



Monday 20th January 2020

UGM Agenda

Time:	16:00-18:00pm
Date:	20/01/20
Location:	Atrium
Chair:	May Gabriel, Rethink Mental Health
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ground Rules and Introduction2. Ratifying Previous UGM Minutes3. Exec Committee Reports4. Motion 1: My Reading List is Black Campaign5. Motion 2: Stop University of London collusion with the Egyptian regime6. AOB



UGM MOTIONS

Motion #1

Title:	My Reading List is Black Campaign
Proposer:	Onika Winston
This Union Notes:	
<p>1.1 . That reading lists at SOAS are dominated by Western (re)productions of knowledge and have mainly excluded works produced by Black writers.</p> <p>1.2 That efforts made by departments to 'decolonise' the curriculum, have meant that Black writers are mainly on 'recommended' reading lists rather than 'required' ones; or additionally, are only used in relation to decoloniality, gender theories, or African regions - and even then to a lackluster degree.</p> <p>1.3 That Black students have received criticism when incorporating Black or Non-Anglo/ European language/ ideologies within their work.</p> <p>1.4 That the attainment gap statistics at SOAS show that Black students are more likely to drop out or achieve lower-class degrees</p>	
This Union Believes:	
<p>2.1 That Black students at SOAS have frequently raised issue with the predominantly White reading lists at SOAS.</p> <p>2.2 That a greater variety of Black writers as well as their many forms of expression should be sourced at SOAS (Black refers to students of Black African ancestry. For example, this includes: Black Africans, Black Caribbeans, Black South-Americans, Black Americans, Black Pacifics, the Black diaspora, etc.).</p> <p>2.3 That there should be an increased representation of a 'Black presence' at SOAS (Bring back the 'A!').</p> <p>2.4. That there needs to be a change in the pedagogy that places Western literature as the most factual and effective academic source.</p>	
This Union Resolves:	
<p>3.1 That SOAS will actively support the 'My Reading List is Black' campaign working group with finances and labour to create an alternative reading list platform at SOAS that reflects the diverse research and literature produced by Black writers.</p> <p>3.2. That SOAS course conveners will incorporate readings from the reading list as required readings in their modules so that students can begin to actively engage with the texts.</p> <p>3.3. That the SOAS library will update its collection to ensure students have access to all the books on the reading list.</p>	
Amendments:	



Motion #2

Title:	Stop University of London collusion with the Egyptian regime
Proposer:	Alice Finden
<p style="text-align: center;">This Union Notes:</p> <p>1.1 That more than 3000 people have been arrested in Egypt since 20 September including academics, lawyers and activists.</p> <p>1.2 That despite this, Boris Johnson believes that the UK can make “positive progress in our bilateral relationship” with the Egyptian regime</p> <p>1.3 That UK universities, including University of Hertfordshire, Coventry University and University of London are pursuing partnerships with private educational firms either running “branch campuses” or offering their degrees in Egypt.</p> <p>1.4 That the Egyptian military deploys troops at universities within Egypt, and Egyptian students have been subjected to trials in military courts, forced disappearance, torture and prolonged detention without trial.</p> <p>1.5 That international students in Egypt are at risk, following incidents such as the murder of Cambridge PhD student Giulio Regeni while doing fieldwork in Cairo in 2016, and the arrest of two students from Edinburgh in October 2019.</p> <p>1.6 That over 200 academics, including many from University of London institutions, have signed an open letter calling on UK universities operating in or planning to open for business in Egypt to suspend these projects "until the human rights situation improves enough to ensure that academic freedoms are protected."</p> <p>1.7 That the Egyptian regime continues a violent crackdown on LGBTQI people through arrests and surveillance practices.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">This Union Believes:</p> <p>2.1 That in opening branch campuses and collaborating with local private HE providers to offer their degrees, UK universities are showing their willingness to put potential revenue from student fees before commitment to human rights and academic freedoms.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">This Union Resolves:</p> <p>3.1 To write to the Egyptian Ambassador, calling on the regime to release political prisoners, respect human rights and protect freedom of expression.</p> <p>3.2 To endorse the open letter and circulate to SOAS students and encourage as many as possible to sign</p> <p>3.3 To join a delegation to University of London collaboration with the academic signatories to hand in the letter</p>	



3.4 To send our banner and a delegation to the commemorative vigil for Giulio Regeni organised by Amnesty International on 1 Feb 2020 - 12 noon, at the Egyptian Embassy.

3.5 To approach other SUs, UCU, Unite and Unison branches within UoL to discuss a joint letter to senior management calling on the University to address our concerns about risks to LGBTQI staff who may be required to work in Egypt as a result of such partnerships.

Amendments: