



# Union General Meeting Minutes

<b>Time:</b>	17:00 – 21:00
<b>Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
<b>Location:</b>	JCR

## Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Report from Sabbatical Officers
3. Report from Executive Officers
4. Presentation of Educational Priorities
5. Presentation of Non-Education Priorities
6. Motions
  - i. To Approve Updates to the SOAS SU Complaints Procedure
  - ii. To Approve SOAS SU Dignity Policy
  - iii. To Arrange Mandatory Trainings for the Union Executive, Society and Sports Team Committees and Union Staff
  - iv. Fossil Free SOAS: Call on SOAS to Remove its Investments from Fossil Fuels
  - v. No To Benefit Cuts
  - vi. Support Fractionals For Fair Play
  - vii. Protest Undergraduate Open Day on 29th October
  - viii. Proposal for Increased Drinking Water Facilities
  - ix. SOAS Goes to Calais
  - x. Campaign to End Detention
  - xi. Stop Discrimination against Religious Minorities at SOAS
  - xii. Lobby SOAS to End its Contracts with Companies that Operate in Palestinian Occupied Territories and to Implement an Academic Boycott
  - xiii. Real Samosas For Real People
  - xiv. Campaign against Unpaid Internships
  - xv. Publish University Committee Minutes on Union Website
  - xvi. Deals For Part-time Students
  - xvii. Sweatshop Free SOAS
  - xviii. Amending Liberation Officer Schedules
  - xix. Motion to instate full time liberation officers
  - xx. Campaign to Overhaul the Student Loan System



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>xxi. Solidarity with Egyptian Detainees on Hunger Strike</li> <li>xxii. Chilli Sauce</li> </ul> <p>7. Emergency Motions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Emergency Motion for Gonchek</li> <li>ii. Support the Kurdish Protests against Genocide</li> </ul>	
<b>Ref#</b>	<b>Action/Discussion</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Report from Sabbatical Officers</b></p> <p>Kabir Joshi – Co-President Activities &amp; Events; David Suber – Co-President Democracy &amp; Education; and Georgie Robertson – Co-President Welfare &amp; Campaigns presented their verbal reports to the UGM.</p> <p><b>All Reports Accepted</b></p>	<b>No questions about the reports</b>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Report from Executive Officers</b></p> <p>The following Executive Officers gave a verbal report to the UGM.</p> <p>Tom King – LGBTQ Officer  Hannah Slydel – Women’s Officer  Grace Wilcocks – Campaigns Officer</p> <p><b>All Reports Accepted</b></p>	<b>No questions about the reports</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Presentation of Educational Priorities</b></p> <p>David Suber presented the Education priorities to the UGM. These can also be found on the website:</p> <p><a href="http://soasunion.org/education/educationalpriorities/">http://soasunion.org/education/educationalpriorities/</a></p> <p><b>These priorities were passed</b></p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Presentation of Non-Education Priorities</b></p> <p>Georgie Robertson Presented the Non-Education priorities to the UGM. These can also be found on the website:</p> <p><a href="http://soasunion.org/welfare/noneducationalpriorities/">http://soasunion.org/welfare/noneducationalpriorities/</a></p> <p><b>These priorities were passed</b></p>	



**The chair announced that there was a change to the order motions will be discussed. The new order is:**

**1,2,3,4,Emergency Motion,5,6,7,18,19,21,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,20,Emergency Motion 2, 22**

<p><b>6.1</b></p>	<p><b>To Approve updates to the SOAS SU Complaints Procedure</b></p> <p>Speech For – Georgie Robertson (537687)          Speech Against – Rabia Ali (NON-STUDENT)          Speech For – Geogio Robertson (537687)          Speech Against – Tom Oliver (537871)          Speech for – David Suber (538117)          Speech Against – Lauren Tapp (613347)          Summation - Georgie Robertson (537687)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion Falls</b></p>	
<p><b>6.2</b></p>	<p><b>To Approve SU Dignity Policy</b></p> <p>Speech For – Georgie Robertson (537687)          Speech Against – Yasmin Rosie Begum (552451)          Summation - Georgie Robertson (537687)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion Passes</b></p>	
<p><b>6.3</b></p>	<p><b>To Arrange Mandatory Trainings for the Union Executive, Society and Sports Team Committees and Union Staff</b></p> <p>Speech For – Georgie Robertson (537687)</p> <p>Amendment proposed by Tom King (349872)          To Add Union Resolves 3.2 Training will not be mandatory for survivors of sexual violence          Speech For – Tom King (349872)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote on amendment</b></p>	

