

SOAS Students' Union General Meeting
29/01/2015
SOAS JCR

Minutes from Previous meeting : Approved

Matters arising:

Actions from previous meeting:

- 1) **Solidarity with the Students Killed in Mexico - ¡Vivos se los llevaron, vivos los queremos!**
Awareness was raised through demonstration at SOAS
Petition hasn't been started yet
Contacts with wider European solidarity network and London network too on the go to organise conference
- 2) **Build a new smoking area in the Students' Union Bar**
Works in the summer
- 3) **Solidarity with Warwick Students**
Solidarity statement sent to Warwick students protesting for police brutality in December
- 4) **Victimization of SOAS Alumn for involvement in Cleaners Campaigns**
Jason Moyer-Lee campaign victorious
- 5) **Solidarity with the Syrians refugees in Calais**
Conference being organised by No Borders society
Petition still being worked on

Motion 7: Procedural Guidelines for the BDS Referendum at SOAS

David Suber: presents motion 7.

Speech for amendment: Richard S. Galber: Requesting threshold to referendum and that academic staff, cleaners and non-student community should not have ballot rights

Speech against amendment: Lauren Tapp: Threshold is not important in a consultative referendum and Cleaners and staff are part of the SOAS community and should be given the right to express their vote.

Vote on amendment: **fails**

Vote on the motion: **passes**

Motion 13: SOAS Supports Sex Workers' Rights

Lauren Tapp: presents motion 13

Speech against amendment: **none**

Vote on the motion: **passes**

Motion 12: Counter Terrorism and Security Bill: Students, not suspects

Saqib Ali Rafiq: presents motion 12

Speech for amendment: Matija Vlatkovic: 3.8 To lobby staff and the institution on this issue

Amendment accepted by proposer

Vote on amended motion: **passed**

Motion 9: Instate a Co-President Liberation Coordinator

Hannah Slydel : presents motion 9

Speech for amendment: Student : 3.4 To make job available for job-share, so as to be more accessible

Amendment accepted by proposer

Vote on amended motion: **passed**

Motion 10: Creating a new part-time executive position: Officer of Sports

Theodor Salvesen: presents motion 10

No amendments; no speech against

Vote on motion: **passed**

Motion 11: Creating a new part-time executive position: Class officer

Hannah Slydel: presents motion 11

No amendments; no speech against

Vote on motion: **passed**

Motion 5: Change "Students with Disabilities' Officer" to "Disabled Students and Carers' Officer"

Karmel Carey: presents motion 5

No amendments; no speech against

Vote on motion: **passed**

Motion 6: Revision of LGBTQ Officer schedule

Karmel Carey: presents motion 6

No amendments; no speech against

Vote on motion: passed

Motion 8: Formation of a Research Students' Association (RSA)

Mohamed Taha: presents motion 8

No amendments; no speech against

Vote on motion: passed

Motion 2: Make Ed Emery honorary member of the SOAS SU

David Suber: presents motion 2

No amendments; no speech against

Speech in favour: Sammi

Vote on motion: passed

Motion 1: Lapsing Motions

- 1.1 Opposing austerity measures, privatisation and cuts
- 1.2 Formally recognise the SOAS anthem written by Ali Khan
- 1.3 Submitting Educational and Non-educational priorities to the School every year
- 1.4 Oppose the criminalization of squatting
- 1.5 Sending SOAS delegates at NUS Conferences

No speeches against

Vote on all motions: passed

Motion 3: Tackling Harassment at SOAS

Georgie Robertson: presents motion 3

No amendments; no speech against

Vote on motion: passed

Motion 4: Stop oppressing students in the Egyptian universities

Mohamed Taha: presents motion 4

Comment on the motion: Richard S. Galber: It is hypocritical to pass such a motion when supporting for BDS

Vote on motion: passed

Motion 14: World Social Forum 2015

David Suber: presents motion 14

Speech against: Richard S. Galber: Morocco is occupying Western Sahara

Clarification by the Chair: Tunis is in Tunisia, not Morocco

Vote on motion: passed

Motion 15: Support Solar SOAS

Clare Birkett: presents motion 15

No amendments; no speech against

Vote on motion: passed

SU Officers Reports:

1) Co-President Democracy and Education:

- Democratise SOAS has come up with a reform paper to suggest solutions to school, reforming administrative nature of the school, at the moment divided in departments and faculties and no communication between departments and faculties. Reform paper will be made available online.
- SU Elections will be first week of March, nominations to begin in February, and finish after reading week.
- Communications officer has been hired after leaving of Vic Cambros.

No objections/questions made, all in favour of report.

2) Co-President Welfare and Campaigns

- Inclusivity day with great outcomes, results being collated to be published. Hopefully will move on from there to make a more inclusive institution.
- 18 February will be mental health inclusivity day, request for any volunteers to be involved.
- Justice for Cleaners restarted, campaigning to be brought in-house. Following week, week for justice for cleaners.
- Following week also, 7/02 conference for FFFP.
- Protest around Hamonsworth organised by Union for Justice also on 7/02.
- Following week to be green week.
- Protest next Saturday to protest about housing crisis.
- Final meeting of the fossil free meeting to be held tomorrow, hopefully good update next week.

No objections made, all in favour of report.

3) Co-President Activities and Events

- Thank you to Palestine, Tamil and Decolonising our Minds society.
- Tomorrow justice for cleaners party.
- Following week begins "out of sequence series", beginning on 6/02, followed by other late licences every month.
- February to be LGBTQIA+ history month, news online.
- All news about sports online. Sports survey available online on the union website.
- Newly formed lacrosse team. Casual football tournament to be organised.

No objections, all in favour.

4) Womens Officer:

- Women history month being organised.
- I love consent workshop coming up with LGBTQIA society.

5) Disabled Students and Carers' Officer

- Collating results of report. Mental health and bereavement support group still going on.

6) Post-graduate Research Officer

- RSA to plan about conference post-feed work.

7) Environment Officer

- Next week to be green week, most information available online.

8) Masters Student officer (presented by G.R.)

- masters forum organised