



10th February 2022

UGM Agenda

Time	1:30pm - 3:30pm
Date	Thursday 10th February 2022
Location	Zoom (meeting link)
Chair	Ryan Ginger (City Students' Union)
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction & Ground Rules2. Motion 1: Change the name of 'Womxn's Officer' to 'Women's Officer'3. Motion 2: Solidarity with GOSH Strikes4. Motion 3: NUS Walkout5. Motion 4: Demanding more support and inclusion for study abroad programs and immigrant students6. Motion 5: Cops Off Campus7. Motion 6: Reopen the SOAS Refectory8. Executive Committee Reports9. Ratifying the Minutes of the Previous UGM10. AOB



UGM Motions

Motion 1

Title	Change the name of 'Womxn's Officer' to 'Women's Officer'
Proposer	Ellora Singh
This Union Notes	
<p>1.1. That language is constantly changing and evolving and that as we continue to learn more about our social structures different terms may arise.</p> <p>1.2. That although the term 'womxn' at its beginning intended to signal the inclusion of those who have traditionally been excluded from white feminist discourse, it now has a discriminatory and transphobic connotation when using it to refer to trans women and/or non-binary folks.</p> <p>1.3. That several students have complained about the spelling of the current 'Womxn's Officer' role and wish to see it changed back to 'Women's Officer'.</p> <p>4. The SU needs to abide by its 'Safer Space' policy.</p>	
This Union Believes	
<p>2.1. That trans women are women and that no special distinction should be made about this, and making one is transphobic and discriminatory.</p> <p>2.2. That non-binary folks are neither men nor women and trying to fit them into a gender binary is discriminatory as well as harmful.</p> <p>2.3. Providing safe spaces for students in which no one feels discriminated against or marginalised is at the forefront of the SU priorities.</p> <p>2.4. As with any community, the best way to ensure representation and accuracy is to ask actual members of that community what terms they use.</p>	
This Union Resolves	
<p>3.1. To adopt a new spelling with an 'E' for the 'Women's Officer' role.</p> <p>3.2. To commit to liaise with different groups of students about their preferred terminology.</p>	



Motion 2

Title	Solidarity with GOSH Strikes
Proposer	Abel Harvie-Clark
This Union Notes	
1.1. National Health Service (NHS) security guards at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) - just minutes away from SOAS - do not have the same terms and conditions as other NHS staff.	
1.2. The security guards at GOSH are nearly all Black or brown migrants who are being denied the same terms & conditions as their NHS colleagues.	
1.3. These workers are the only workers on site at GOSH who are being denied full pay sick pay during the global coronavirus pandemic.	
1.4. The security guards at GOSH are outsourced through Carlisle Support Services, a private contractor owned by the Conservative Party donor Lord Ashcroft.	
This Union Believes	
2.1. Our NHS is a public service and should not be used to funnel profits into the pockets of wealthy Conservative Party donors.	
2.2. A two-tier system of terms and conditions within the NHS, where mostly Black or brown migrants are given worse terms and conditions, is an example of structural racism.	
3. We fight racism with solidarity.	
This Union Resolves	
3.1. To issue a public expression of solidarity with the security guards at GOSH.	
3.2. To support fundraising activities for the GOSH security guards strike fund.	
3.3. Advertise all actions supporting these workers to members of the union	
3.4. To invite GOSH workers to the upcoming SOAS picket lines, and support the running of events in SU spaces which support their campaign	
3.5. To encourage the SOAS community to attend the GOSH picket line	



Motion 3

Title	NUS Walkout
Proposer	Abel Harvie-Clark
This Union Notes	
<p>1.1. That NUS has called a national “Student Strike for education” on the 2nd of March, raising the demands for education to be fully funded, accessible, lifelong and democratic. https://www.nus.org.uk/campaign-hub/student-strike-for-education-walk-out-teach-in?i=0</p> <p>1.2. That “Red Square Movement” is an organisation of students, including some from SOAS, building the campaign for free and liberated education. They are proposing coordinated direct action during the upcoming UCU strike days and for the March 2nd Student strike</p> <p>1.3. There will be more UCU strike days in February. The majority of UCU branches in the dispute voted for escalation of the dispute</p>	
This Union Believes	
<p>2.1. That now is an important time for students to organise and mobilise to resist attacks on higher education, support the UCU strike, demand free education for all and organise against university bosses and the government for a campus led by students and workers</p> <p>2.2. That NUS must be an open, democratic and accountable organisation, with presence and communication with students on campus</p>	
This Union Resolves	
<p>3.1. To publicise the NUS student strike, encourage and support students to attend</p> <p>3.2. To escalate our solidarity with the dispute, and take part in coordinated direct action with other universities</p> <p>3.3. To publicise Red Square Movement actions and events within SOAS</p> <p>3.4. To work with the NUS delegates to bring proposals and issues, decided by the SOAS community, to the NUS conference</p> <p>3.5. To invite students to work with the SU to write a policy for future NUS conferences</p>	



