

Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Bringing Services In-House
Proposer:	Kristian Bruun
Secunder:	Arianna Tassinari
This Union Notes:	<p>1) Support staff e.g. cleaners, security and catering staff are treated as second class workers. They are the lowest paid workers at SOAS. They do not get sick pay, get lower pension if at all, no maternity leave and they are more vulnerable to redundancies. On top of that their physical stress is the highest in the the institution.</p> <p>2) The management makes surplus every year and pays themselves sky high salaries.</p> <p>3) SOAS had a surplus in 2010 at £4,624,000.</p> <p>4) SOAS's total reserves are £52,883,000 and total funds are £82,416,000.</p> <p>5) Paul Webley earned in 2010 £190,363 exclusive pension.</p> <p>6) The average support worker (as defined above) earns £8,30 an hour.</p> <p>7) All students and academic staff are using the services of the support staff everyday and SOAS as an institution could not function without them.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>1) All workers have the right to a minimum of benefits such as London Living Wage, sick pay, proper pension, maternity leave.</p> <p>2) SOAS shall not make magnificent surplus. It is NOT a profitable institution. It is there to serve students, staff and the wider society.</p> <p>3) If all staff were in-house i.e. directly employed by SOAS, they would have much better working conditions and terms.</p> <p>4) It is NOT true that SOAS cannot afford such an operation – it is a matter of choice.</p> <p>5) SOAS should be in the forefront of defending workers rights. If we want to change the living conditions of people around the globe, we have to look inwards first.</p> <p>6) The staff is not currently treated with the respect and dignity that they deserve.</p>

This Union Resolves:

1) To run a campaign in the academic year 2011/2012 in order to get all support staff in-house.

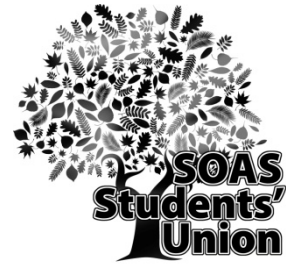
2) To call for a kick start meeting Thursday the 13th of October 6pm. All staff, students and UNISON reps are welcome. This meeting will further determinate how run the campaign.



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Commission a Union Governance Report
Proposer:	Ali Khan
Secunder:	Arianna Tassinari
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That SOAS Students' Union has kept the same governance structure for the last few years, whilst the student body has grown immensely.</p> <p>1.2 That the current governance structure has not received a formal internal review for the last five years at least.</p> <p>1.3 That the governance of the Union has come under disrepute as of late.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That the current governance structure of having three sabbatical officers has come under strain.</p> <p>2.2 That the positions Co-President for Finance & Communications, Co-President for Welfare & Education and Co-President for Sports & Societies are outdated and do not represent an efficient manner of representation for the Union.</p> <p>2.3 That it is irresponsible to have a position 'Co-President for Finance & Communications' who is mandated to look after the Union's finances, whilst also a trustee. The Board of Trustees direct the financial operation of the Union. A 'General Secretary' of the Union would be more fitting to make sure the administration and operation run as smoothly as possible.</p> <p>2.4 That the position 'Co-President for Welfare & Education' is too big a responsibility for one position to manage efficiently. Education, being a long-term priority of the Students' Union, deserves a position dedicated entirely to it. A new position 'Co-President for Welfare & Liberation' would focus on the wellbeing of students far more.</p> <p>2.5 That the Union's efforts are possibly</p>

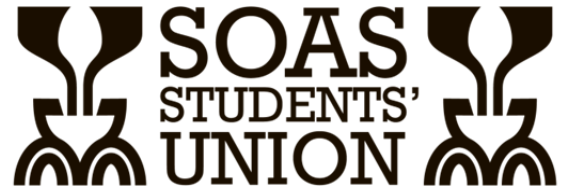
	<p>becoming more dedicated to service provision rather than acting as a lobby group, and that a better balance needs to be achieved. It is possible that the services that the Union provides, particularly through sports, could be better managed with a long-term member of staff rather than an annually elected co-president that essentially acts as an estates / student activities manager without any management experience.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 For the Students' Union Board of Trustees to conduct a governance report.</p> <p>3.2 For the governance report to look into all changes that are happening structurally to the Union and the immediate they have had, as well as any potential impact.</p> <p>3.3 For the governance report to look into alternative governance structures available with a feasibility study into the possibility of introducing a new sabbatical position.</p> <p>3.4 For the governance report to look into the weaknesses of SOAS Students' Union operation, using results from audits including SUEI.</p> <p>3.5 For the report to start immediately in its research and be published with suggestions to the student body at the second Union General Meeting of the next academic year.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Cops off Campus
Proposer:	Kristian Bruun
Secunder:	Keiko Ono
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 The presence of police, United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) staff, and bailiffs on or near SOAS campuses has been intrusive and disruptive to students' attendance and safety, for example on the following occasions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · On Thursday 12th January 2012 the Police and UK Border Agency carried out a joint operation on the road beside Vernon Square. Police stopped 'suspicious' vehicles to carry out searches. UK Border Agency could then check the Immigration status of people in the vehicle. Many students said they felt upset and intimidated by the large number of Police and Border Agency staff working outside their campus, and this disrupted their attendance of classes. · December 2011 – Police stopped and fined students cycling between SOAS and the IOE. · On November 30th 2011 the Police used Evidence Gathering Teams (EGTs) to film staff and students on the SOAS picket lines. Hundreds of riot police then marched through the campus between the main building and Brunei Gallery, to the start of the demonstration from Mallet Street. In the evening, police stood on the picket lines outside Birkbeck. Several undercover police were also noticed on the campus. · When David Willetts spoke at SOAS on 13th June 2011, several students were assaulted and 5 arrested by violent police and private security. (See video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hl6WVc5foa0) · UKBA dawn raid on SOAS cleaners on 12th June 2009. 9 people were detained and consequently 5 deported, one was over 6 months pregnant and one had a heart attack and received absolutely no medical assistance. (See http://freesoascleaners.blogspot.com/) · The unnecessarily violent eviction of the

