

UGM Minutes 24th January 2018

Time:	17:00
Date:	24 th January 2018
Location:	JCR
Agenda 1. Welcome 2. Minutes & Matters Arising 3. Reports from officers 4. SOAS Students' Union to call on Keir Starmer MP to support the Divest Parliament campaign 5. Increase Disposable Hot Drinks Cup Charge to 50p 6. Boycott the NSS 2018 - Stop TEF! 7. Restructuring chat Motion details: https://soasunion.org/democracy/ugm-motions/	

REF	ACTION/ DISCUSSION	NOTES
1	The chair (Sandy Nicoll – SOAS UNISON Branch Secretary) introduced himself and gave an overview of how the meeting would proceed. No reports would be read out because this was done last week. This UGM was rescheduled from last week, which was postponed because quorum was not reached.	
2	Ratified minutes	no questions raised
3	No emergency motions put forward	

4	<p>SOAS Students' Union to call on Keir Starmer MP to support the Divest Parliament campaign</p> <p>Speech For: Motion Proposer Kate Dyer outlined importance of divestment & called on SOAS Students' Union to undersign a letter calling on local MP Keir Starmer to support the divest parliament pledge.</p> <p>No amendments No speech against Vote for motion – motion passes</p>	<p>Motion Passed</p>
5	<p>Increase Disposable Hot Drinks Cup Charge to 50p</p> <p>Speech For: Motion Proposer Elizabeth Frost outlined that SOAS goes through 5,000 cups a week, and that we need to reduce this and eventually aim for no cups.</p> <p>Amendment suggested - to include in the motion looking into a reusable cup lease system</p> <p>Speech against amendment – it would be impractical to have a deposit system in the S.U. shop, and we should look to the school to introduce these kinds of schemes rather than it falling on the S.U.</p> <p>Question - what is point of separation at source when it's all mixed together</p> <p>Speech against amendment - health and safety of mug deposit system is a concern</p> <p>Neutral – we could have Keepcups for deposit system (which can be taken into the library), but it would be difficult to provide enough cups for demand</p> <p>Point - Often things get dumped on people working in the shop, and they bear the brunt of people getting frustrated when finding out about new policies Vote on amendment - falls</p>	<p>Motion passed</p>

Speech against - does this motion go far enough? Does it not need to go further to encourage people to make a change e.g. banning them completely

Speech against – the waste we see in the world is not caused by individuals, and individuals should not have to pay the price. We need systemic change.

Speech for – our actions do have an impact, and can affect what corporations do. Action needs to start with the individual.

Speech against – it's important to have a collective focus when thinking about our campaigns – for example focusing on the in-house process, SOAS should have a zero waste/ minimum waste policy

Proposed amendment: combining points 5 & 6 in 'This Union Resolves' to include the S.U. pushing for zero or minimum waste at all stages of the in-house catering process

Voting on amendment - amendment carried forward

Speech against amended motion- how do we know that a cost increase is going to have any impact on the consumption of take away drinks?

Shop staff: since the cost for takeaway cups increased to 25p, the people who care still care and bring a reusable cup, and the other people are a lot ruder. It's frustrating to have to deal with people being so rude, and people sometimes get wild with anger on this topic e.g. during the 10p cost increase, and when we run out of lids.

Point of clarification – it's important to be clear about what we are voting for – to increase the disposable cup charge to 50p, with the extra going towards subsidising reusable cups so they are cheaper

Speech against - people are just going to go elsewhere to get their coffee unless we have a campus-wide policy

Speech against – why aim for zero waste in future - why not now

	<p>Proposer: It would be good to start with this motion - and we can aim for completely cup-free</p> <p>Vote for amended motion – motion passes</p>	
6	<p>Boycott the NSS 2018 - Stop TEF!</p> <p>Speech For: Hamish Anderson outlined that SOAS is not set to benefit from TEF. He put forward a proposal to push for another successful boycott & set an example for other institutions, as happened last year.</p> <p>Speech against – the marketization of higher education is happening whether we like it or not, and TEF will help keep SOAS relevant.</p> <p>Speech for – we shouldn't just jump through the hoops that are given to us, TEF is all about marketization and controlling the ways in which we are graded and compared - even though it is voluntary, it is still another neoliberal tool that we should avoid if possible.</p> <p>Speech against - if we want SOAS to remain relevant and continue being a top University, we need to appeal to students – and the TEF is a way to do this.</p> <p>Speech for - the issue with marketization is that it moves towards homogeneity - keeping SOAS marketable (i.e. by pandering to the TEF) is different from maintaining its vibrancy, which is surely what we all want.</p> <p>Speech for - if we want to have a voice in shaping the higher education system (i.e. which currently is characterised by marketization of higher education, e.g. with the Office for Students – which has no actual students in it), then the NSS boycott is one of our ways to do this and make a point. It was very successful last year, and was followed by 12 other institutions.</p> <p>Speech for - Instead of being told what it means to be relevant, we should be invited to the table to offer what valuable characteristics of an institution are - if we get bronze etc. it</p>	<p>Motion Passed</p>

	<p>won't actually mean that student needs are being addressed etc., it just looks better on paper.</p> <p>Proposer: The future of SOAS, if it goes for TEF, means it will be bending to become like other universities & it will become something else e.g. like UCL. If that's the case, then it's lost its unique character and is no longer worth saving.</p> <p>Vote for motion – motion passes</p>	
7	<p>Restructuring chat</p> <p>Nisha Philipps outlined the current situation with the working group, and outlined plans for the next whole school walkout on Monday January 29th to coincide with working group meeting in Senate House.</p>	