



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

23rd January 2020

3pm – 5pm

Chair: Hisham Parchment-Pryce

Agenda

1. Officer Check In
2. Action Point Update
3. Working Group Update
4. Response / Attendance of Exec Meetings
5. Managing Complaints
6. LGBTQ+ History Month
7. Womxns History Month
8. What Events Should the SU Help SOAS Organise?
9. AOB

Apologies: Nidah Kaiser, Serena Coulson, Hasan

In attendance: Inaki Arizabalaga, Hisham Parchment-Pryce, Charli Keely, Sohane Yahya, Peadar Connolly-Davey, Youssra Elmagboul, Oscar Ward, Maxine Thomas-Asante, Paulien Broens, Anabelle Jones, Miriam Amrani, Katie Saunders, Omer Wasim, Valeria Racu, Nare Hakobyan

Quora reached!



1. Officer Check In

Peadar: Planning LGBT History Month

Youssra: Been off sick. Also involved in directors recruitment, complaints review and Enough is Enough review

Anabelle: Planning LGBT History Month and Womxns History Month

Paulien: Trying to think of how to engage PGR students

Maxine: Helped a lot in Refreshers. Working on Africa and its Diaspora degree programmes

Oscar: Planning for LGBT History Month

Sohane: Refreshers event went well but a low turnout of black students compared to white. Working on complaints and LGBT History Month

Charli: Planning LGBT History Month and Womxns History Month

Inaki: Looking at complaints and planning Green Week

Miriam: Organising a sport tournament in Paris. Exchange students have been joining our sports teams which is great, and the SOAS Spirit are writing an article on Muslim women in sport

Katie: Late licence went well. It's my birthday!

Hisham: Speaking to UCL BME officer about forming a BME student network at SOAS, incorporating some of the exec roles and making more specific roles within the network

Peadar: Planning a competition for the end of term late licence. Students can submit their ideas and we'll have a vote to decide the winning theme.

Action points: N/A



2. Action Point Updates

Action points from previous meeting | Update

Peadar to ask Anna about action point update [looking into technology for exec working group doc]	Anna is looking into it but nothing yet
Jack to share design resources folder with Exec	Done
Peadar to check if the Russell Room is free for goodie bag making	Done
Valeria to create a strikes working group	Done
Jack to add agenda item to next exec meeting on attendance	Done
Jack to ask Antonia about coffee vouchers	Done – but we need a discussion on how many coffee vouchers people can have in a year (to be discussed at Trustees)

Action points:

3. Working Group Updates

Strikes working group: If strikes go ahead we need an emergency exec meeting prior to the emergency UGM to make sure we know what we are able to do

Action points:



Inaki to start a Green Week working group

Yousra to update working groups doc

4. Response / Attendance of Exec Meetings

A conversation was started in the last exec meeting about attendance. Some members are not attending or sending apologies. Policy says if you don't come to two meetings consecutively you may be dismissed.

Discussions were had surrounding having a probation or disciplinary hearing, however the logistics of what constitutes "probation" and lack of understanding of welfare in these cases were raised.

A suggestion was raised that for the roles where attendance and response is lacking the newly elected officers from the Spring elections could take over the role early. Concerns were raised about these people taking on too much around their studies, however if proper communication is had about the role responsibilities and it being voluntary it may be okay. There is more concern about the lack of representation for liberation groups. Concerns were also raised about the newly elected individuals being rushed into trustee positions.

Suggestions were had to raise this issue via email to those who are not attending meetings, however it was noted that the discussion about attendance was noted in the agenda of the last email and that emails are clearly not working to generate engagement. It was agreed that officers and staff had done what they can to reach out to the non-attendees.

No final decision was reached.

Action points: All exec officers to welfare check other officers they are friends with

5. Managing Complaints

Sohane: I've been receiving complaints and have noticed our complaints procedure is overly



complicated. We have started a working group and a new complaints procedure plan.

Valeria: We've actually already revised the complaints procedure and will be bringing it to trustees next week. If you're receiving complaints now they need to be sent to the GM/sabs so we have a record of the complaints we're getting and can handle them

Sohane: I can send on the complaints after this, however there are issues that the people who formed the complaints don't want them to go ahead in the current complaints procedure – people don't trust the current system in the SU

Maxine: If issues are being raised, even if the student doesn't want a physical report, we try to go to Anna to find a solution. If people don't want to raise a formal complaint we can handle it at a grievance level – Anna has experience in this and can help. Issues should always be flagged for the sake of improving the SU.

Action points:

6. LGBT History Month

34 events mostly run by drag, QTIBPOC, and LGBT societies. A late licence is planned for February 21st.

There was lots of stealing at the last late licence so we're looking into having a cloak room / safe space for future late licences.

A discussion was had around what will happen if strikes occur. All events planned on strike days currently have alternative plans they could move to, except for the late licence. Discussions were had about keeping the late licence or moving it, given that it will be difficult to publicise and students may not want to cross the picket line. Opposing, the SU Bar is not a school space and the event would happen after striking had finished for the day.

A large discussion was had around a recent incident whereby a member of the planning committee for LGBT History Month, who is also a member of the executive committee, asked all societies for money to donate towards the month. Concerns were raised about how ethical this is, and that societies were only asked for money and not to be involved in the month itself. During BHM only appropriate societies were contacted. It was agreed that the action was distasteful, and an apology should be sent, but questions were raised about who the best person to send the apologies was.



Action points:

Jack to add agenda point on How Liberation Months Work for the next meeting

Peadar/Youssra to create liberation month guide

Jack to add agenda point on Changing Command / Responsibility in the SU

Sabs to prepare Changing Command / Responsibility in the SU

7. Womxn History Month

Charli and Anabelle have started planning for Womxn History Month.

Action points:

8. What Events Should the SU Help SOAS Organise?

An issue was raised about the SOAS Concert Series, promoting artists playing instruments from certain regions who are not originally from those regions. Should the SU be promoting this when we don't give space to artists who are from those regions?

Peadar: The organiser of the event is South Asian themselves, and there is good representation throughout the event series as a whole. If there are issues with things like this with the school I'm happy to put you in contact with the person, or contact them for you to discuss.

Maxine: Debates will always occur with these types of things, and people with similar backgrounds and experiences will disagree.

Decided to come back to this when the raiser of the issue is present – however understanding that we need to remain accountable for these types fo things.

Action points:



9. AOB

Katie: You need to have a rail card to receive the hardship fund. Is there a way for the SU to fund this?

Yousra: The railcard is meant to show you are trying to save money, for context. We can discuss.

Valeria: Please promote the mental health film festival!

Sohane: White ally meet ups start tomorrow. Every Friday 4pm – 6pm.

The strikes working group need to meet soon to discuss how to support students and the strikes. We may have to do conflict resolution.

Hisham to contact Lucia about BME network and black student caucus

Action points: