



SU Executive Minutes

Time:	17:00
Date:	17/10/16
Location:	265
Exec Present:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ali Habib – Co-President Democracy & Education [AH] • Neelam Chhara – Co-President Equality & Liberation [NC] • Ayesha Abbasi – Co-President Welfare & Campaigns [AA] • Ahmad Wattoo – International Officer [AW] • Agnes Van Der Loeff – Environment Officer [AL] • Micheil Page – Environment Officer [MP] • Mehdi Baraka – Anti-Racism Officer [MB] • Dana Sarkout Omar – Anti-Racism Officer [DO] • Sarah Bakhiet – Campaigns Officer [SB] • Ilyeh Nahdi – Sports Officer [IN] • Lana Shukir – LGBTQ Officer [LS] • Adwoa Darko – Co-President Activities & Events [AD] • Hannah Phillips-Rowbottom – Working Class Students' Officer [HR] • Nisha Phillips – Academic Affairs Officer [NP]
Others Present:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Dawson – Governance and Communications Coordinator
Apologies:	

Agenda	Who	Discussion/Action
Sabbatical Updates	All	<p>AD updated the group on the success of Freshers & thanked Exec for their help during the two weeks. She reported that the events had made money & informed exec on future events including Halloween, SU Awards & Black History Year.</p> <p>MB asked what were the main difficulties for freshers & how could the Union improve for future events</p> <p>AD reported that room bookings are an ongoing problem, which the Union is currently investigating for solutions, harassment has been an issue over term one, and Union space is also ongoing. AL suggested using University of London spaces.</p>



		<p>AA gave an update on Mental Health First Aid Training/Look After your Mate initiative, Women of Colour support groups, Enough is Enough campaign progress and a BME Mentor Scheme.</p> <p>DS and MB asked how AA planned to work with J4C, BDS and other prominent campaigns, and how should the SU respond generally to requests for campaign support.</p> <p>AA explained that campaigns needed to come up with a proposal and strategy including aims for the year, in order for the Union to support and work with them most effectively.</p> <p>NP expressed interest in working with AA on the Help your Mate, including working amongst departments to spread involvement.</p> <p>NC gave an overview of the three strands of Decolonising SOAS. She talked about running a 'how to talk about race' workshop using the same premise as the consent workshops, and gave an overview of the Anti-Harassment campaign.</p> <p>AH gave a debrief on the first UGM of the year, stating that the meetings will continue to be held in Senate House. He gave an overview of his educational priorities.</p> <p>Action: AH to distribute Attainment Gaps survey to Exec.</p> <p>AH then gave an outline of the School's restructuring plans and invited Exec to an event to start a discussion and campaign in response to these proposals.</p>
<p>Part-Time Officer Updates</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>AW reported that his international social at the beginning of the year had over 100 attendees and was a huge success. He is currently rallying students to attend NUS Demo.</p> <p>AL & MP: Gave an overview of Solar SOAS and their campaign against bottled water. They are hoping to collaborate with a number of societies with their campaigns.</p>



		<p>MB & DO: Spoke about their plans for Islamophobia Awareness Month. Also discussed plans for an Anti-Semitism event & campaign, seeking support from members of exec. They also discussed plans to organise a counter-event to the '100 years of SOAS' campaign.</p> <p>IN gave an overview of freshers events, including a high attendance for sports day and making £700 on Sports Night. The officers re currently facilitating teams and captains, and organise fortnightly sports Wednesdays.</p> <p>SB: Has been supporting Enough is Enough campaign & BME Mental Health. Told officers to come to her for help and support, particularly the Anti-Racism officers with their campaigns. She expressed an interest in supporting Neelam with her campaigns.</p> <p>LS: reported a successful freshers, with over 50 people attending games night. Gave an overview of upcoming events including a BHM event and a 'being Religious & Queer' event.</p> <p>HB: Wants to be part of the Enough is Enough & Help a Mate campaigns. Hoping to bring back student breakfasts. She gave a summary of work she is hoping to do, including improving budgets for access to learning funds, emergency loans and childcare & carers grants, introducing emergency oyster cards & hostel vouchers, and introducing a page on the website with employment rights.</p> <p>NP: explained her campaign to improve the mitigating circumstances process, in turn improving student mental health. Asked to work with AA on her campaigns.</p>
<p>Key Developments at SOAS</p>	<p>AH & NC</p>	<p>AH explained that with the University raising fees, the Union wanted to fight for more than just 30% of this rise to go towards scholarships.</p> <p>He discussed other unions SOAS SU is working with, and encouraged officers to contact their counterparts.</p>



		<p>AH also encouraged exec to sign NUS' response to the MPs' letter condemning the National President.</p> <p>NP asked whether the Union is boycotting the NSS like York Union.</p> <p>AH stated that the Union is supporting the NUS position of a boycott, but he wants this to go through a UGM. A discussion followed about the benefits of a boycott, using examples of other Unions.</p> <p>NP asked if SU was running events in the lead up to National Demo.</p> <p>AH: Wanted to seek Exec's views, but encouraged everyone to run events with sabbatical support.</p> <p>AL: Asked about the progress of course cuts and fractionals for fair play campaigns</p> <p>AH: Linked these campaigns with school's restructuring plans. He emphasised the Wednesday event as a starting point for the campaign. A discussion followed about the restructuring and how best to involve everyone in the campaign.</p> <p>Action: Restructuring to be a standing item in Exec meetings for the foreseeable future.</p>
<p>Any other Business</p>	<p>MB</p>	<p>MB asked about what happened with the Daily Mail email.</p> <p>NC gave a summary of her reply and the journalist's response.</p> <p>Action: AD to organise media training.</p> <p>It was agreed that MB, DO, HR, SB would be members of the Finance Committee alongside the current sabbatical officers.</p> <p>It was agreed that MB & MP would become involved with 'SOAS App' Development.</p>