

SU Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Time:	17:00-18:45
Date:	08/02/18
Location:	MB 286
Exec Present:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamish Anderson – Academic Affairs Officer [HA] • Blanca Serrano – Academic Affairs Officer [BS] • Comfort Enoch-Moye – POC Officer [CE] • Lavinya Stennett – Working Class Students' Officer [LS] • Valeria Racu – Working Class Students' Officer [VR] • Danny Edwards – Sports Officer [DE] • Sophie Bennett – Sports Officer [SB] • Anna Gretton – Environment Officer [AG] • Pauline Ankunda – Entertainment Officer [PA] • Jess Kumwongpin-Barnes – Trans & Gender Identity Officer [JK] • Max Gleissner – Campaigns Officer [MG] • Daryan Omer – Campaigns Officer [DO] • Jonny Morrison - - Accommodation Officer [JM] • Amy Rose Joce – Mature Students' Officer [AJ] • Rachel Hau-Yu Tam – Postgraduate Taught Officer [HT] • Nisha Philipps – Co-President Democracy & Education [NP] • Dimitri Cautain – Co-President Welfare & Campaigns [DC] • Mehdi Baraka – Co-President Activities & Events [MB]
Chair:	MB
Others Present:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannah Short – Governance and Communications Coordinator [HS]
Apologies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halimo Hussain – Co-President Equality & Liberation [HH]
Absent:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katouche Goll – Disabled Students & Carers' Officer [KG] • Robyn Waite – Postgraduate Research Officer [RW] • Tawsin Ahmed – Anti-Racism Officer [TA] • Fran Floris – Women's Officer [FF]

Agenda	Who	Discussion/Action
1. Ratify minutes from last meeting	HS	Ratified
2. Election date change	NP	Proposal made of alternative dates for elections due to clashes with UCU strike dates



		<p>Suggested dates: Nominations close: Tuesday 20th 5PM Hustings: Saturday 24th 2PM</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why are we not pushing it back instead of bringing it forward? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Strike will intensify towards the end of term, so it's better to do it earlier → We need to have sufficient time following the election to deal with complaints if they arise (and due to complications related to strike, this is possibly more likely) → Most deadlines are concentrated towards the end of term, so we don't want to overburden candidates (as it is hard to do work and campaign at the same time) Concerns raised around holding hustings on a Saturday & implications for students who live far away and work on the weekend etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Discussed the need to film hustings so that people who can't attend are still able to watch it → Although this may mean that some students can't make it, this is also true for any night of the week – there is only ever a couple of hundred of attendees. The biggest problem is in relation to candidates not being able to make it → need to chat to possible candidates about whether or not they can make it - if not, find out if there is some other way to include them <p>→ voted on decision to change the election dates</p> <p>FINAL NEW ELECTION DATES: Nominations close: Monday 19th 5PM Hustings: Saturday 24th 4PM Voting opens: 1st March 10AM Voting closes: 3rd March 5PM Results: 3rd March 6.30PM</p> <p>ACTION POINT: HA to update reps about election dates HS to send email to all students with new dates HS to design new posters & put them up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Need to put up posters around Dinwiddy House & Paul Robeson House to make sure people are aware of the changes </p>
<p>3. Complaint by member of exec</p>	<p>CE</p>	<p>Issue raised that S.U. actions don't reflect the experiences of everyday SOAS students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exec meeting time is taken up with things that don't seem relevant • Lack of support for exec members and important campaigns that are being carried out

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.U. doesn't represent the average student ➔ Wanting more collaboration between exec officers & mutual support to set up & run campaigns <p>e.g. excellence bursaries - there has been lots of communication between affected students and the school, but the responsibility has fallen on the students in question vs. the S.U. advocating on their behalf.</p> <p>This should be one of the issues that students are receiving direct support on</p>
4. UCU strike	NP, DC & MB	<p>There will be a meeting on Friday morning with Ian Pickup & Deborah Johnston about how the school is going to be dealing with the strike. Also, the School sent out an email today finally for the first time – there are lots of scenarios that are not outlined or referenced in the email.</p> <p>➔ Apparently attendance will be mitigated (this is done at school level)</p> <p>We need to decide on the S.U. position on the picket line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of people don't understand what's going on still - need to clarify basic points, many misconceptions exist! • People should feel the freedom to express solidarity/ take action how they choose to without feeling intimidated • Concerns raised about the wording in S.U. correspondence around the picket line – we need to think about the language used in relation to the strike – and avoid dogmatic rhetoric • We need to be mindful going forward about how information is presented and shared moving forward e.g. particularly focusing on people's individual choice regarding what they do in relation to the picket line (Also it's illegal to physically block entrance to the school) • Certain groups e.g. Students Advice & Wellbeing counsellors etc. won't be going on strike ➔ so some people will need to cross picket lines for essential services etc. • In other instances there have been specific stewards who assist people in crossing the picket line if they need to ➔ something that is being considered • Having neutral info available for students e.g. in case they do want to cross the picket line & a more neutral line in general BUT ➔ there is no neutral stance <p>Other things to organise during the strike:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Some kind of outside welfare zone - while always having a co-president etc. present outside

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → A list of alternative study spaces, which has been shared with student reps → Other ways we can support students on strike days → Perhaps a purple badge that says 'I'm going to the library'? But also, there are lots of other libraries around London... <p>Issue raised around whether or not we will be closing the S.U. including the shop - if it is closed, then everyone will be paid, but if not and some shop staff want to strike - their pay will be docked (and they will be replaced with other people to do their shifts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Decision about S.U. action on the strike will be taken during our S.U. trustees meeting on 13th Feb
5. Any other business	ALL	Other agenda items roll to next meeting