



The following 4 motions were passed during the UGM on:

20<sup>th</sup> January 2020

All motions have been updated to include any *amendments* passed

**Motion #1**

Title:	My Reading List is Black Campaign
Proposer:	Onika Winston
<b>This Union Notes:</b>	
<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>	
<b>This Union Believes:</b>	
<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>	
<b>This Union Resolves:</b>	
<p>3.1. That SOAS SU will campaign the school to 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 SU will campaign the school to get SOAS course conveners to 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 SOAS SU will campaign the school to get the library to update its collection to ensure students have access to all the books on the reading list.</p>	



**Motion #2**

Title:	Stop University of London Collusion with the Egyptian Regime
Proposer:	Alice Finden
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Notes:</b></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;"><b>This Union Believes:</b></p> <p>1.1. 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;"><b>This Union Resolves:</b></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, <b>and call for a two-way arms embargo on Egypt</b></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> <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, <b>and to support other social movements in London and Egypt organising and campaigning for the above</b></p> <p>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.</p>	



**Motion #3**

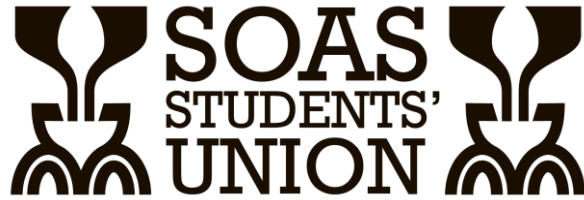
Title:	Support the UCU Call for Strike Action Over the Four Fights One Voice Dispute
Proposer:	Valeria Racu

**This Union Notes:**

- 1.1 a) That SOAS UCU branch is currently balloting for 14 days of strike action that have been called at a national level;
- b) that the ballot closes on 28th January 2020, and strike action has been called from the 20th of February until the 13th of March (Thursday 20th, Friday 21st, Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th, Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th, Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th and Friday 13th)
- 1.2 a) That this is a national dispute against Universities UK, which represents 68 University employers, in order to regain security and good working conditions for the sector at a national level.
- b) that this dispute started 3 years ago over pension cuts, due to UUK saying it would stop offering staff traditional “defined benefit” pensions, which offer a certainty of income in retirement, and instead put out a proposal to shift staff into a riskier, less generous “defined contribution” plan, which offers no assured pension;
- c) that the dispute has now expanded to four demands centred around falling pay, gender and racial pay gap, precarious employment practices and unsafe workloads, aiming to gain commitments at national level on the fight against casualisation in Higher Education.
- 1.3 a) That the current SOAS Director sits on the Universities UK Board, which is the “decision-making body” of Universities UK, focussing “on UK-wide issues and those issues in the constituent nations of the UK that have UK-wide implications or interest”;
- b) That SOAS, being represented on the Universities UK Board, is in an instrumental and powerful position to influence Universities UK proposals and decisions;
- c) That Universities and Colleges Union (UCU) represents a large number of academic staff nationwide, and at SOAS;
- d) That UCU ran a campaign to encourage young, career-starting academics, such as PhD students, to join the Union in 2017 and made membership free for those on teaching contracts in Further Education colleges and Higher Education institutions;
- e) That many UCU members who are in the early stages of their career are also members of the Students’ Union, and have been at the forefront of the anti-casualisation campaign at SOAS, Fractionals For Fair Play;

**This Union Believes:**

- 2.1 a) That supporting academics on increasingly precarious contracts is an important campaign in the fight against racialised and gendered exploitation in universities, which are mirrored in issues that campaigns such as ‘Decolonising SOAS’ seek to challenge;
- b) that showing solidarity towards SOAS staff members, in this case academic, is essential in order to show a united front against the marketisation of our education, especially when education fees are constantly raising and increasingly going towards managerial roles rather than making their way to the people responsible for our education;



- c) That the uncertainty and precarity of the sector which Universities UK is not addressing are counterproductive in creating a Higher Education system which has University staff valued and treated with dignity and respect;
- d) That strike action, locally and nationwide, despite always being a last resort, is one of the key mechanisms to resist negative changes and protect rights and working conditions across Higher Education;
- e) That winning this battle will give confidence to young academics, students and society more widely that we can shape our futures if we come together and take action against privatisation and commercialisation of our education;

**This Union Resolves:**

- 3.1 To support and show solidarity to the UCU strikes at SOAS and other institutions
- 3.2 To keep students informed about the negotiations and how students can take action to influence these negotiations to a fair resolution for UCU members;
- 3.2 To lobby SOAS Director, as a member of the UUK Board, to support the UCU's demands and put pressure on the UUK Board to reach a resolution as soon as possible,
  - 1.3 If strikes are called by the SOAS UCU branch:
    - a) To gain assurances from SOAS Senior Management Team that no student will be adversely impacted by the strike when it comes to graduation and continuation in their studies;
    - b) To call an Emergency Union General Meeting in which the Student Union will decide how to collaborate and support the strikes, including how to coordinate a student solidarity presence on UCU official picket lines at SOAS and at UCU-called protests; how to respect the picket line and encourage students to not come into SOAS premises on official strike days; and how to develop, in coordination with SOAS UCU, Unison and others, any other forms of solidarity action that students can take, including providing student support at the picket line.

**Amendments:**



**Motion #3**

Title:	Save Our Teachers, Save SOAS. Cut Managers
Proposer:	Imran Jamal
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Notes:</b></p> <p>1.1 SOAS management has suspended all academic research leave for the academic year 2020-21  1.2 SOAS management wants to drastically reduce the number of fractional teaching staff across the school  1.3 The rationale for these cuts is to make a further £1.5m saving  1.4 By some estimates the cost of fractional teaching at SOAS is £400k</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Believes:</b></p> <p>2.1. By suspending research leave SOAS will lose its position as a research university, having a long term adverse impact on the institution  2.2. It is a cynical move by SOAS to claim it is no longer dependent on fractional staff by getting rid of all fractional staff  2.3. Fractional members of staff are the most precarious members of teaching staff and by abolishing fractional posts a large number of teachers will be without their livelihoods  2.4. The school should be finding ways to help fractional members of staff out of precarity rather than making them more vulnerable  2.5. This is addition to the £1.5m cuts made through OPS last year. There has been no justification how much saving will be made by the new changes and cuts  2.6. A university reduced teaching staff but with an increase in students will adversely impact students, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds  2.7. Whilst cutting staff numbers over the past few years the number of senior managers has increased, with 07% of staff taking home 3% of the overall staff salary budget  2.8. The total fractional budget by some estimates is roughly the same as the salary of two of the highest paid individuals at SOAS  2.9. There are roughly 300 members of staff who may be affected by the changes  2.10. 9 members of staff at SOAS collectively earn over £1.2m</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Resolves:</b></p> <p>3.1 To demand:  a) No cuts to fractional staff  b) No suspension of research leave  c) Open the books – financial transparency  d) Any cuts, must first be made at the senior managerial level</p> <p>3.2 To support academic and professional members of staff in any action they decide to take against the changes SOAS management are trying to implement, such as walkouts, protests, etc.</p>	
<p><b>Amendments:</b></p>	