proportionally by ratio to reach the cap (each will be reduced by the same percentage). Each of the proposers will be given one last opportunity to reduce or withdraw their bids

Proposal One

Proposal:	Funding for Refugee Solidarity Convoy to Calais: Application for £500
Proposer:	Monique Bell
Contacts:	Hannah Phillips

This Union Notes:

- The refugee camp in Calais named 'The Jungle' is currently home to 6000 displaced people
- They are currently surviving on donations from various grassroots organisations
- There is a convoy of people going to 'The Jungle' in February 2016
- A budget has already been crowdfunded to take cookers, gas and building equipment
- People from Britain are funding themselves to take aid over to Calais
- There is a warehouse nearby to The Jungle with items that are needed on the camp
- Currently, there is not enough (wo)manpower to distribute all items in the warehouse
- £500 will allow students to have a proportion of a coach convoy to Calais via the Eurotunnel for free; approx. 30% of the coach (15-20 people), to distribute the aid

This Union Believes:

- A number of SOAS students should be able to go to Calais to give building supplies, food, clothing, hygiene products and other necessities
- This should not only be exclusive to those who can afford to fund themselves
- A more inclusive approach would enable those that do not have the financial resources to pay for a convoy to also help if they wish
- This is a fantastic one-day volunteering opportunity
- Students will help distribute items needed in the camp that will not make it to those that need it without this resource of people such as: clothing, sleeping bags, hygiene and sanitary products, children's books, cooking utensils, building equipment
- This will give students a real insight into the crisis that is happening on our doorstep
- Students will be able to witness the poor living conditions and lobby our government to do something on return
- Students will be able to witness that it is not only Syrians that are experiencing a crisis
- Students will be able to speak with refugees living on the camp
- Students will be able to engage with real issues that they may learn/discuss in

their courses putting theory into action

- Making this more accessible will mean that there is more diversity in the population of students (language/race/religion/class) going to Calais which will have a positive impact on the refugees
- This trip will encourage SOAS students to get involved in the on-going crisis in the long-term
- The last convoy meant that 20 SOAS students were able to go to Calais, 15 of which stayed over and helped with translation for a legal project with lawyers. Many others helped give out food parcels to children.

This Union Resolves:

- £500 will be spent towards a one day coach convoy to Calais in February which will allow SOAS students to contribute towards the refugee crisis and in particular the humanitarian aid work happening in the Calais camp, 'The Jungle'.

Proposal Two

Title:	African Development Forum Committee (2016).
<p>The SOAS African Development Forum (ADF) is an innovative, student-driven platform for championing African development. Each year, a team of ten to twelve graduate and postgraduate students from SOAS come together to create the annual African Development Forum. We aim to promote international interaction, generate lively, thought-provoking discussion and challenge assumptions surrounding development in Africa.</p> <p>Since the beginning of the ADF in 2012, various insightful development-related topics have been raised; Africa Driving its Own Growth (2012), Africa's Next Generation a Bright Future? 'Mobilizing Youth & Innovative Africa' (2013), Creative Africa (2014), African Social Enterprise 'Development from Within' (2015). The forum for this year is 'Inclusive Growth: Structural Transformation in Africa'. Structural transformation is a process where resources move away from unproductive activities towards productive activities leading to economic growth and development. In the case of Africa this would involve diversification and a movement away from commodity dependence. The forum will be facilitated on Saturday 12th March at the Khalili Lecture Theatre and will be organized around 3 panels; 1.) What is Structural transformation and what's the current state of African structural transformation in Africa? 2.) Can technology allow Africa to "skip a step"? 3.) Can Africa be the first continent to develop sustainably?</p> <p>The forum is a unique opportunity to reach different groups ranging from academics, practitioners, students and various development organizations working in the area of development. It is an open forum for all interested in African development.</p>	
<p><u>Budget for the Forum</u></p> <p>The ADF will be applying for £500. If the ADF are selected for the bid, the</p>	



money will go towards:

➤ **Travel for the speakers**

Although we are not inviting speakers overseas, there is a total of nine speakers some of who may be travelling from other parts of the UK.

➤ **Catering**

The Forum will be for the whole day, so we will be providing lunch and light refreshments. To coincide with the topic of African development, we will be providing a selection of African food (with an option for vegetarians), as well as food for guests who do not want to eat African food. Catering will be for all participants which includes; 145 guests, 12 speakers and also the ADF team.