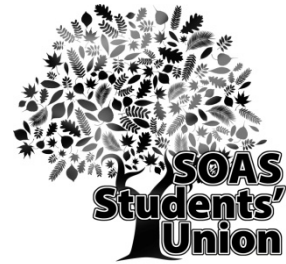
	<p>Bloomsbury Fightback occupation at 53 Gordon Square by masked bailiffs in December 2011</p> <p>1.2 that police have, in the past, pressured the Students' Union to hand over membership lists of the Islamic Society, and have been accused of treating Muslims as dangerous elements of society, such as 'terrorists'.</p> <p>1.3 that UKBA has, in the past, demanded lecturers hand over information on the attendance records of international students.</p> <p>1.4 that there is evidence for the public to believe that the police have been found kettling, assaulting student protestors, and then arresting them on trumped up charges.</p> <p>1.5 that SOAS is "private property" and, as such, the Police require a warrant to access the Campus, or invitation from the management.</p>
<p>This Union Believes:</p>	<p>2.1 That the experience of many members of the SOAS community (examples above) contradicts the State's claim that it protects our community.</p> <p>2.2 That the SOAS community is capable of self-managing the security of its members, without interference from the State.</p> <p>2.3 That the security of students and staff (notably cleaners) has been neglected, whilst the security of 'management' at SOAS to make profit and control property has been privileged.</p> <p>2.4 That the SOAS community should improve its ability to defend its members from harassment by the State.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To have the means and mechanisms necessary to notify and defend the SOAS community of/from Police, United Kingdom Border Agency, and particularly Bailiff presence on campus and its periphery. Concrete examples of this can include having banners, megaphones, legal advice and a text alert system (wherein students can voluntarily ask to be included).</p> <p>3.2 To request that management should also be given the request that police presence should not be allowed. In exceptional cases, where the management does invite the Police/Border Agency/Baliffs on campus, they must notify the rest of the SOAS community in advance and explain their reasoning.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Creation of Research Students & Masters' Students Officers
Proposer:	James Meadway
Seconder:	Arianna Tassinari
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 The creation of a new Doctoral School, with space dedicated for research students.</p> <p>1.2 The success of the Research Students' Association in promoting events and research students interest over the last year.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 Changes to School structures provide an opportunity for changes to the Union's representative functions.</p> <p>2.2 Research students and masters students have distinctive interests that could be better served by the Students' Union.</p> <p>2.3 A new research students' officer would act as a more effective means for the representation of research students and their interests at SOAS.</p> <p>2.4 At the same time, a dedicated masters' students officer could provide a more focused representation of masters students.</p> <p>2.5 More effective representation will help promote participation in the life of the Union and the School more generally.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 To replace in the Union Schedule throughout paras. 14 "Postgraduate Officer" with "Masters' Students Officer"</p> <p>3.2 To replace the current Union Schedule para. 14.1 with "14.1 The Masters' Students Officer shall represent the interests of masters students to the Union and the School."</p> <p>3.3 To add in the Union Schedule at paras. 20, amending subsequent paragraph numbering, the text given below: 20. PhD Students' Officer 20.1 The Research Students' Officer shall</p>

	<p>represent the interests of research students to the Union and the School.</p> <p>20.2 The Research Students' Officer shall act as chair of the Research Students' Association.</p> <p>20.3 The Research Students' Officer shall run campaigns and events appropriate to this constituency.</p> <p>20.4 The Research Students' Officer shall assist in the organisation of a research students' space, in conjunction with the Research Students Society, Students Union and the School.</p> <p>20.5 The Postgraduate Officer shall ensure that all Union publicity is displayed prominently in the research students' designated space and that the Union is promoted to research students."</p> <p>20.6 It is the responsibility of the the Research Students' Officer that meetings for the rep forum are called in a timely manner, and that agendas and minutes from these meetings are sent out to the research students.</p>
--	---



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Dear Management, please come and explain to students what exactly it is that you do...
Proposer:	Ali Khan
Secunder:	Bernard Goyder
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That many students are unclear how the management structure at SOAS functions and what roles individuals play in the running of the School.</p> <p>1.2 Students' feel unclear how they are supposed to hold the management structure, as well as those who hold positions within it, to account for decisions that impact on their 'student experience'.</p> <p>1.3 That students at SOAS are resigned to using the term 'management' when addressing issues that directly affect their education, but are out of their control, due to the above, and that the term 'management' therefore refers to, but is not limited to, all Principal Office Holders at SOAS.</p> <p>1.4 That SOAS Students' Union has informally asked those in Directorate positions to address the students of this University many times before through the Sabbatical Officers.</p> <p>1.5 That the current method through which the School includes students in managerial decisions is by allowing for a maximum of two members of the students' union to sit on all boards and committees that students are invited to attend, including Governing Body.</p> <p>1.5 That, in his address to those who attended the SOAS Graduation 2011 ceremony on Wednesday 20th July 2011, Professor Paul Webley clearly stated, "We [SOAS] have the best students in the world."</p>

This Union Believes:

2.1 That it is right that senior managers and directors should be directly accountable to students and academics.

2.2 That the relationship between 'The School' and 'The Students' Union' is based almost entirely on the relationship between 'management' and the sabbatical officers due to the lack of exposure that students have of those in directorship positions.

2.3. That the relationship can therefore fluctuate heavily year after year due to lack of emphasis by the School on democratic means of decision making.

2.4 That, with the current climate affecting higher education nationally, hopes of a sustainable future for SOAS depend on the sort of professional leadership that the institution has.

2.5 That the members of the Students' Union, barring the sabbatical officers and general manager, have little to no idea of the sort of professional leadership that the institution has through firsthand account.

2.6 That the most direct form of accountability is not through delegation, but through direct exposure.

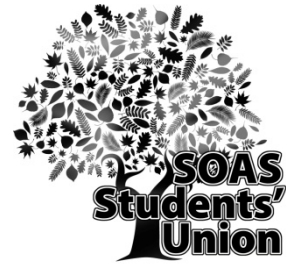
2.7 That students should have the opportunity to pose questions to those who govern their institution.

2.8 That management decisions, concerning school regulations, course closures and academics should be made more democratically.

2.9 That the current 'democratic' mechanisms through which the School includes students in decision making at a managerial level does not foster an atmosphere of accountability and openness, but one of anonymity.

2.10 That, if Professor Paul Webley truly believes in his remark made at the aforesaid event, he and those in 'management' positions should make more of an attempt to garner a more democratic management style, starting by

	<p>meeting and addressing formally the aforementioned "best students in the world" (Prof. P. Webley, "SOAS Graduation 2011 Closing Speech", 2011)</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To invite Professor Paul Webley (Director), Professor Nirmala Rao (Pro-Director Learning & Teaching), Professor Graham Furniss (Pro-Director Research & Enterprise) and Mr. Donald Beaton (Registrar & Secretary) to the JCR to address students regarding the work they do for the School, followed by a question and answer session.</p> <p>3.2 To work with all academic staff regardless of position on ways of creating a more open and democratic method of decision making with the School.</p> <p>3.3 To strive towards a SOAS that is more democratically run for the benefit of all students and staff of the institution.</p>

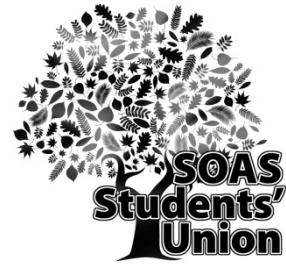


Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Economic crisis and the cuts
Proposer:	James Meadway
Seconder:	Feyzi Ismail
This Union Notes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic stagnation continues and deepens across much of the developed world. 2. The IMF has revised the UK's forecast growth for this year down from 2 per cent last year to 1.1 per cent today. Unemployment has risen to 2.5m, with 20 per cent of under-25 year olds now out of work. 3. The eurozone remains mired in crisis. The national debt of Greece has hit 200 per cent, and interest payments are set to hit 15 per cent of GDP next year. 4. US economic growth is weak, and long-term unemployment is the highest since records began. 45 per cent of the unemployed in the US have been out of work for more than six months. 5. Austerity programmes, consisting of sharp cuts in public expenditure, are being implemented across much of the developed world, including the UK. 6. Proposals have been made to reduce the taxation of the rich as a means to encourage economic growth. 7. Public debts and deficits remain high across the world.
This Union Believes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuing stagnation is the direct result of austerity measures. When public expenditure is cut, it sets in motion a vicious circle: firms sell fewer goods and services, employ fewer people at lower wages, who in turn spend less on goods and services. 2. Austerity is a totally inappropriate response to

	<p>the current crisis. Ongoing stagnation is the direct result of falling demand in the economies, from both consumers and businesses. It should be met by increased government spending, not reduced.</p> <p>3. The sharp increases in debt and deficits are the direct result of the financial crisis of 2008, which led to bailouts globally totalling \$7bn on the IMF estimate. It is the financial crisis, not spending on public services, that produced the increase in public debt.</p> <p>4. The Greek debt crisis is not the result of 'profligacy' or 'laziness': Greek public expenditure is below the European average and Greeks work the longest hours in the EU. The debt crisis in Europe is instead the product of long-term imbalances between northern and southern Europe that developed over the course of the last decade. When the financial crash of 2008 hit these existing imbalances, the whole system was pushed into severe crisis. Austerity, imposed on Greece by the IMF/EU/ECB 'troika', is making scapegoats of people who did not cause the crisis.</p> <p>5. Cutting taxes for the rich is economically illiterate, since it does not address the slump in demand that is causing stagnation, and morally unjust, since it rewards those who need it least.</p> <p>6. Default – cancellation of some or all of the debt – is the only realistic option for countries now mired in the sovereign debt crisis. It may result in financial turbulence. Capital controls, including the bans on speculation and the taxation on short-term debt, are now recommended even by the IMF to cope with this.</p> <p>7. The correct response to the crisis is therefore one that does not punish workers and ordinary people, but addresses its causes: a slump in demand and financial speculation.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>1. To support those campaigning against austerity, here and internationally, and to back calls for demonstrations in France outside the G20 conference on 3-4 November.</p> <p>2. To support proposals for progressive taxation and taxation on financial transactions, and the</p>

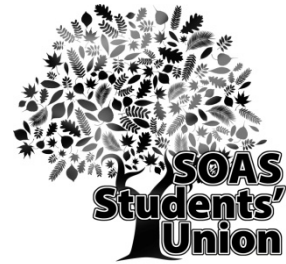
	<p>closure of tax havens.</p> <p>3. To support strikes across the UK by public sector workers, including the UCU lecturers' union, on 30 November. These are not just strikes to protect pensions, but against the entire austerity regime.</p> <p>4. To continue to oppose cuts at SOAS, building on the successful mass campaigns of last year within the student movement and beyond.</p>
--	--



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Edd Bauer Banner Drop
Proposer:	unknown
Secunder:	unknown
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 Edd Bauer, VP Education at Birmingham Guild of Students, was was arrested on 16th September after unfurling a banner that protested against university fees and education cuts, at the start of the Liberal Democrat party conference.</p> <p>1.2 Edd Bauer was held in Aston Police station over the weekend and from Monday the 19th of September until Monday the 26th of September in Winson Green Prison, after being charged with a minor, non custodial traffic offence.</p> <p>1.3 The arrest and detention of Edd Bauer for a minor act of civil disobedience have been widely criticized, especially as Edd Bauer had pleaded not guilty to the charge; he received solidarity from the NUS NEC and from the local Liberal Democrat MP, John Hemming</p> <p>1.4 Following public pressures, Edd Bauer has now been granted bail and released from jail pending trial;</p> <p>1.5 Despite the wide ranging public support, the ongoing trial and his pledge of not guilty, the University of Birmingham Guild of Students, without any consultation with the Guild's democratic bodies, has suspended Edward Bauer from his role as Vice President Education "indefinitely" and with "immediate effect".</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That banner drops are not criminal acts and should not be treated as such, as they constitute a rightful act of freedom of speech;</p> <p>2.2 That Edd Bauer's peaceful protest in defence of public education and against education cuts should be commended, not condemned;</p> <p>2.3 That peaceful protest should not be criminalised;</p> <p>2.4 That democracy within Students' Unions should be respected and that disciplinary</p>

	<p>procedures such as suspensions from post should be investigated and discussed at Union General Meetings or Students' Union councils, rather than by unelected members of staff;</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To call for the full, immediate reinstatement of Edd Bauer in his post as VP Education at Birmingham Guild of Students, and for the disciplinary procedure against him to be submitted to the Guild's democratic bodies;</p> <p>3.2 to mandate the SOAS SU Sabbatical officers to write to the Sabbatical Officers of Birmingham Guild of Students expressing SOAS SU solidarity with Edd Bauer and requesting that democratic procedures are respected and that Edd Bauer is reinstated until a democratic vote on the issue of Bauer's suspension is held at the Guild's democratic structures.</p> <p>We call on the Guild of Students' mangers to respect democracy in the students' union and allow Edd Bauer to continue in work until the matter has been investigated and discussed at either a union general meeting or a student union council with all the information at hand. We do not consider any disciplinary valid unless it is done democratically by students at either a UGM or Student Union Council.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Formally recognise the SOAS anthem
Proposer:	Bernard Goyder
Seconder:	Ed Armston-Sheret
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That the song, The SOAS Anthem has, as yet, remained unofficial and has no formal connection to the SOAS Students' Union or to the School.</p> <p>1.2. That, whilst having strong oral traditions, often involving the inhalation of narcotic substances or discussions about 'Orientalism', we do not have anything official of this type to enshrine our collective memory, the least of which being an official SU song.</p> <p>1.3. That, when Ali Khan was an undergraduate in his first year, he wrote rather a funny song starting... "From the sands of the Sahara, to the shore of Singapore"...</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1. That it is important for SOAS traditions to be passed down for future generations of students, oral as well as written.</p> <p>2.2 That many of the societies we study have oral traditions, but that the words to this song are quite long, so it would be good to have it written down publically and officially.</p> <p>2.3 That, in order for democracy to prevail, the chairman of the meeting should allow an extended hiatus to the meeting in order for the song to be sung in full.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 To recognise the song "The SOAS Anthem" officially.</p> <p>3.2 To formally record the lyrics of "The SOAS Anthem" by having a written copy within the Students' Union at all times for reference, as well as on the Students' Union website for all to admire.</p>

	<p>3.3 To ensure that an audiovisual recording is created of Mr. Ali Khan singing the aforementioned song, and that it be published on soasunion.org via youtube.com.</p>
--	---

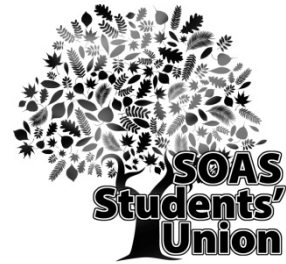


Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Formation of a Research Students Association
Proposer:	Arianna Tassinari
Secunder:	James Meadway
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 The creation of SOAS' Doctoral School from the academic year 2012/2013, with additional space dedicated to research students and a new managerial structure (Head of the Doctoral School);</p> <p>1.2 That the Research Students Society, formed in 2007, carries out a variety of activities, both social and academic-related, relevant to the interests of research students at SOAS, and has gained considerable visibility amongst the body of SOAS research students;</p> <p>1.3 That the Students' Union currently provides and coordinates academic representation at departmental, faculty and School level for research students through the student reps system, and that the research student reps coordinate through the research reps forum.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 The co-existence of the RSS and the research reps forum coordinated by the Students' Union has led to a certain level of internal competition over human resources and confusion about representational functions and responsibilities over the years;</p> <p>2.2 An organisational structure for the research students representative body is needed with clearly defined responsibilities, which can promote consistency, accessibility, and efficient procedures, and which can provide a united, strong voice for the research students at SOAS.</p> <p>2.3 The activities of the RSS have shown that there are interests specific to the PhDs, which fall under the objects clause of the constitution of the Student Union. To ensure continuity and enough funding, it is in the interest of the</p>

	<p>research students to integrate this work more effectively under the SU structures.</p> <p>2.4 That, to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure continuity and better, more organized representation, it would be in the best interest of SOAS research students if the representative activities carried out by the research reps and the social, cultural and academic activities organized by the RSS could be brought together under one structure within the Students' Union structure.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To create a Research Students' Association from 2012/2013 as a sub-section within SOAS Students' Union, with the following structure:</p> <p>a) an RSA Board, chaired by the newly created post of Research Students' Officer (part time officer, trustee and member of the executive committee of the Students' Union), and comprising three members of the Research Reps forum (one per each faculty) and three members from the Activities Committee of the RSA (former RSS); the RSA Board would facilitate the coordination between the two wings of the RSA, that of representation and that of activities, and would act as the main point of contact and negotiation between the new Doctoral School management and the body of research students;</p> <p>b) a Research Reps forum, comprised of all the elected research student reps at departmental and faculty level; the Research Reps forum would facilitate the coordination of all activities relating to the formal academic representation of research students within the School's structures, and would act as the primary forum for the articulation of research students' academic and work-related needs, demands and priorities at School level;</p> <p>c) an Activities committee, comprised of volunteer students chosen by internal election to carry out different functions relating to the organization of social and academic activities for the benefit of research students.</p>

