



Tuesday 10th May 2022

## UGM Agenda

<b>Time</b>	1pm - 3pm
<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 10th May 2022
<b>Location</b>	Zoom
<b>Chair</b>	Ryan Ginger (City SU)
<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Introduction &amp; Ground Rules</li><li>2. <b>Motion 1:</b> Change the name of 'Womxn's Officer' to 'Women's Officer'</li><li>3. <b>Motion 2:</b> Demanding more support and inclusion for study abroad programs and immigrant students</li><li>4. <b>Motion 3:</b> Cops Off Campus</li><li>5. <b>Motion 4:</b> SOAS Justice For Workers proposal for a mural of Consuelo Moreno, Lenin Escudero &amp; Sandy Nicoll in the JCR</li><li>6. <b>Motion 5:</b> Affiliate to and actively promote London Nightline at SOAS</li><li>7. <b>Motion 6:</b> Improve SOAS student support</li><li>8. <b>Motion 7:</b> Solidarity with GOSH workers</li><li>9. <b>Motion 8:</b> Solidarity with couriers organising against pay cuts and discrimination</li><li>10. <b>Motion 9:</b> Resist SOAS' Authoritarian Crackdown</li><li>11. Executive Committee Reports</li><li>12. Ratifying the Minutes of the Previous UGM</li><li>13. AOB</li></ol>



## UGM Motions

### Motion 1

<b>Title</b>	Change the name of 'Womxn's Officer' to 'Women's Officer'
<b>Proposer</b>	Ellora Singh
<b>This Union Notes</b>	
<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 <a href="#">'Safer Space' policy</a>.</p>	
<b>This Union Believes</b>	
<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>	
<b>This Union Resolves</b>	
<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

<b>Title</b>	Demanding more support and inclusion for study abroad programs and immigrant students
<b>Proposer</b>	Gioia Scazza
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Notes</b></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> <p>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>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Believes</b></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> <p>o SOAS should remedy the inconveniences caused by the lack of communication with student finance, be that academic or financial.</p>	



### **This Union Resolves**

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.

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.

3.3 That SOAS will be demanded to offer more partnerships with universities in the Global South 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 3

<b>Title</b>	Cops off Campus
<b>Proposer</b>	Ella Spencer
<b>This Union Notes</b>	
<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 <a href="#">PCSC bill</a>, which will greatly increase police powers, criminalise protest and trespass, further increasing the violently discriminatory role of the police</p>	
<b>This Union Believes</b>	
<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>	
<b>This Union Resolves</b>	
<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"> <li>- The Union commits to offer training for sabbatical officers on how to engage with the police.</li> <li>- To pressure the school not to allow or invite police onto our campus for their events.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To condemn police presence in halls of residence (Dinwiddy and Paul Robeson).</li> </ul> </li> <li>- To support students who, in their actions, may incur unlawful challenges by the police.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For instance being followed, stopped and searched or arrested.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> <p>3.2. To support the establishment of a campus CopWatch group, in cooperation with the local area and other university communities</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



## Motion 4

<b>Title</b>	SOAS Justice For Workers proposal for a mural of Consuelo Moreno, Lenin Escudero & Sandy Nicoll in the JCR
<b>Proposer</b>	Ella Spencer
<p><b>This Union Notes</b></p> <p>1.1. That Consuelo Moreno has been part of the Justice For Workers campaign for 16 years, since its formation in 2006;</p> <p>1.2. That Lenin Escudero has been part of the Justice For Workers campaign since its formation in 2006.</p> <p>1.3. That the campaign has been successful in achieving a London living wage for all cleaners along with sick pay, holiday pay, pensions and an end to outsourcing in 2018;</p> <p>1.4. That Sandy Nicoll has been UNISON rep at SOAS for many years and a part of the Justice For Workers campaign for many years;</p> <p>1.5. That Sandy Nicoll has been a long-standing and dedicated supporter and advocate for students and staff at SOAS;</p> <p>1.6. That the victory of the end outsourcing campaign at SOAS has been an inspiration nationally and internationally for other worker campaigns and that Consuelo Moreno, Lenin Escudero and Sandy Nicoll have and continue to play important roles in the campaign.</p>	
<p><b>This Union Believes</b></p> <p>2.1. That Consuelo Moreno, Lenin Escudero and Sandy Nicoll deserve recognition for their work at SOAS;</p> <p>2.2. That murals act as a form of archiving campaign history which allows those who come after us to continue the work.</p>	
<p><b>This Union Resolves</b></p> <p>3.1. To facilitate and fund the painting of a mural of Consuelo Moreno, Lenin Escudero and Sandy Nicoll in the JCR in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the SOAS community;</p>	