	<p><b>Amendment Passes</b></p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	
<b>6.4</b>	<p><b>Fossil Free SOAS: Call on SOAS to Remove its Investments from Fossil Fuels</b></p> <p>Speech For – Rebecca Elizabeth Alethea (603024)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	
<b>6.5</b>	<p><b>Emergency Motion for Gonche</b></p> <p>Speech For – Hannah Rose Slydel (541349)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	
<b>6.6</b>	<p><b>No To Benefit Cuts</b></p> <p>Speech For – Tom King (349872)</p> <p>Friendly Amendment proposed by Tracey-Ann Munroe (232846) To Ammend Union Resolves 3.2 and add in Student Parents</p> <p>Amendment <b>Accepted</b></p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	
<b>6.7</b>	<p><b>Support Fractionals For Fair Play</b></p> <p>Speech For – Adam Barr (296340)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	

<p><b>6.8</b></p>	<p><b>Protest Undergraduate Open Day on 29th October</b></p> <p>Speech For – Adam Barr (296340)</p> <p>Amendment proposed by Edward Ive (558700) To Add Union Resolves 3.3 To create a working group to organise the protest Speech For – Edward Ive (558700)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote on amendment</b></p> <p><b>Amendment Passes</b></p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	
<p><b>6.9</b></p>	<p><b>Amending Liberation Officer Schedules</b></p> <p>Speech For – Tom King (349872)</p> <p>Amendment proposed by Lauren Tapp (613347) To Add Union Resolves 3.3 Only students who define into the liberation campaign can vote for the liberation officer of that campaign. Speech For – Lauren Tapp (613347) Speech Against – Karmel Carey (584498) Speech For – Lauren Tapp (613347) Speech Against – Bilal Ahmed (614912) Speech For – Lauren Tapp (613347) Speech Against – Oliver Doyle (590221) Amendment Summation - Lauren Tapp (613347)</p> <p>Amendment <b>Withdraw</b></p> <p>Friendly Amendment proposed by Hannah Slydel (541349) To Amend Union Notes 1.5</p> <p>Amendment <b>Accepted</b></p> <p>Speech Against – Tom Oliver (537871) Speech For – Tom King (349872) Speech Against – Olimpia Burchiellaro (570247) Speech For – Grace Wilcock (565820) Speech Against – Abel Pieter Zadoks (585258) Speech For – Yasmin Rosie Begum (552451) Speech Against – Bilal Ahmed (614912)</p>	<p><b>To pass, this motion requires a 2/3 majority with a quorum of 80.</b></p>



	<p>Speech For – Hannah Rose Slydel (541349)          Speech Against – Paul Donnachie (571905)          Speech For – Ilham Rawoor (618082)          Speech Against – Kevin James McGinnis (595565)          Summation – Tom King (349872)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p>Vote Count:</p> <p>For – <b>55</b>          Against – <b>27</b>          Abstain – <b>10</b></p> <p>2/3 Majority = <b>62</b></p> <p><b>Motion Falls</b></p>	
<p><b>6.10</b></p>	<p><b>Motion to instate full time liberation officers</b></p> <p>Speech For – Lauren Tapp (613347)</p> <p>Friendly Amendment proposed by Lauren Tapp (613347)          To amend Union Resolves 3.3a and 35 hours per month to 35 hours per week.</p> <p>Amendment <b>Accepted</b></p> <p>Speech Against – David Suber (538117)          Speech For – Hannah Rose Slydel (541349)          Speech Against – Kabir Joshi (296327)          Speech For – Matija Vlatkovic (621047)          Speech Against – Kabir Joshi (296327)          Summation – Grace Wilcock (565820)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p>Vote Count:</p> <p>For – <b>45</b>          Against – <b>5</b>          Abstain – <b>30</b></p> <p>2/3 Majority = <b>54</b></p> <p><b>Motion Falls</b></p>	<p>To pass, this motion requires a 2/3 majority with a quorum of 80.</p>

