



# Union General Meeting Minutes

<b>Time:</b>	17:00 – 19:00
<b>Date:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2013
<b>Location:</b>	JCR

## Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Matters arising from previous meeting
3. Matters arising from previous UGM and update
4. Report from Sabbatical Officers
5. (Optional) Report from executive officers
6. Report from SOAS Spirit Editor
7. Report from NUS Delegates
8. Motions:
  - i. No Cops On Campus (revised)
  - ii. Remove Geoffrey Howe's Honorary Fellowship
  - iii. Therapeutic Lights For The Students' Union
  - iv. Oppose the privatization of the Student Loan Book, Renew support for the Student Assembly Against Austerity
  - v. Protect Our Welfare Services
  - vi. SOAS Fossil Free
  - vii. Improve Accountability of SOAS Spirit
9. Emergency Motions
  - i. None submitted
10. Any Other Business (AOB) and announcements

Ref#	Action/Discussion	Notes
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes from the previous meeting</b>  The Chair went through the minutes that have been published on the Union Website. There were no objections raised.	<b>Minutes signed off as accurate</b>

<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Matters arising from previous UGM and update</b></p> <p>The Chair went through the action points that were created at the last Meeting. All were completed with non outstanding</p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Report from Sabbatical Officers Johann:</b></p> <p><b>Q.</b> What is the new website going to cost  <b>A.</b> Rougly £1 per student.</p> <p><b>Leah</b>  <b>No Questions</b></p> <p><b>Johann</b>  <b>No Questions</b></p>	<p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Report from executive officers</b></p> <p><b>An update on work was given by the following officers:</b></p> <p><b>Tom King – LGBTQ Officer</b>  <b>Georgie Robertson – Campaigns Officer</b>  <b>Kabir Joshi – Black Students’ Officer</b></p>	<p><b>All PASSED</b></p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Report from SOAS Spirit Editor</b></p> <p><b>Q.</b> Do you plan to retract or apologise for you biased article on the front page of the last issue?  <b>A.</b> No</p>	<p><b>PASSED</b></p>
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Report from NUS Delegates</b></p> <p>The two NUS Delegates outlined their plans on how they plan to take policy to the be debated at the NUS National Conference in March 2014.</p>	<p><b>PASSE</b></p>
<p><b>8.1</b></p>	<p><b>No Cops On Campus (revised)</b></p> <p>Speech for – Adam Barr (296840)  Speech Against - None</p> <p>Moved to the Vote</p>	<p><b>Motion PASSED</b></p>

<p><b>8.2</b></p>	<p><b>Remove Geoffrey Howe's Honorary Fellowship</b></p> <p>Speech for – Tom King (349872)</p> <p>Amendment – Mohammad Tahboub (565605)</p> <p>To add resolves:</p> <p>3.3 To lobby the school for the establishment of a referendum system for granting honorary degrees and fellowships</p> <p>Moved to Vote on the amended motion</p>	<p><b>Motion PASSED</b></p>
<p><b>8.3</b></p>	<p><b>Therapeutic Lights For The Students' Union</b></p> <p>Speech for – Fanny Malinen (299649)</p> <p>Speech Against - None</p> <p>Moved to the Vote</p>	<p><b>Motion PASSED</b></p>
<p><b>8.4</b></p>	<p><b>Oppose the privatization of the Student Loan Book, Renew support for the Student Assembly Against Austerity</b></p> <p>Speech for – Adam Barr (296840)</p> <p>Speech Against - None</p> <p>Moved to the Vote</p>	<p><b>Motion PASSED</b></p>
<p><b>8.5</b></p>	<p><b>Protect Our Welfare Services</b></p> <p>Speech for – Georgie Robertson (539420)</p> <p>Speech Against - None</p> <p>Moved to the Vote</p>	<p><b>Motion PASSED</b></p>
<p><b>8.6</b></p>	<p><b>SOAS Fossil Free</b></p> <p>Speech for – Emily Judson (538445)</p> <p>Speech Against - None</p> <p>Moved to the Vote</p>	<p><b>Motion PASSED</b></p>