3.2. To continue to stand in solidarity with the Justice For Workers campaign.



## Motion 5

<b>Title</b>	Affiliate to and actively promote London Nightline at SOAS
<b>Proposer</b>	Gabby Horecka
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Notes</b></p> <p>1.1 Nightline is an anonymous listening and information service run by students, for students <a href="https://nightline.org.uk/">https://nightline.org.uk/</a></p> <p>1.2 Nightline operates from 6pm to 8am every day except during term breaks</p> <p>1.3 Nightline volunteers have undergone extensive training and are supervised</p> <p>1.4 There are many ways to contact Nightline: phone, live chat, free Skype call, and Email</p> <p>1.5 Other than an automated email and information on the web site, SOAS Advice and Wellbeing Service does not provide a support service during the evenings and at Weekends</p> <p>1.6 Accessing support from SOAS Advice and Wellbeing Service requires students to fill in a long form, there may be a wait before getting support and support may be Denied</p> <p>1.7 There is currently no crisis support for SOAS students provided by SOAS or SOAS Students Union (SU)</p> <p>1.8 Neither SOAS nor SOAS SU is currently affiliated to London Nightline</p> <p>1.9 Affiliation to London Nightline would cost SOAS £2,200 and the SU £600 approx</p> <p>1.10 SOAS and SOAS SU annual budgets are finalised in July and so there is time to make sure money is earmarked for this project</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Believes</b></p> <p>2.1 The student support currently available to SOAS students is inadequate</p> <p>2.2 Lack of timely support is adversely affecting the mental and emotional wellbeing of SOAS students</p> <p>2.3 Minority group students (students with disabilities, overseas students, remote students, mature students, working students, and LGBT+ students amongst others) are more likely to be affected by the lack of support</p> <p>2.4 Affiliating to Nightline and actively promoting it to the entire staff and student</p>	



body would plug a gap in current student support

**This Union Resolves**

3.1 SOAS Students Union affiliates to London Nightline

3.2 SOAS Students Union lobbies SOAS to also affiliate to London Nightline

3.3 SOAS Students Union works with SOAS to actively promote London Nightline to the entire staff and student body



## Motion 6

<b>Title</b>	Improve SOAS student support
<b>Proposer</b>	Gabby Horecka
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Notes</b></p> <p>1.1 Accessing student support at SOAS is bureaucratic and impersonal</p> <p>1.2 Students who need support are having to wait for a limited range of support</p> <p>1.3 Student Advice and Wellbeing does not respond to students in a timely or appropriate way (phones are not answered, emails not responded to, students not kept informed of what or when help will be available, students denied support)</p> <p>1.4 Student Advice and Wellbeing does not consult SOAS students or SOAS Students Union (S)U when making decisions about student support services</p> <p>1.5 Student Advice and Wellbeing recently started promoting 'Talk Campus' at SOAS</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Believes</b></p> <p>2.1 Students are not accessing support they could and should be getting</p> <p>2.2 Students mental and emotional wellbeing is being adversely affected during their studies and potentially when they leave</p> <p>2.3 Student support could be better if the different parts of Student Advice and Wellbeing worked in a more collaborative way with each other and with SOAS SU</p> <p>2.4 'Talk Campus' is an inappropriate resource and causes more harm than good</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Resolves</b></p> <p>3.1 To work with SOAS Student Advice and Wellbeing to review student support provision at SOAS</p> <p>3.2 To work with SOAS Student Advice and Wellbeing to formulate and implement an ongoing strategy to identify and address gaps in student support</p> <p>3.3 To work with SOAS Student Advice and Wellbeing to ensure students are regularly consulted about their support needs and proposed new services</p> <p>3.4 To work with SOAS Student Advice and Wellbeing to review the benefits and harms of 'Talk Campus', to ascertain the student body's response to it and take appropriate action</p>	



## Motion 7

<b>Title</b>	Solidarity with GOSH Workers
<b>Proposer</b>	Abel Harvie-Clark
<b>This Union Notes</b>	
<p>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.</p> <p>1.2. The security guards at GOSH are nearly all Black or brown migrants who are being denied the same terms &amp; conditions as their NHS colleagues.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.4. The security guards at GOSH are outsourced through Carlisle Support Services, a private contractor owned by the Conservative Party donor Lord Ashcroft.</p> <p>1.5. The workers have taken 50 days of strike action, but GOSH still refuses to listen</p>	
<b>This Union Believes</b>	
<p>2.1. Our NHS is a public service and should not be used to funnel profits into the pockets of wealthy Conservative Party donors.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2.3. We fight racism with solidarity.</p>	
<b>This Union Resolves</b>	
<p>3.1. To issue a public expression of solidarity with the security guards at GOSH.</p> <p>3.2. To support fundraising activities for the GOSH security guards strike fund.</p> <p>3.3. Advertise all actions supporting these workers to members of the union</p> <p>3.4. To invite GOSH workers to upcoming SOAS events, and support the running of events in SU spaces which support their campaign</p> <p>3.5. To encourage the SOAS community to attend the GOSH picket line</p>	