Proposal Three

Title:	"100 Years of Anti-Colonial Writers" Graffiti Event	
Proposal Outline:		
Budget:		
Item	Detail	Amount (£)
Paint	"100 Years of Anti-Colonial Writers" Bar Repaint	100
Printing Costs	For thematic outdoor exhibit on the history and politics of Lebanese Graffiti	50
Airline Tickets	Covering cost of 1 Airline Ticket return Lebanon-UK	250
Total		500
<p>This year, the Decolonizing our Minds Society along with graffiti website Lebanese Walls have teamed up to host a live graffiti/hip hop event from March 9th-11th. In light of SOAS's upcoming centennial celebrations, this event will celebrate "100 Years of Anti-Colonial Writers" as a way of reflecting on those who have provided an alternative perspective to the Schools historic coloniality. The SOAS student union continuously challenges the status quo and pushes students to think critically on the social, political, and cultural aspects that arise in life outside of a classroom. Keeping this in mind, this event aims at providing the SOAS bar with a much needed lift, celebrating our school's centennial whilst keeping true to the SOAS SU spirit and beliefs, painting a reflective piece on the people and texts that have guided us and asked us to think critically of our own privileges and histories, and hosting a participatory and smashing fun late license graffiti night with two well-known Lebanese graffiti artists.</p>		
Wednesday, March 9th, 2016:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Outdoor thematic exhibit featuring a range of street art from Lebanon. ❖ "100 Years of Anti-Colonial Resistance" repaint of the bar begins. 		



Thursday, March 10th, 2016:

- ❖ Outdoor thematic exhibit featuring a range of street art from Lebanon.
- ❖ "100 Years of Anti-Colonial Resistance" painting of the bar continues.

Friday, March 11th, 2016:

- ❖ Panel Discussion hosted by Decolonizing our Mind Society - (Working Title) "Decolonising Graffiti: On Sectarianism, Political Gridlock, and Street Art in Lebanon" – The artists Yazan Halwani and Ali Rafei, along with recent SOAS alumni Amar Shabandar who runs a website on the Lebanese graffiti scene, will speak on the history, themes, motivations, and politics of graffiti and graffiti artists in Lebanon.
- ❖ Outdoor thematic exhibit featuring a range of street art from Lebanon.

"100 Years of Anti-Colonial Resistance" Late License Party. The artists, Ali Rafei and Yazan Halwani, will finish up the bar with a participatory and interactive graffiti/hip hop night to celebrate the event.

Proposal Four

Title:	Games Society
Proposer:	Ifthekar Ahmed (610406)
<p>1) <i>Mini Projector, Tripod and speaker</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOAS lacks large rooms with the capacity to use gaming consoles on the projector. For the last year and a half, we have been reliant on one of our members bringing their personal mini-projector who is now currently at UCL. • If we are unable to play video games then it would severely undermine a fundamental part of our society. • The said equipment could also be borrowed by other societies when not in use. • Projector - £219.00 – http://www.maplin.co.uk/p/miroir-mp50-dlp-led-854-x-480-portable-projector-n59qq • Tripod - £16.99 - http://goo.gl/ZuNScD • Speaker - £8.99 – http://goo.gl/EI7IEQ 	
<p>2) <i>SOAS v LSE Games</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition in which the gaming societies of SOAS and LSE face each other. • We held this event last year, thanks to the organisation of LSE games society. Now we would like to do the same at SOAS but this time, we wanted increase the scale and make it an inter-university public event. • The idea is to book a lecture theatre sometime during March on a Saturday and host a series of gaming challenges where one society would be crowned winner. • We would like to be able to provide drinks and snacks for the event and invest in a trophy for the winner. We want to this be an annual cooperation between the societies and maybe even others in due time. • Requesting funding of £50. Trophy cost - £11.65 - http://goo.gl/pHLkYO 	

Proposal Five

Title:	Kashmir Awareness Week/Israeli Apartheid Week Poetry Night
Proposer:	Abdulla Saad, President, SOAS PalSoc SOAS Palestine Society and SOAS Kashmir Solidarity Movement
<p>Event: Kashmir Awareness Week/Israeli Apartheid Week Poetry Night</p> <p>Date: 20th February 2016, time TBC</p> <p>Location: DLT</p> <p>Proposed funds: £500.00</p>	
<p>The SOAS PalSoc and KSM aim to organise a poetry night on the weekend that connects Kashmir Awareness Week to Israeli Apartheid Week. So far, Remi Kenazi, a well known Palestinian poet based in the United States, has been confirmed as the headline act, with other acts yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>This event is important because it creates a common link between the struggles in Palestine and Kashmir and is a great example of inter-societal cooperation. Upon contacting other interested groups in the University and outside of it, interest in the event is incredibly high and it will serve to heighten the profile of SOAS SU as well as the involved societies across London.</p> <p>The money will be spent by the Palestine Society and the Kashmir Solidarity Movement in order to facilitate the travel and accommodation needs of the performers involved. We aim to hold this as a free event with possible donations being put towards deserving causes, so this grant is important as it allows us to pull it off without the burden of ticketing and excluding students who may want to attend but do not possess the necessary funds.</p>	

