



# Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

9<sup>th</sup> January 2020

11am – 1pm

**Chair:** Peadar Connolly-Davey

## **Agenda**

1. Officer Check In
2. Action Point Update
3. Working Group Update
4. Refreshers
5. SU Letter to MP
6. AOB

**Apologies:** Nare Hakobyan, Anirudh Srivathsan, Charli Keely

**In attendance:** Valeria Racu, Peadar Connolly-Davey, Hisham Parchment-Pryce, Maxine Thomas-Asante, Inaki Arrizabalaga, Nidah Kaiser, Sohane Yahya, Kate Saunders, Ciro Puig, Oscar Ward

**Quora reached!**



**1. Officer Check In**

A very brief chat was had about how everyone's winter break was.

**Action points:** N/A

**2. Action Point Updates**

Action points from previous meeting | Update

Anna to look into tech options so exec get notified when changes happen in their working group document	Anna not present to update
<b>Peadar to check with Myriam or Jesse about sports at Refreshers</b>	Done
Peadar to talk to Jack about comms for Refreshers	Done
<b>Maxine to share design resources folder with exec and Jack</b>	Shared with Jack
Jack to create a vector of the SU social media handles	Not done
<b>Paulien to join the ethical fashion week working group and speak to Charli about digital ambassador equipment</b>	Paulien not present to update
Peadar to send exec information on society budget proposal, and decision to be made via email	Not done – being brought to the Board of Trustees instead

**Action points:**

Peadar to ask Anna about action point update  
Jack to share design resources folder with Exec

**3. Working Group Updates**

Sohane has found someone to film and edit the content needed for Ethical Fashion Week

**Action points:** N/A



#### 4. Refreshers

**Sohane:** Events are organised – currently making posters to advertise

**Peadar:** Music brunch is organised – Juicy Fruit to perform. Am worried about the Disability is Political event as I haven't heard from the organiser in a while however. **Maxine:** That's their working style, I wouldn't worry about it!

**Nidah:** Everything is ready for mature student takeover – currently making posters to advertise

**Hisham:** Zine making workshop is ready, just finalising its direction

**Kate:** Late licence is sorted – currently making posters to advertise  
**Maxine:** Please can everyone promote the late licence!

**Oscar:** Event is organised – currently making posters to advertise

**Peadar:** We'll be making goody bags at 3pm on Friday for Refreshers if anyone could please help!

#### Action points:

Peadar to check if the Russell Room is free to goody bag making

#### 5. SU Letter to MP

**Nidah:** The Indian government has brought in a prejudice bill and the state is using police brutality against student action. I want to write to our local MP to alert him to this and see if there's any action he can take in parliament. The letter would be the same as that sent out to the student body earlier this week but addressed on behalf of the SU.

A discussion was had around the sign off for the letter, with the main discussion centring around:

**Maxine:** We can sign as the executive committee but if we sign as the SU we would need to consult the student body.

**Valeria:** We were elected to represent the student body so we should be able to sign as the SU?

A vote was taken:

Any blocks? No

Any reservations? **Sohane:** We should sign off as executive committee as we represent the students so this is enough



Outcome: Letter to be signed off as SOAS SU Executive Committee

**Action points:** N/A

## 6. AOB

### #1

**Maxine:** When we appointed a permanent chair for the UGMs we agreed to come back and speak on their progress after the second UGM. We've had two UGMs. Does anyone have any feedback on May? Are we happy to continue with her as chair?

**Oscar:** UGMs are better now and attendance seems to be higher

**Kate:** Atrium is a good venue for the UGMs

**Inaki:** We should make sure to emphasise in each UGM that May is external to SOAS

Everyone is happy to continue with May!

### #2

**Valeria:** UCU are balloting at SOAS to see if they are going to strike this term. Ballots are open until January 28<sup>th</sup>. Strikes would happen at the end of February / beginning of March if approved. Do we want a motion in a UGM to see if the student body supports the strikes?

Outcome: Yes. Motion to be submitted for January 20<sup>th</sup> UGM.

**Maxine:** If strikes happen they may affect our Spring election process and we're currently looking into what to do if this is the case

A discussion was had about the benefits of a UGM motion on the strikes or a referendum. It was raised that while referenda are good however there is not enough time for people to get informed beforehand. A UGM motion can be used to call a referendum, giving more time for people to be aware of the issue and get informed.

**Valeria:** Shall we create a working group for the strikes?

Outcome: Yes

### #3

**Peadar:** Exec have to send apologies if they are not able to attend a meeting, and failure to send apologies twice in a row can lead to dismissal from the role. We have a high number of people who are not sending apologies and not attending for multiple weeks in a row. What do we want to do about this, as some student groups are now not being represented in these meetings?

**Maxine:** For clarification the dismissal policy is something brought in before our term!



**Maxine:** These meetings are to provide accountability and people are not attending to provide / ask for that accountability

**Oscar:** This is resulting in some exec working harder than others. Have we tried contacting them?

**Maxine:** We have reached out to a number of them.

**Sohane:** If these exec represent liberation groups then by dismissing them we eliminate the representation of that group. Do we really want to dismiss people who are doing work but just not attending the meetings?

**Valeria:** People have stepped down in the past. It is difficult with liberation officers as we need the representation. We have figured out ways to better support some exec who were concerned about their roles previously. We are only asking for a response to an email – is that too much to ask?

**Peadar:** We could get the new officers from the spring elections to take over early – that has happened before

**Hisham:** We should look at what they're doing outside of the meetings to see if they are doing their roles

**Inaki:** If people are not doing their jobs, not just not coming to meetings, then it would make dismissal more justified

**Maxine:** You don't have to be on exec to do some of the work. These meetings are part of being an exec member.

**Maxine:** Shall we take time to reflect on this?

Outcome: Yes

**Maxine:** We can't make a decision on this without people being aware first. We'll make this an agenda item for the next meeting

#### **#4**

**Valeria:** What's everyone's thoughts on sending statements through exec to change and signing off on them as a committee?

**Maxine:** I like everyone being able to check but the statement [Paul Stott] ended up being disjointed and didn't address what the black student community wanted/needed it to. As it was an open document with people coming with different views it makes sense that it ended up this way.

**Sohane:** In future maybe the sabs and the liberation officer involved should write these and exec just look over and approve (not edit)?

A discussion was had about the utility of an open document shared with exec, and how comfortable people feel making changes in this public setting or saying they are not happy with something in this setting. It was decided that while this is good to ensure everyone can read the statement it doesn't work having everyone edit as the intentions may be diluted.



**Maxine:** It would be great to address all statements in a face to face meeting but that's not always practical

**Sohane:** The ideal way is to have officers from the liberation groups involved in the incident write the statement with the sabs. We have a relationship where we can tell sabs that we aren't happy with how the statement is. Then other execs can approve the statement at the end before sending.

**Maxine:** Liberation officers and the lead sab could have edit access and everyone else only comment access.

**Sohane:** This incident was a case of anti-black racism and we aren't addressing this even though it exists in the white and poc communities. That's why we try to put on lots of black only events.

**#5**

**Sohane:** For Refreshers I want to do an Instagram story where we talk to black students about their favourite black moments of the year but I've not got any experience interviewing people. Does anyone have any ideas about what I can ask or wants to take lead on the interviews?

**Maxine:** I'll help!

**Action points:**

Valeria to create a strikes working group

Jack to add agenda item to next exec meeting on attendance

Jack to ask Antonia about coffee vouchers