## Motion 8

<b>Title</b>	Solidarity with Couriers Organising Against Pay Cuts and Discrimination
<b>Proposer</b>	Maxine Mallon
<b>This Union Notes</b>	
<p>1.1. Couriers across England are engaged in the longest ever ongoing dispute with Just Eat/Stuart over a 24% percent pay cut. The strike has seen many new areas organise unions with IWGB.</p> <p>1.2. These strikes exist in the context of couriers organising industrial action worldwide. Deliveroo couriers recently went on strike in Dubai, where industrial action is illegal</p> <p>1.3. Couriers in Hackney have been campaigning for safe work, decent conditions, and against unfair fines. In response, a police immigration raid targeted the couriers and arrested 8 on immigration charges - <a href="https://twitter.com/IWGB_CLB/status/1488061332716929031">https://twitter.com/IWGB_CLB/status/1488061332716929031</a>. Their campaign has recently targeted WingStop for their poor treatment of drivers</p>	
<b>This Union Believes</b>	
<p>2.1. Couriers organising against the exploitative conditions of the gig economy deserve our full support</p> <p>2.2. That the struggle of the IWGB couriers is an exemplification of many currently ongoing movements e.g. PCSC and Nationality and Borders Bill bills, worker's rights and strikes, migrant justice, police corruption, failure of the Labour Party leadership</p>	
<b>This Union Resolves</b>	
<p>3.1. To express our public support for the couriers strike, and circulate their strike fund</p> <p>3.2. To encourage students to attend any future demonstrations held in London as part of the IWGB couriers campaigns for example. through the updates in the newsletters</p>	

## Motion 9

<b>Title</b>	Resist SOAS' Authoritarian Crackdown
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<b>Proposer</b>	Abel Harvie-Clark
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Notes</b></p> <p>1.1. SOAS management have enacted a particularly authoritarian response to activism in the university community, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Shutting down the main building in response to the occupation of the management corridor</li><li>- Denying protestors access to toilets</li></ul> <p>- Lying and misrepresenting the occupation in all student-staff emails, in order to divide the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Employing “Eviction Response Team” (evictionresponseteam.com), a company priding itself on traveller evictions, to remove the peaceful occupation, resulting in injuries to students</li><li>- Continuing to securitise the campus beyond the occupation, creating a particularly hostile environment for racialised students</li><li>- Misrepresenting the UCU and Unison industrial action, and undermining the planned marking boycott by devaluing degrees</li></ul> <p>1.2. The proposition to carry out a survey around attitudes to protests on campus, has been initiated by Adam Habib and Lord Hastings (Chair of the Board of Trustees), who already confirmed their intention to change the culture of protest around SOAS</p> <p>1.3. The demands of the occupation are all SU policy, including Fire Habib, support for the J4W campaign and UCU and Unison industrial action, implementing BDS policy, and the demands of the Disabled Students Society</p> <p>1.4. The last term (Spring 2022) has seen a number of student occupations across the country, sharing many demands with SOAS SU</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Believes</b></p> <p>2.1. The actions of the Directors Group during the occupation shows they are incompetent to manage the university. An alternative management should be chosen by and accountable to the student and staff body.</p> <p>2.2. The rights, freedoms and privileges to organise, politically and socially, on campus, have been fought for and won by those before us, and will be stripped back if we do not continue to defend them, and take action to win more.</p> <p>2.3. Occupations, and other forms of direct action, are not only legitimate but essential forms of protest. We oppose the SOAS policy seeking to delegitimise occupations</p> <p>2.4. Solidarity is where our power lies. The struggle against SOAS’ authoritarian management will be won in connection with people at other universities, and those outside the walls of the university institutions</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Union Resolves</b></p>	



- 3.1. To continue to promote organising between students and staff, to take action to demarketise and decolonise our education
- 3.2. Seek connections with student organisers at other universities, and promote cross-university campaigning
- 3.3. To mobilise students for campaigns against the PCSC bill, Nationality and Borders bill, and the Cost of Living crisis, and promote political education showing how these issues relate to our education