Proposal Six

Title:	Queer in Asia Conference
<p>The Queer in Asia conference is one of the first to be held at SOAS, where the attempt is to bring together research students and early career researchers to share work on queerness, transplantsations and transliter/lations of queerness in Asia. The conference aims to be very broad so as to include all disciplines, but is focused on the ways in which queer is understood and deployed in different parts of Asia.</p> <p>The idea for the conference was born out of a recognisable lack in inter-regional/ Asia conversations on Queer themes at SOAS which would be an ideal environment for such dialogue.</p> <p>The conference is structured as a 2 day event with the first day focused on giving research students a safe and conducive environment to share their work on queer topics in Asia – the need for such a space is important because of the many restrictive social, cultural, religious and legal practices in many parts of Asia.</p>	
<p>Funding will be spent towards the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitating film makers/ activists from various parts of Asia to send/ show their work at the 2nd day of the event. - Logistics of the conference including travel costs for keynote speakers - Priority will be given to those panels which are geared towards queer youth performers/ artists who may express a need for financial assistance for their travel/ accommodation expenses. <p>Amount sought – Whatever is the maximum possible.</p>	

Proposal Seven

Title:	SOAS Community Free Film Festival proposal - 7th-12th of March 2016
<p>Free Films Festivals is a community group formed in 2010 to promote free film screenings in neighbourhood venues. It is entirely not-for-profit and run by volunteers. There are currently eight Free Film Festivals in Peckham & Nunhead, New Cross & Deptford, Herne Hill, Camberwell, South Norwood & Thornton Heath, London Fields, Streatham and Weston-super-Mare.</p> <p>Free Film Festivals appeal to people of all ages and all backgrounds. The aims of Free Film Festivals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create community-run film festivals in specific postcodes, small geographical areas or neighbourhoods. • To promote community cohesion and social inclusion by bringing people together from across the community to enjoy a great movie and celebrate their local area too. Film is an ideal medium for this because it appeals to such a wide cross section of people. • To promote skills development by supporting the running of workshops and filmmaking events and offering volunteering opportunities which give people the chance to gain new skills and interests. • To support local filmmaking talent by creating opportunities for local filmmakers to bring their films to a wider audience by, for example, running short film events and competitions. <p>Free Film Festivals is about showing films in interesting local venues. It's about increasing the 'feel good' factor of people in the community by providing free and enjoyable events in popular public spaces, including outdoor screenings.</p> <p>The SOAS Community Free Film Festival will be unique in that it is the first festival which is not based in a specific neighbourhood. Nonetheless, we hope that our festival will help to promote community cohesion in SOAS and around the immediate area in a similar way to other festivals. Therefore, as well as individual societies organising events as part of the festival, including panel discussions, live performance etc., the festival will also provide an opportunity to branch out and establish links with organisations outside SOAS, such as local venues, independent businesses, residents associations and schools.</p>	

We hope that by promoting relationships between SOAS and the wider area we can help contribute towards a sense of community between two areas which, although not separated by much geographically, rarely engage in collaboration. This nurturing of relationships will hopefully lead to increased collaboration and openness between both parties in the future, with further positive outcomes.

In addition, as part of the festival we will provide an opportunity for film makers in SOAS and those in the SOAS network to submit their own films to a film making competition. This competition is open to experienced film makers as well as amateurs. These films will then be screened as part of the festival, with all applicants getting an opportunity to see their film being watched by an audience. We will collaborate with the SOAS Film Makers society on this project, and will hopefully also access the resources SOAS already has for film makers, such as the film making laboratory in the library.

Budget

- leaflets and posters. £300
- Licenses £700 (average £100 each)

Proposal Eight

Title:	180 Degrees Consulting SOAS
<p>180 Degrees Consulting is the world's largest student consultancy for non- profits and social enterprises. Our aim is to bridge a gap by providing consulting services to organisations that may otherwise not be able to afford them and empower students- by giving them the opportunity to take ownership of a consulting project, whilst making a positive social impact. We have established the SOAS branch as part of a network of over 60 universities worldwide and hope to provide innovative, practical and sustainable solutions to challenges faced by non-profits in our community and beyond.</p>	
<p>How much do you want?</p> <p>£400</p>	
<p>What is the funding for?</p> <p>Our ambition is to establish the 180 Degrees branch as a hub for social impact at SOAS, and hope to do this by holding events, inviting guest speakers and increasing awareness of the work that we do. Increasing awareness would involve a combination of marketing material, events and funding. We are trying to build a professional brand and require funds for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marketing material (£224.60) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Banner (£79.60) e.g. http://bannerprintingandroid.co.uk/roller-banners/ o Flyers (£30 for 1000) e.g. http://tinyurl.com/nmzcb78 o Printed t- shirts (£115 for 25) - Recruiting event (£25) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o We would like to host an interactive recruiting event. Given the time constraints (we want to start projects at the beginning of term 2), holding a recruiting event will allow us to meet students and offer them interviews, thereby removing the application form process. This would enable 180 Degrees to have the necessary personnel to fulfil its purpose. This event would use the marketing materials costed above. - Resources for project work (£150) 	

- Students volunteer their time to work on projects- however, as the work we do is free, we require funding for general resources to enable us to complete work for clients.

