

Union General Meeting Minutes

Time:	17:00-18:00
Date:	23 rd February 2016
Location:	JCR

Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Minutes & Matters Arising
- 3) Report from Sabbatical Officers
- 4) Report from executive officers
- 5) Defend the Right to Boycott
- 6) Motion in support of #ShutDownYarlsWood and ALL immigration detention centres
- 7) Cleaners in-house now!
- 8) Sell Buckfast in SOAS Bar
- 9) Support Security Staff
- 10) Emergency Motions

Ref#	Action/Discussion	Notes
1		
2	There were no objections to the minutes and no matters arising.	Minutes approved
3	<p>TK – reported on J4C progress & Rent Guarantor Scheme. Advertised the 4th Sabbatical Officer position.</p> <p>HS – advertised the next Participatory Budgeting meeting. Updated the meeting on creation of Divest from Detention Zine, the employment of a part-time staff member to research attainment gaps & the governance review.</p> <p>ZD – updated on 'why the decolonised university?' event.</p>	All Co-President reports unanimously accepted

	<p>He welcomed input from academic staff of students who might want to speak on a film for Decolonising SOAS. He advertised the InterMural Football Tournament & end of term party.</p>	
4	<p>IT – reported that February was Queer History Month & updated on events such as poetry night, documentary screening & film screenings.</p> <p>SJ – introduced free student breakfasts every week. Updated on events coming up; 'Class in the Classroom' & Working Class Student Social</p> <p>AD – reported another successful hip hop karaoke and advertised the next event.</p> <p>AA – reported on first BME discussion group. Hoping to introduce another one with the topic self care & mental health. She advertised a BME focus group for LGBTQIA+ students.</p>	
5	<p>Defend the Right to Boycott</p> <p>TK explained that the government had introduced an act that would prevent campaigning organisations from boycotting. He suggested issuing a public statement & reported that the Exec had already signed a public letter to oppose the act.</p> <p>Vote: Unanimously Passed</p>	



	<p>Motion in support of #ShutDownYarlsWood and ALL immigration detention centres</p> <p>TQ introduced the campaign and asked the Union to pledge £400 to support the organisation's demonstration.</p> <p>Vote: Unanimously passed</p>	
	<p>Cleaners in-house now!</p> <p>TK reasserted the Union's support for the cleaners' campaign. He gave an outline of the independent review that was done, showing that bringing the cleaners in house wouldn't cost the School any more.</p> <p>Vote: Unanimously passed</p>	
	<p>Sell Buckfast in SOAS Bar</p> <p>KM explained what Buckfast is, and encouraged UGM to vote for the motion.</p> <p>Speech against: A student stated that the bar should be able to decide what they want to sell & this shouldn't be a UGM motion.</p> <p>Amendment: A student proposed adding Ginger Wine to the motion.</p> <p>Vote on the amendment: Passes</p> <p>Vote on the Motion: Passes</p>	
	<p>Support Security Staff</p> <p>HS reported that security staff are outsourced to an external company called CIS & have the worst terms and conditions of all staff at SOAS. She suggested supporting security in any future campaigns they may want to develop, and include Security in the Union's harassment/dignity at work policies due to them not</p>	

	<p>having this protection.</p> <p>Vote: Unanimously Passes</p>	
	<p>Emergency Motions</p> <p>JS stated that the Chair of the School's Board of Trustees is resigning. He suggested that the Union should nominate their own candidate to be the next chair. He outlined that the motion supports the Union to look for a candidate who could be nominated in consultation with the workesr at SOAS.</p> <p>Vote: Passed (1 against 0 abstentions)</p>	