<p><b>6.11</b></p>	<p><b>Solidarity with Egyptian Detainees on Hunger Strike</b></p> <p>Speech For – Farida Hammad (614895)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	
<p><b>6.12</b></p>	<p><b>Proposal for Increased Drinking Water Facilities</b></p> <p>Speech For – Phoebe Fisher (569165)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	
<p><b>6.13</b></p>	<p><b>SOAS Goes to Calais</b></p> <p>Speech For – Pietro Autorino (573707)</p> <p>Friendly Amendment proposed by xxx xxx (XXXXXX) To Remove 3.4</p> <p><b>Amendment Accepted</b></p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	<p><b>Chase up motion amendender</b></p>
<p><b>6.14</b></p>	<p><b>Campaign to End Detention</b></p> <p>Speech For – Grace Wilcock (565820)</p> <p>Friendly Amendment proposed by xxx xxx (XXXXXX) To change text to read Imigration Detention rather than just detention</p> <p><b>Amendment Accepted</b></p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	<p><b>Chase up motion amendender</b></p>

<p><b>6.15</b></p>	<p><b>Stop Discrimination against Religious Minorities at SOAS</b></p> <p>Speech For – Kabir Joshi (296327) Speech Against – Oliver Doyle (590221) Speech For – Paul Donnachie (571905)</p> <p>Amendment Proposed by Saqib Ali Rafiq (598748) To remove Union Resolves 3.2 and replace this with text establishing a new Faith Forum to discuss these matters</p> <p>Speech For – Oliver Doyle (590221) Speech Against – Birju Dattani (577121) Summation – Saqib Ali Rafiq (598748)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote on amendment</b></p> <p><b>Amendment Falls</b></p> <p>Friendly Amendment proposed by xxx xxx (XXXXXX) To Amend Union Believes 2.1 to be clearer about atheists</p> <p><b>Amendment Accepted</b></p> <p>Summation – Kabir Joshi (296327)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	<p>Chase up motion amender</p>
<p><b>6.16</b></p>	<p><b>Lobby SOAS to End its Contracts with Companies that Operate in Palestinian Occupied Territories and to Implement an Academic Boycott</b></p> <p>Speech For – David Suber (538117)</p> <p>Friendly Amendment proposed by xxx xxx (XXXXXX) To add something about pinkwashing</p> <p><b>Amendment Accepted</b></p> <p>Speech Against – Richard Galber (612801) Speech For – Birju Dattani (577121) Speech Against – Bilal Ahmed (614912) Speech For – Kabir Joshi (296327) Speech Against – Richard Galber (612801)</p>	<p>Chase up text for amendment</p>



	<p>Summation – Anan Quzmar (584680)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	
<b>6.17</b>	<p><b>Real Samosas For Real People</b></p> <p>Speech For – Yasmin Begum (552451)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	
<b>6.18</b>	<p><b>Campaign against Unpaid Internships</b></p> <p>Speech For – Grace Wilcock (565820) Speech Against – Richard Galber (612801) Speech For – Adam Barr (296340)</p> <p>Amendment Proposed by David Suber (538117) xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Speech For – David Suber (538117) Speech Against – Adam Barr (296340)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote on amendment</b></p> <p><b>Amendment Passes</b></p> <p>Summation – Grace Wilcock (565820)</p> <p><b>Motion Withdrawn</b></p>	<p><b>Chase up text for amendment</b></p>
<b>6.19</b>	<p><b>Publish University Committee Minutes on Union Website</b></p> <p>Amendment Proposed by Adam Barr (296340) To amend Union Resolves 3.1 To Say: To require elected officers to notify the student body of important decisions taken by committees and to publish this in an all student email and on the website.</p> <p><b>Amendment Accepted</b></p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p><b>Motion passes</b></p>	



<b>6.20</b>	<p><b>Emergency Motion 2 – Support The Kurdish Protests Against genocide</b></p> <p>Speech For – Mehmet Eren Koc (611651)</p> <p>Moved to a <b>Vote</b></p> <p>Motion passes</p>	
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**The Meeting was ended as the quoracy wasn't met meaning the remaining motions could not be discussed. The undiscussed motions will be resubmitted to the next UGM.**