<p><b>8.7</b></p>	<p><b>Improve Accountability of SOAS Spirit</b></p> <p>Speech for – Adam Barr (296840)</p> <p>Amendment – Adam Barr (296840)</p> <p>To add resolves</p> <p>3.3 To mandate the SU Executive Committee to establish and elect an independent readers editor to investigate and respond to complaints</p> <p>Speech against amended motion – Sai Englert (603915)</p> <p>Speech for amended motion – Adam Barr (296840)</p> <p>Moved to the Vote on amended motion</p>	<p><b>Motion PASSED</b></p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Any other business &amp; Announcements</b></p>	



## Summary of actions

Motion	Actions
<b>8.1</b>	<p><b>3.1)</b> To reaffirm our policy of 'No Cops on Campus' to protect students against a rising police presence.</p> <p><b>3.2)</b> On the occasion that police do enter; that a sabbatical officer engages with the police to ascertain whether they can continue further dialogue off campus, in this way avoiding their contact with students.</p> <p><b>3.3)</b> To pressure the school not to allow or invite police onto our campus for their events.</p> <p><b>3.4)</b> To condemn police presence in halls of residence (Dinwiddy and Paul Robeson).</p> <p><b>3.5)</b> To support students who, in their actions, may incur unlawful challenges by the police. For instance being followed, stopped and searched or arrested.</p> <p><b>3.6)</b> That in cases of emergency, or where students wish to use our safe space to talk with police, they will be admitted to the building.</p>
<b>8.2</b>	<p><b>3.1)</b> To call for Geoffrey Howe's Honorary Fellowship to be revoked</p> <p><b>3.2)</b> To re-assert our commitment to 'Democratise SOAS' and to the campaign's demands</p> <p><b>3.3)</b> To lobby the school for the establishment of a referendum system for granting honorary degrees and fellowships</p>
<b>8.3</b>	<p><b>3.1)</b> To buy two therapeutic lights that all students can use.</p> <p><b>3.2)</b> To set them, one each, in the JCR and in the Vernon square common room with clear and adequate instructions of use.</p>
<b>8.4</b>	<p><b>3.1)</b> To organize and fully participate in actions as part of the National Week of Action against the loan privatisation, called by the Student Assembly Against Austerity for the week commencing 3rd February 2014.</p> <p><b>3.2)</b> To support all actions, protests and events against the privatisation of student debt.</p> <p><b>3.3)</b> To write a formal letter to the local MP's asking them to sign the early day motion against the privatisation.</p> <p><b>3.4)</b> Request a letter from SOAS management condemning the privatization of student debt.</p>

<p><b>8.5</b></p>	<p><b>3.1)</b> To fight to protect welfare services against austerity.</p> <p><b>3.2)</b> To ensure that the money that was being paid to Gower Street be used to provide Student Advice and Wellbeing, or other services nearby, are available to effectively enable student wellbeing, without cost to individual students.</p> <p><b>3.3)</b> To make the University’s provision of free and adequate welfare services a priority campaign for the Students’ Union.</p>
<p><b>8.6</b></p>	<p><b>3.1)</b> Petition the SOAS Governing Body to divest from companies that extract, refine and distribute fossil fuels and to explicitly commit to investing in renewable energy.</p> <p><b>3.2)</b> This union reaches out to those among us who are active members of other communities external to the University: those who have links to religious communities, those who have links to NGOs or charities. We ask you to take this message to them, explain our cause and encourage them to take part.</p>
<p><b>8.7</b></p>	<p><b>3.1)</b> To make the SOAS Spirit institute a complaints procedure for the newspaper.</p> <p><b>3.2)</b> To make the SOAS Spirit respond to complaints within 1 week with a correction or explanation.</p> <p><b>3.3)</b> To mandate the SU Executive Committee to establish and elect an independent readers editor to investigate and respond to complaints</p>

