

Union General Meeting Minutes

Time:	17:00 – 19:00	
Date:	16 th February 2015	
Location:	JCR	
Agenda		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome 2. Minutes & Matters Arising 3. Report from Sabbatical Officers 4. Report from executive officers 5. Expansion of the SOAS Food Co-operative 6. Grade Capping System at SOAS 7. To establish a Disabled Students and Carers' Committee 8. Support the struggle to resist immigration detention 9. Emergency Motions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Napping Motion ii) Library Fines (electronic resources) Motion 10. Any Other Business (AOB) and announcements 		
Ref#	Action/Discussion	Notes
1		
2	There were no objections to the minutes and no matters arising.	Minutes approved
3	<p>David Suber – Co-President Democracy & Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had recently met with library director. Key points; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) library has mouse problem – reminded students of no eating rule ii) Students from other Universities using the library may become an issue as the library's traffic increases iii) The mess in the library is becoming a problem – reminded students to tidy up after themselves 	All Co-President reports unanimously accepted

- Student-Staff Forum – Democratise SOAS. Wednesday 18th March G2. DS highlighted the importance of this meeting & explained that the sabbatical officers were hoping to develop specific democratise SOAS papers to the next Governing body meeting. **Action: Talk to sabbs about any issue you may want raising**
- Masters students' supervision period – **Action: If any students want to start a campaign to extend the period, contact DS**

Georgie Robertson – Co-President Welfare & Campaigns

- Elections – congratulated all candidates & everyone involved. Introduced new Co-Presidents Hannah Slydel, Tom King & Zain Dada
- Chris Gutkind from the library's case dropped – huge victory for everyone who took part in the campaign
- Cleaners currently being victimised – 53 cleaners have raised a grievance with ISS (outsourced company). Protest on Thurs 19th at 12. **Action: Students to mobilise & invite friends.**
- Student Staff Forum – manifesto just been written. Seconded DS' call to students to attend
- Mental Health and Wellbeing – survey being circulated. **Action: Students to fill in survey**
- Relaxation Room in Russell Room to return during exam period. Hoping to introduce permanent relaxation room.
- Accessibility and inclusivity - 3 workshops first week after Easter.
- As of this summer, more water fountains introduced (particularly in the library)
- Heavy, inaccessible doors in hallway to be replaced
- Landings around building to become more accessible with seating.
- SOAS changing its admin processes – taster demonstration feedback session Wednesday 25th March
- Yurt will be mended – hopes to return soon!

Kabir Joshi – Co-President Activities & Events

- First intermural casual football tournament next week 24th & 25th March. 15 teams applied. 5 spaces left. **Action: anyone who wants to get a team**



	<p>together, contact KJ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artist from SA coming to play on Tuesday 17th in the JCR • Friday 20th – late license – Reggae & food outside • 2 plays this week – Importance of Being Earnest & God of Carnage • SOAS festival last weekend of May. Showcase of societies, artists etc. Tents, food, talks. Action: If you want to get involved, contact KJ 	
<p>4</p>	<p>Tom King – LGBTQ Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion passed about harassment & the action needed to take. Taken to School’s Equality and Diversity Committee. Approved. School will listen! • New survey to be launched for this year’s harassment report. • Equality and diversity training is to become mandatory • LGBTQIA+ support group continuing every Tues 5-7 <p>Karmel Carey – Disabled Students and Carers’ Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support groups still being run – mental health, bereavement and cancer support groups • Motion coming up today – want to increase accountability and support • Discussion after this meetings about UGMs and how to make them more accessible. • Talks with School management about accessibility issues (blocked ramps, blocking exits etc). Encouraged students to write formal complaints when they experience these things rather than posting on social media <p>Phoebe Fisher – Environmental Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Sustainability committee discussed green impact award. Areas for development: Sustainability in the curriculum & Bloomsbury colleges environmental committee. 	
<p>5</p>	<p>Expansion of the Food Co-op</p> <p>Jovian Salak presented the motion. Explained how much the co-op has grown. Have run out of space. With the move to Senate house, perfect opportunity to expand & be cemented in the Union. Options include being positioned</p>	

	<p>along a different wall, or using trolley.</p> <p>David Suber contributed, stating that management don't need to be involved if it is to stay in the JCR. JCR is student space to be decided on by students. He asked whether the co-op would think about how often it would be open. Would the co-op consider opening every day?</p> <p>Jovian Salak responded – volunteer led so depends on volunteers. Hopes more enthusiasm will come with the growth of the co-op/.</p> <p>Alexandra Griffiths added that the problem is storage. Main supplier can only come once a week.</p> <p>Vote on the motion: Motion Passes</p>	
6	<p>Grade Capping system at SOAS</p> <p>Carolina Irusta introduced the motion. Students who miss exams are at a huge disadvantage due to capping. Resit conditions for students should be reconsidered.</p> <p>David Suber added that exams are a complicated issue – School has to be compliant with a number of mechanisms to ensure they're on the same level as other Universities</p> <p>Vote on the motion: Motion Passes</p>	
7	<p>To Establish a Disabled Students and Carers' Committee</p> <p>Karmel Carey introduced the motion. Disabled Students and Carers' Officers represent a broad spectrum of students. Committee would increase accountability & encourage more contribution</p> <p>Vote on the motion: Motion Passes</p>	
8	<p>Support the Struggle for Immigration Detention</p> <p>Sam Tippet introduced the motion. Across the UK there are hundreds of people on hunger strike, actively resisting their detention. Proposed setting aside £500 to support these people. Highlighted the problems with Union's charitable status</p> <p>Amendment suggested – The Union does what it can</p>	

	<p>within the framework it works in to stand in solidarity and support.</p> <p>The Chair suggested amendment: Remove 'and invited non-students' and register as a society</p> <p>Hannah Slydel suggested amendment: Add 3.4 To register this as a society, the society will have open meetings about how this money will be spent. Also delete 'and invited non students'</p> <p>Vote on the motion: Motion Passed</p>	
9	<p>Emergency Motion: Napping Motion</p> <p>Robbie Penman introduced the motion. Students should be able to nap without shame.</p> <p>Vote on the motion: Motion Passed</p>	
10	<p>Emergency Motion: Electronic Library Resources Motion</p> <p>Anoo Bhuyan introduced the motion. Students charged 50p per hour for overdue DVDs. Can't renew online. Inaccessible & restrictive. Students should be able to renew daily, online, for up to a week. The fine should be on a daily basis (like books) not hourly.</p> <p>Vote on the motion: Motion Passed</p>	
<p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UGM accessibility meeting straight after UGM. Working group to be formed. 		