## Summary of actions

Motion	Actions
<b>6.1</b>	<p><b>To Approve updates to the SOAS SU Complaints Procedure</b></p> <p>Motion Fell</p>
<b>6.2</b>	<p><b>To Approve SU Dignity Policy</b></p> <p>3.1 To implement the SOAS SU Dignity Policy</p> <p>3.2 To continually evaluate and review the Dignity Policy, with an aim to updating and improving the policy over time.</p>
<b>6.3</b>	<p><b>To Arrange Mandatory Trainings for the Union Executive, Society and Sports Team Committees and Union Staff</b></p> <p>3.1 To arrange the following mandatory trainings on an annual basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual equality and diversity trainings for the Students' Union Executive in the first half of the first term, to be attended by all members of the Executive.</li> </ul>



	<p>- Equality and diversity and anti-harassment trainings for society presidents and sports captains and any other committee members during the first term, annually. At least all presidents and captains should have attended one training session by the end of first term, those which have not attended by the end of first term will be given another opportunity in early second term, but failure to attend this could result in suspension of room bookings or budgets.</p> <p>- Annual Good Night Out trainings for Shop and Bar staff at the beginning of the first term.</p> <p>- Annual mental health first aid trainings for at least two Union Co-Presidents.</p> <p>3.2 This training will not be mandatory for survivors of sexual violence</p>
<p><b>6.4</b></p>	<p><b>Fossil Free SOAS: Call on SOAS to Remove its Investments from Fossil Fuels</b></p> <p>3.1 To call on the SOAS Resources &amp; Planning Committee to vote on November 11 in favour of divesting from companies engaged in the extraction of fossil fuels.</p> <p>3.2 To encourage SOAS students, staff and alumni to sign the petition calling on SOAS to divest from fossil fuels, at <a href="http://fossilfreesoas.org">fossilfreesoas.org</a>.</p> <p>3.3 This Union reaches out to those among us who are active members of other communities external to the University, such as religious communities and local government bodies. We ask you to take this message to them and urge them to pursue divestment from fossil fuels as well.</p>
<p><b>6.5</b></p>	<p><b>Emergency Motion for Gonche</b></p> <p>3.1 That the SOAS SU should support the Ghavami family's campaign and promote Ghoncheh's brother's change.org petition <a href="https://www.change.org/p/david-cameron-hassanrouhani-bring-my-sister-home-freeghonchehghavami">https://www.change.org/p/david-cameron-hassanrouhani-bring-my-sister-home-freeghonchehghavami</a></p>

<p><b>6.6</b></p>	<p><b>No To Benefit Cuts</b></p> <p>3.1) to condemn any plans to cut benefits for under-25s and to campaign against them</p> <p>3.2) to continue to campaign against austerity and cuts, and to ensure that issues such as class, gender, ethnicity, gender identity, sexuality student parents and disability are central to these campaigns</p> <p>3.3) to organise events in the run up to the general election involving the three main parties and others to debate their policy platforms</p>
<p><b>6.7</b></p>	<p><b>Support Fractionals For Fair Play</b></p> <p>3.1 To support the FFFP campaign, attend its public meetings and protests, and publicise its materials to all students.</p> <p>3.2 To support student initiatives in support of the campaign.</p> <p>3.3 To continue to lobby SOAS management for a solution to this situation, which safeguards teaching quality as well as labour conditions at SOAS.</p> <p>3.4 To demand the Alexis Wearmouth be re-instated immediately</p>
<p><b>6.8</b></p>	<p><b>Protest Undergraduate Open Day on 29th October</b></p> <p>3.1 To call a broad protest for the 29th of October featuring representation for all campaigns, the student union and two trade unions on campus.</p> <p>3.2 To promote this demonstration using social media, leafleting, poster and other methods.</p> <p>3.3 To create a working group to organise this protest.</p>
<p><b>6.9</b></p>	<p><b>Amending Liberation Officer Schedules</b></p> <p>Motion Fell</p>
<p><b>6.10</b></p>	<p><b>Motion to instate full time liberation officers</b></p> <p>Motion Fell</p>