Motion 4

Title	Demanding more support and inclusion for study abroad programs and immigrant students
Proposer	Gioia Scazza
<p style="text-align: center;">This Union Notes</p> <p>1.1. The failure of SOAS to provide year abroad placements for students whose degrees offered them, with a particular lack in Afrika.</p> <p>1.2 Despite publicising the new “Africa and the Black Diaspora” studies, SOAS has done next to nothing to support students that applied to African studies, Middle East studies, South and South East Asian studies, before the courses were cut off.</p> <p>1.3 That SOAS is complicit in the UK border regime and many students are required to adapt to this framework in order to complete their studies and has not informed European students that they could be entitled for EEA Migrant Worker maintenance loan;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The dissolution was not communicated to Student Finance, which has caused a lot of complications and disruption in the loan application process, and consequently in enrolment 	
<p style="text-align: center;">This Union Believes</p> <p>2.1 The year abroad is an important part of students’ studies, and all efforts should be made to make it possible.</p> <p>2.2 Since SOAS has failed to provide study abroad programs for courses that were meant to include it.</p> <p>2.3 The SOAS community (students, professional and academic staff) are entitled to have ultimate oversight over course changes and academic programs, especially when they have already been offered to prospective students.</p> <p>2.4 Education should be freely and equally available regardless of nationality or immigration status and university services should be accessible to all students based on equity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o SOAS should remedy the inconveniences caused by the lack of communication with student finance, be that academic or financial. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">This Union Resolves</p> <p>3.1 The SU will hold a conversation with SOAS to demand that it guarantees the possibility, for students of year abroad courses, to further the studies of their areas and languages of focus.</p> <p>3.2 That SOAS will be requested to provide institutional support to students who decide to make their own year abroad independently, such as providing support for visas and any other Requirements.</p> <p>3.3 That SOAS will be demanded to offer more partnerships with universities in the Global South</p>	



and institutionally support students that decide to further their research and learning of languages by themselves, in when partnership universities cannot be provided.

- 3.4 The SU will urge SOAS to support the students throughout bureaucratic processes when their immigration limits their access to the services;
- o Students whose course of studies was affected by SOAS's lack of support should be provided compensation.



Motion 5

Title	Cops Off Campus
Proposer	Ella Spencer
This Union Notes	
<p>1.1. The historic oppressive role of the police and persecution of liberatory movements and black and brown, femme, queer and trans presenting and disabled peoples</p> <p>1.2. The imminent passing of the PCSC bill, which will greatly increase police powers, criminalise protest and trespass, further increasing the violently discriminatory role of the police</p>	
This Union Believes	
<p>2.1. The police are a serious threat to safety on campus but also beyond; they don't serve to "protect our communities"</p> <p>2.2. Police presence on campus facilitates their and the states surveillance, intimidation and violence against students and workers, particularly black and brown, femme, queer and trans presenting and disabled peoples</p> <p>2.3. Cooperation with the police helps them and the state suppress political activity</p>	
This Union Resolves	
<p>3.1. To adopt the following "Cops off Campus policy" to support students against police surveillance and violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Union commits to offer training for sabbatical officers on how to engage with the police. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To pressure the school not to allow or invite police onto our campus for their events. - To condemn police presence in halls of residence (Dinwiddy and Paul Robeson). - To support students who, in their actions, may incur unlawful challenges by the police. For instance being followed, stopped and searched or arrested. - To lobby SOAS so that in cases of emergency, or where students wish to use SOAS safe spaces to talk with police, they will be admitted to the building. <p>3.2. To support the establishment of a campus CopWatch group, in cooperation with the local area and other university communities</p> <p>3.3. To commit to ongoing work to spread awareness of this policy amongst students, and hold open spaces where by students can contribute to and shape this policy</p>	



Motion 6

Title	Reopen the SOAS Refectory
Proposer	Gabriel Huland
This Union Notes	
<p>1.1. At the beginning of the pandemic, SOAS closed the catering service in the context of the Change and Transformation scheme.</p> <p>1.2. Since the campus fully reopened in September 2021, SOAS does not provide a catering service for its student and staff community. The lack of a subsidized restaurant on campus means that students and staff have to go to other food providers. This means an additional expense and an added obstacle to using the campus for some people.</p> <p>1.3. In a meeting between students and some senior managers, it was argued that the university was considering some options, but so far, after more than four months, nothing has been done to tackle this issue.</p>	
This Union Believes	
This Union Resolves	
<p>1.1. Start the campaign "Reopen the SOAS Refectory"</p> <p>1.2. Send a letter to the director explaining the situation and demanding a resolution to this issue</p>	