How does this align with the goals of SOAS and the Student Union?

We believe 180 Degrees' values align very much with SOAS. A significant number of our alumni go on to work with social enterprises, indicating the extent to which the values of the two accord. We want to build a platform at SOAS where students can learn more about the operations of social enterprises, gain valuable skills by working on project which will be beneficial for their careers, also making positive social impact. This funding will be the start of making the 180 Degrees branch at SOAS a sustainable and successful student-led consultancy.

In addition, we are contacting SOAS alumni that work in the third sector, forging lasting relationships that will enhance community, as we plan to invite alumni and everyone involved in projects to an end of term event to discuss our work.

Proposal Nine

Title:	Documentary, "The Plight of Freedom"
Proposer:	Samir Haroon through Huraia Society
<p>The Union notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is general lack of awareness about refugee camps in Kurdistan and, more broadly, on the lifestyles and struggles of refugees and their perspectives. - In the present situation there is more need than ever before to pay attention to struggles of refugees and to highlight their perspectives in this quickly moving situation. - SOAS as institution has always been a forerunner of minorities struggles, highlighting their agency and power. 	
<p>The Union believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That the SOAS spirit is one of inclusion and support from minorities. - That the SU is a space for creative engagement and analytical thinking and should promote projects which aim at benefitting the community at large through increasing consciousness on the refugee crisis in different parts of the world. - That the SU is currently supporting, through various societies and groups, the efforts of oppressed people and refugees around the world. - That a documentary screened and debated within and outside SOAS could positively impact on the student body and on the wider public. - The inherent value of independent documentaries as tool of communication and divulgation of ideas. 	
<p>The union resolves</p> <p>-To support the documentary "Plight of freedom". It explores 3 refugee camps in Kurdistan, one of which is the largest refugee camp in the area, run by the UNHCR. The film is composed of interviews with stories from regions around Syria and Iraq. We explore what these families have encountered to achieve safety and what they plan on doing next. As well as showing what life is like after leaving Syria, we also have access to a number of Refugees who have made it to England who are interested in sharing their stories and raising awareness of the tormenting ordeal that a number of people have to go through.</p> <p>- To continue the screening of the documentary throughout its completion with the help and support of huraia society</p>	

Budget Plan			
Translation/ Transcribing	Vaccinations	Travel Insurance	Cost of sound mix
Translators (£10 per hour of footage) 21 hrs of footage	25£ each x 3 members	31£ each x 3	Post production
210 £	75£	93£	80£

Proposal Ten

Title:	SOAS CEILIDH BAND
Proposer	Phoebe Fisher
<p>We tried very hard to get all our paperwork in on time for the eligibility for Societies Funding – but our members were away travelling and in the end we failed, and the Ceilidh Band was awarded only £100, rather than the £680 that we had requested.</p> <p>SOAS Ceilidh Band is a very active SOAS Society. We contribute significantly to student life at SOAS. We regularly play for social and struggle events (picket lines, occupations etc). We are engaged in migrant solidarity work in Calais and now Lesbos (spearheading the “SOAS Goes to Calais” initiatives). And we engage regularly in outreach work, playing for charities in London, and touring with musicians overseas, where we play at schools and universities. We are also present and visible at SOAS itself, playing ceilidhs every term (and outside when the weather permits/in the bar/on the steps/in the stairwells...)</p> <p>We need funding to be able to do this.</p> <p>The main expenses for the band are in two areas: funding for travel, and additional equipment.</p> <p>ITEM: In March 2016 we are taking the Band to Istanbul, to play a St Patrick’s night ceilidh at the James Joyce Hotel. That will be followed by travel to Kobane, Kurdistan [or to Kurdish communities in Turkey] for Newroz 2016.</p> <p>Most of our travel funds will be self-funded, coming from gigs that we are organising between now and then.</p> <p>However we do request payment of £200.00 from SU funds to</p>	

help meet those travel costs.

Total: £200.00

ITEM: In February 2016 we travel to Calais to play a solidarity gig, and then on to Paris for a concert and ceilidh dance. Most of our travel expenses will be self-funded.

However we do request payment of £200.00 from SU funds to help meet those travel costs.

Total: £200.00

ITEM: We need to buy the following equipment for the coming period:

Four music stands @ £20 each.

Total: £80.

TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST: £480.

If the full amount is not available, then we request payment of whatever lesser amount is judged appropriate.