<p><b>6.11</b></p>	<p><b>Solidarity with Egyptian Detainees on Hunger Strike</b></p> <p>3.1. To express solidarity with the Egyptian detainees on hunger strike and endorse the '1000 hours of hunger' campaign through a.) a message of solidarity distributed to SOAS and other student unions in the UK and b.) regular updates on their website.</p> <p>3.2. To write a letter signed by the SU to the Egyptian Ambassador to the UK, condemning the political detentions and demanding a fair trial according to international norms and standards or immediate release without delay for all detainees.</p> <p>3.3. To write a letter to the UK government condemning continued British support for Egypt's repressive military regime.</p> <p>3.4. To donate £50 to Egypt Solidarity Initiative to publicise the '1000 hours of hunger' campaign.</p>
<p><b>6.12</b></p>	<p><b>Proposal for Increased Drinking Water Facilities</b></p> <p>3.1 The School should be lobbied for:</p> <p>3.2 increased water facilities in the library.</p> <p>3.3 at least one fountain in bar and JCR.</p> <p>3.4 one fountain outside the building for student and public use.</p> <p>3.5 fountains will be to drink directly and refill bottles, and not provide further plastic cups.</p>
<p><b>6.13</b></p>	<p><b>SOAS Goes to Calais</b></p> <p>3.1 To facilitate the creation of a "Soas Goes To Calais" platform open to everyone, by supporting it and advertising it inside and outside of SOAS.</p> <p>3.2 To contribute to the next SOAS Goes To Calais initiative by facilitating the collection of clothes, food, and other goods that will be brought down to Calais by those who desire to go.</p> <p>3.3 To actively support the fundraising for the next ethnomusicological solidarity intervention to Calais.</p>
<p><b>6.14</b></p>	<p><b>Campaign to End Detention</b></p> <p>3.1: To make the campaign to end immigration detention, and to</p>





	<p>halt the encroachment of UKVI on our campuses, a union campaign; including approaching other unions to jointly campaign.</p> <p>3.2: To join and support the forthcoming Surround Harmondsworth demonstrations by publicising, and to arrange transport from union funds to enable supporters to attend the demonstration.</p> <p>3.3: To organise, with SDS, Movement for Justice and any other student groups who wish to be involved, awareness-building events.</p> <p>3.4: To allow societies and students concerned with this campaign to host one of the Student Union's pub quiz evenings in order to fundraise to enable the campaign to continue to financially enable students to participate in the campaign, and also increase campaign awareness within our community.</p>
<p><b>6.15</b></p>	<p><b>Stop Discrimination against Religious Minorities at SOAS</b></p> <p>3.1 To provide more support for students who have suffered from such prejudice.</p> <p>3.2 That if individuals or groups are found to be promoting, instigating or actively pursuing discrimination against religious minorities they will be subject to a formal investigation by the SU, with the possibility of disciplinary action.</p> <p>3.3 To launch a campaign with other Students' Unions where issues of discrimination against religious minorities are also in existence.</p>
<p><b>6.16</b></p>	<p><b>Lobby SOAS to End its Contracts with Companies that Operate in Palestinian Occupied Territories and to Implement an Academic Boycott</b></p>
<p><b>6.17</b></p>	<p><b>Real Samosas For Real People</b></p> <p>3.1. To change our caterers to an independent sweet and savory</p>



	shop on Drummond Street, to support local businesses and better the quality of our samosas.
<b>6.18</b>	<b>Campaign against Unpaid Internships</b>  Motion Withdrawn
<b>6.19</b>	<b>Publish University Committee Minutes on Union Website</b>  3.1: To require elected officers to notify the student body of important decisions taken by committees and to publish this in an all student email and on the website.
<b>6.20</b>	<b>Emergency Motion 2 – Support The Kurdish Protests Against genocide</b>  3.1: SOAS Students' Union to officially recognise the Kurdish situation and commit into publication and news of Kurdish protests and demo's being held across London.

**The Date of the next UGM:**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October – 17:00 – SOAS JCR**

You can submit a motion to the next UGM on the website:

<http://soasunion.org/democracy/submit-motion/>

**The Motion Deadline is:**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October – 19:00**

Minutes Taken by Vic Casambros

[v.casambros@soas.ac.uk](mailto:v.casambros@soas.ac.uk)

If you would like to propose any changes/revisions to these minutes or question their accuracy, please contact Vic.