	<p>3.2 That the internal organizational structures of the RSA shall be further outlined in the RSA Constitution, which will become part of the SOAS Students' Union Constitution Schedules, and that will be approved at the first UGM of the academic year 2012/2013;</p> <p>3.3 That all research students shall be automatically members of the RSA in virtue of their membership to SOAS Students' Union;</p> <p>3.4 That the fundamental RSA activities will be funded from the budget of the Students' Union, and that an agreement will be sought with the Head of the Doctoral School to guarantee additional funding for the RSA activities from the School's budget.</p>
--	--



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Improving Education At SOAS
Proposer:	Arianna Tassinari
Secunder:	Joe Buckley
This Union Notes:	<p>1) That 'Education' was voted in the 2010 SOAS Students' Union Referendum by SOAS students as the number one SU strategic priority for the next five years</p> <p>2) That last year the Students' Union presented to Academic Board and other relevant School committees a set of Students' Union educational priorities for 2010/2011 that outlined the key changes and improvements to SOAS' educational provision that the Students' Union perceived as immediately necessary;</p> <p>3) That many of the 2010/2011 educational priorities are yet to be implemented by the School;</p> <p>4) That, on top of last year's educational priorities, new educational priorities have been provisionally identified for the academic year 2011/2012 by the Co-President Welfare and Education and by the Academic Affairs officer, and that these are submitted as an appendix to this motion.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>1) That the improvement of SOAS educational provision is at the heart of the Students' Union mission;</p> <p>2) That SOAS is a world class institution for its academic standards and the quality of its lecturers and its research, but it should improve its educational provision to increase standards of quality, meet students' expectations and better suit the diversity of students' needs within the institution;</p> <p>3) That a series of key educational changes need to be implemented within SOAS, relating especially to areas such as assessment and feedback, use of technology in learning and teaching, administrative organization and consistency of regulations, availability of diverse course choices and of suitable forms of financial</p>

	<p>support for students;</p> <p>4) That the compilation of a set of SU Educational Priorities for 2011/2012 is necessary to continue pressuring the School to improve its educational provision, as well as to voice the concerns of SOAS students</p> <p>5) That the SU Educational Priorities, drafted by the Co-President Welfare and Education and by the Academic Affairs officer, should be the expression of the voices and concerns of the widest component of the student body as possible;</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>1) To approve the first draft of the 2011/2012 Educational Priorities that is submitted as an appendix to this motion;</p> <p>2) To mandate the Co-president Welfare and Education to discuss this first draft with the relevant Student Reps in the first Reps general meeting of the year;</p> <p>3) To mandate the Students' Union executive to approve the final draft of the Students' Union educational priorities following consultation with the student reps and the wider student body;</p> <p>4) to submit the final draft of the SU Educational Priorities to the first meeting of Academic Board and to all the other relevant School's committees.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Introduction of External Advisors to SOAS Students' Union Board of Trustees
Proposer:	Ali Khan
Seconder:	Arianna Tassinari
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That SOAS Students' Union has no formal external advisory roles, apart from the position of the General Manager.</p> <p>1.2 That SOAS Students' Union have made their position clear on having voting external trustees on the Union's board of trustees, and that this motion is the introduction of a new concept to the constitution.</p> <p>1.3 That SOAS Students' Union Executive Committee have created this motion together in the confidence that it will help improve accountability and transparency of the Union, as well as advise the Union's Board of Trustees on matters financial, legal and operational for the benefit of all students.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That SOAS Students' Union, like all students unions, runs primarily on trust.</p> <p>2.2 That formalising this trust and ensuring that it is not broken is of the utmost importance for any Union executive-committee and board of trustees.</p> <p>2.3 That, at the moment, it is too easy for that trust to be broken by those entrusted to maintain the Union's best interests, or by the sole advisory body to the Union Trustees at the moment – the General Manager.</p> <p>2.4 That having advisors who are not SOAS students or members of staff will help in the running of the Union. They can provide the Union with a wealth of knowledge and experience that will help in the running of the Union in a beneficial fashion.</p> <p>2.5 That this proposal will waylay any issue of</p>

	<p>swaying the student body’s power in making decisions for their Union. The Union should be run for students by students.</p> <p>2.6 That the role of external advisors will help in the continuity of experience for the SU, currently held only by one position – the general manager.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To introduce the role of two external advisors to SOAS Students’ Union Board of Trustees.</p> <p>3.2 For these external advisors to be recommended by the Board of Trustees at the beginning of their tenure in office as trustees.</p> <p>3.3 For these recommendations to be approved at the first UGM of the year by a vote of simple majority before they are officially given their roles.</p> <p>3.4 For the Board of Trustees to take on any suggestions made by students for people to fill these positions.</p> <p>3.5 For those who have been nominated by the Board of Trustees to fill these positions to be urged to attend the first UGM of the academic year.</p> <p>3.6 For the Board of Trustees to make their recommendations based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That the nominee has a sizeable expertise in the running and operations of Students Unions ii. That the nominee has exhibited that they share in the values and ideals held by SOAS Students’ Union. iii. That the nominee is not a member of the Students’ Union or an employee of SOAS or any of its contractors. iv. That the nominee has not been a Trustee of SOAS Students’ Union for two academic years prior to their taking office. v. That the nominee has expressed their availability for the trustee meetings schedules for the academic year.

	<p>3.7 For the contract of each external advisor to be 2 years long, unpaid, and for the positions to be staggered in their endpoints.</p> <p>3.8 For the continuing external advisor to be ratified in their position halfway through their tenure by the first Union General Meeting of the academic year.</p> <p>3.9 For the following limitations to be applied to the role of external advisor to SOAS Students' Union Board of Trustees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. That the external advisor must attend all Trustee Meetings.ii. That, should the external advisor not attend two Trustee Meetings in succession, their position be up for election at the next possible Union elections.iii. That the external advisors have no conflict of interests in filling their position as external advisor.iv. That the external advisors have no voting rights in either the Board of Trustees of the Union General Meeting.v. That the Union General Meeting, scheduled or emergency, have the right to a vote of no confidence in anyone holding either external advisory position by vote of two thirds majority.
--	---



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Introduction of Student Trustees to SOAS Students' Union Board of Trustees
Proposer:	Ali Khan
Seconder:	Arianna Tassinari
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That SOAS Students' Union does not currently have any non-executive office holding trustees on its board of trustees.</p> <p>1.2 That currently, the constitution states that the Co-President for Finance & Communications sits as the chair of the board of trustees.</p> <p>1.3 That SOAS Students' Union is an unincorporated charity and, as such, should be run to the maximum benefit of the student body.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That SOAS Students' Union would benefit from its board of trustees being chaired by somebody who is not mandated to keep the Union's day-to-day finances in order.</p> <p>2.2 That SOAS Students' Union would benefit from enfranchising more students into the running of the Union.</p> <p>2.3 That SOAS Students' Union's current structure renders the Union in financial and operational risk.</p> <p>2.4 That SOAS Students' Union would benefit from two non-executive office holding student trustees, who would be entrusted to keep the Union's finances and operation in as healthy a state as possible. The current system means that the executive officers in charge of day-to-day operation have nobody to hold them accountable at trustee level.</p>

This Union Resolves:

3.1 To introduce two new posts to SOAS Students' Union Board of Trustees.

3.2 For these two posts to be filled in the October election annually.

3.3 For these two posts to be year-long positions.

3.4 For one of these posts to be the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, for the other to be the Secretary.

3.5 For the Chairman of the Board of Trustees to produce a report for the student body for the last UGM of the year.

3.6 For the Students' Union to publicise these positions being up for election in the October elections.

3.7 For the positions to be available for those who are not holding executive-office positions within the Union.

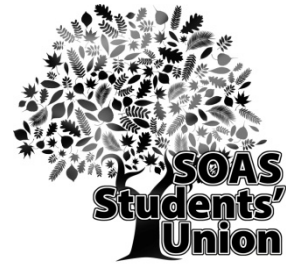


Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Motion to Ensure Union Accountability and Transparency
Proposer:	Peter Moore
Seconder:	Billy Mason
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That £10,900 in Beyond Borders' Basketball (BBB) tour money was not properly accounted for.</p> <p>1.2 That the BBB funds were missing since before this academic year (2011/12).</p> <p>1.3 That investigations by Peter Baran and the Union executive failed to uncover what had happened.</p> <p>1.4 That these investigations, or the problem itself, were not announced to the student body.</p> <p>1.5 That Union officials have a statutory duty to protect the assets and funds of the Student's Union.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That the SOAS SU should be run in a responsible, accountable and transparent manner.</p> <p>2.2 That the SOAS SU has failed to investigate the missing funds effectively or promptly.</p> <p>2.3 That the SOAS SU has failed to properly inform the student body of concerns over the funds, the nature of the attempts to investigate or resolve these concerns or even the very idea that there were concerns.</p> <p>2.4 That the entire affair calls into question the governance of the SOAS SU.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 That the SOAS SU shall call upon a neutral and unaffiliated body or person(s) to conduct an investigation into the issue of the missing funds and produce a freely available report, which shall:</p> <p>3.1.1 Explain how and why the funds were</p>

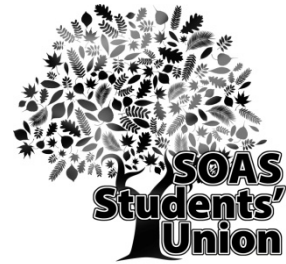
	<p>not used for their intended purpose.</p> <p>3.1.2 Explain who took the funds and what they were used for.</p> <p>3.1.3 Determine at what time the Union became aware of the issue.</p> <p>3.1.4 Determine when the Union began to make efforts to resolve this issue.</p> <p>3.1.5 Determine what efforts were made to resolve this issue.</p> <p>3.1.6 Determine which external authorities were informed and when.</p> <p>3.1.7 Determine whether the Union informed all external authorities that it is obligated to in the manner and fashion that is required.</p> <p>3.2 That the Union shall conduct a separate process, open to all SOAS students and with the advice of a neutral, unaffiliated body or person(s) to examine how the Union:</p> <p>3.2.1 Can introduce new policies and practices to prevent the misuse of funds.</p> <p>3.2.2 Can ensure that investigations into suspected misdeeds are conducted quickly, fairly and effectively.</p> <p>3.2.3 Can become more transparent and accountable to the student body in all its functions.</p> <p>3.3 That the Union shall not drop legal action— or support the dropping of legal action—against any individual who is suspected of committing an offence against the Union.</p> <p>3.4 That the Union shall update the student body regularly and promptly on the status of the investigation concerning BBB funds and all other investigations, criminal or otherwise, within legal limits.</p> <p>3.4.1 The Finance and Communications Co-President shall send an e-mail to the entire</p>
--	---

	<p>student body within twenty-four hours of any developments in the BBB case, including any notifications received from the police that can legally disclosed.</p> <p>3.4.2 If the Union feels that information that has been provided by the police cannot be legally revealed, it will seek competent and appropriate legal advice to determine if this is justified.</p>
--	---



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	No Bottled Water in the Shop
Proposer:	Henning Holst
Secunder:	Joss Ames
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 Every week 1 500 bottles of water is sold in the Union shops.</p> <p>1.2 Bottled water has huge effects on the environment: It takes 3 litres of water to produce one litre of bottled water, 17million barrels of oil were used in 2006 to make 31 billion plastic water bottles worldwide, and more than 31 billion plastic bottles every year will never decompose (http://theplasticplanet.org/bottled-water/about-bottled-water/)</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 It would be far more sustainable for the environment to use reusable bottles for water.</p> <p>2.2 Clean drinking water should be easily accessible for students on campus.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 For SOAS Students' Union to refrain from selling bottled water in Green Week (6th-12th Feb) to raise awareness of the issue.</p> <p>3.2 To work with the school to allocate more water stations on campus where reusable water bottles can easily be refilled.</p> <p>3.3 To phase out the selling of bottled water within SOAS Students' Union in order for there to be a complete ceasing by July 2014.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Pass a vote of no confidence in David Willetts, UK Minister of Universities and Science
Proposer:	Jasper Kain
Secunder:	Sebilio Uribe
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1. That the Government voted 323 to 302 to raise tuition fees for Undergraduate fees from £6000-9000 starting from the academic term of 2012. The result gave the Government a Commons majority of 21.</p> <p>1.2. Having been given recommendations by the Government, the average fee levels set by universities for undergraduates is £8678.36</p> <p>1.3. In the Spending Review the Government cut the Higher Education budget from £7.1bn to £4.2bn.</p> <p>1.4 That humanities subjects in higher education are facing devastating funding cuts, with the removal of entire teaching budgets from departments. This follows the Browne Review, published in October, that called for market-led fees of up to £9,000 per year.</p> <p>1.5 The announcement, across the national media, on weekend of 4/5 June, of a 'rival to Oxbridge' to be established in Bloomsbury, called the 'New College for the Humanities' (NCH).</p> <p>1.6 That NCH will charge £18,000 per year for tuition in a number of humanities subjects, plus law and economics, leading to a University of London international programme degree.</p> <p>1.7 That the operation is headed up by a number of well-known academics, AC Grayling most prominently, but that actual teaching from them will be limited.</p>

	<p>1.8 That the college is a private company limited by shares - not a charity as has been claimed. It will therefore be expected to deliver a profit to its shareholders, including private backers who are supporting the project with £10m of funding.</p> <p>1.9 That a number of courses, advertised on the NCH website, have been pirated from existing University of London courses – including those facing serious funding cuts, such as Royal Holloway. At no point were course material copyright holders approached.</p> <p>1.10 That NCH claims it will offer access to facilities across Bloomsbury, including University of London libraries and existing students’ union facilities, but that no agreement has been reached with the University of London, its constituent colleges, and its students’ unions.</p>
<p>This Union Believes:</p>	<p>2.1 The Government’s policy is financially chaotic and unsustainable. The Treasury budgeted for an average fee of £7500, but now more than two-thirds of Universities want to charge £9000 for some or all courses.</p> <p>2.2 The 80% cut to the HEFCE Teaching grant will leave Universities systematically underfunded even with higher fees.</p> <p>2.3 Forcing students into a debt between £18,000 and £27,000 will further perpetuate an economy based on false expectations thus contributing to a future financial crisis.</p> <p>2.4 The academic profession in the UK has never been less attractive. The debts incurred to go through both undergraduate and postgraduate study could be as high as £87,000. Money for research is also being cut in real terms and what remains is being focused on the Government’s short-term agenda.</p> <p>2.5 The consumer-producer relationship which the Government policies are designed to set up will undermine the spirit of academic community which is at the heart of the ethos of Higher Education.</p> <p>2.6 The embarrassing U-turns of recent weeks are signs of a policy in total disarray. The HE sector is too important to be thrown into chaos</p>

by half-baked ideas and rapid rethinks.

2.7 The licensing of for-profit institutions to award degrees and the advocacy of overseas franchising by existing Universities are a threat to the reputation of the UK University system as a whole.

2.8 David Willets has been critical to promoting cuts and privatisation across Higher Education.

2.9 Bloomsbury has been selected to house the NCH due to its abundance of positive externalities that have been created by the use of the area as a common space by generations of students and staff members of the Bloomsbury Colleges. The NCH is therefore a parasitic body that wishes to thrive off the achievements of past accomplishments with no manifestation of the ethos that caused the space to become what it presently is.

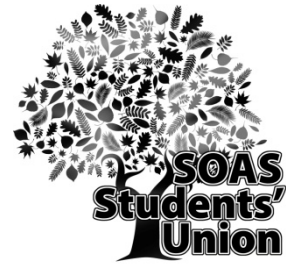
2.10 That NCH represents a serious attack on the very principle of universities as public institutions for scholarship, research and the dissemination of knowledge. If it is allowed to succeed it will undermine the character and ethos of university education.

2.11 That £18,000 a year fees place this college beyond the reach of all but the very richest. NCH claims it will offer scholarship funding, but – although they have been unclear on the details – it is becoming apparent that this will not cover full fees and will be of limited availability. NCH is therefore also an attack on the principle of access education determined by the ability to learn, not the ability to pay.

2.12 That the NCH business model depends critically on access to world-class facilities, built up at substantial public expense, located around Bloomsbury - most notably the university libraries, but also including welfare and students union services. It is therefore seeking to enjoy a handsome public subsidy, while turning a private profit.

2.13 That many of the claims surrounding NCH – including NCH's own publicity – have been misleading, perhaps deliberately so. In particular,

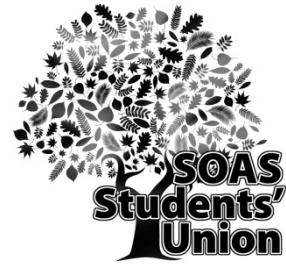
	<p>NCH cannot be called a 'university' since this is a legally-protected title. At most, it is a species of extraordinarily expensive finishing school.</p> <p>2.14 That the welfare and support services to be offered by NCH appear wholly inadequate to the needs of its potential students and that this is plainly irresponsible on the part of its founders.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To issue a Vote of No Confidence in David Willetts, Government Minister of State for Universities and Science.</p> <p>3.2 To actively encourage the SOAS branches of UCU and UNISON to issue a similar vote.</p> <p>3.3 To mandate the Student Governors to submit a paper that calls for the SOAS Governing Body to also issue a Vote of No Confidence in David Willetts.</p> <p>3.4 To actively encourage other Student Unions to issue Votes of No Confidence in the UK Minister of Universities and Science</p> <p>3.5 To encourage all Students, Academic Staff, Support Staff and Alumnus to sign onto the noconfidence.org.uk website.</p> <p>3.6 To issue a statement condemning the NCH project for the reasons as given above, and to disseminate this as widely as possible.</p> <p>3.7 To demand SOAS management issue a similar statement, distancing themselves from the project.</p> <p>3.8 To demand the University of London refuse to collaborate with NCH, and issue a statement to this effect.</p> <p>3.9 To support calls for a "greylist" of those academics involved in NCH, including boycotts and protests at their lectures and seminars.</p> <p>3.10 To support action taken by staff unions against NCH.</p> <p>3.11 To support ongoing campaigns against NCH and other similar projects.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	No To Sexual Harrassment
Proposer:	Sian McGee
Seconder:	Arianna Tassinari
This Union Notes:	<p>1. That the NUS' definition of sexual harassment is as follows: The defining characteristics of sexual harassment are that it is unwanted, persistent and of a sexual nature. Examples of unacceptable behaviour include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unwanted sexual comments (including comments about your body or private life) - Unwelcome sexual invitations, innuendoes, and offensive gestures - Wolf whistling, catcalling or offensive sexual noises - Groping, pinching or smacking of your body, such as your bottom or breasts - Having your skirt or top lifted without agreeing - Someone exposing their sexual organs to you without consent <p>2. That a number of students' unions including Cardiff and Goldsmiths have already successfully implemented a zero tolerance policy in their Union</p> <p>3. The Hidden Marks report, published in March 2010 by the NUS Women's Campaign, revealed that 68% of women students have experienced sexual harassment while a student at their current institution. Many women students reported experiencing persistent harassment in pubs and club nights of the type held at many unions, and reported that this kind of behaviour was seen as normal at such an event.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>1. That no student at this institution should be forced to just 'put up' with sexual harassment, and that action must be taken to ensure all students are able to enjoy the union without experiencing sexual harassment</p> <p>2. That sexual harassment should not be tolerated by the union, and those who commit</p>

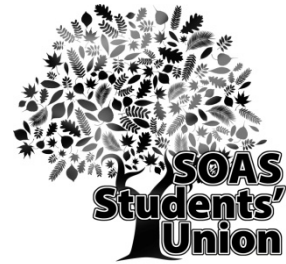
	acts of sexual harassment should be stopped and disciplined for their actions
This Union Resolves:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To adopt a 'zero tolerance to sexual harassment' policy, and to work with Campaigns nationally in the implementation of this to work towards getting SOAS Students' Union accredited as a Zero Tolerance Against Sexual Harassment union 2. To use the NUS definition of sexual harassment in the zero tolerance campaign 3. To be mandate the liberation officers and the Union to rewrite the equal opportunities policy and report back by the next UGM 4. To provide a safe space where students can talk about their experiences without embarrassment or fear.



Union General Meeting Motion

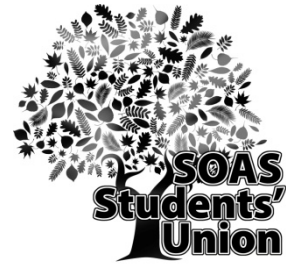
Title:	Oppose the criminalization of squatting
Proposer:	Yvo Fitzherbert
Seconder:	Stephanie Chan
This Union Notes:	<p>1: That under current laws squatting is not a criminal offence and is treated as a civil matter to be dealt with in civil courts.</p> <p>2 That the government is holding a consultation which ends on the 5th October on squatting with a view to a potential criminalization of it.</p> <p>3 The consultation threatens to repeal or remove Section 6 (which gives legal protection for occupiers)</p> <p>4 That Section 6 has been used in the past for student occupations for protection as it means they have to be served with a possession order in order to be evicted. Moreover, it will become a criminal offence under the new laws to refuse to leave any building when asked to do by</p> <p>5 If the Government succeeds in its new laws, it will directly threaten student activity and occupations as it will mean police and security can legally break in rather than go through the courts. Furthermore, the new law would give allowance for a for quicker response from universities towards occupations and allows for more direct aggression.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>1 That by criminalization of squatting would criminalise vulnerable people, be a huge waste of public funds to implement, and would give more power to unscrupulous landlords.</p> <p>2 That Murdoch and his pals have been setting the political agenda and misrepresenting who squatters are. For example, the claim that you can squat people's home is false.</p> <p>3 That squatting is about using wasted spaces- i.e. unused, abandoned buildings and in a society where waste is so prevalent, it lies in the public interest in putting empty properties back into use.</p> <p>4 In a country where 400,000 people are homeless and in London alone, 300,000</p>

	<p>households are waiting for social housing whilst 15,000 live in hostels. Due to this, squatting empty buildings is in the public interest as it acts as an incentive and a reminder for the council and private landlords to put their properties back into public good.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 That the union supports the squatters action for secure homes, and mandates the SU executive to publicize the consultation and urge student to respond to the consultation which ends on Wednesday 5th October.2 To directly support the squash campaign and publicise a discussion on the consequence of these new proposals for student occupation, and occupiers unlike.3 To mandate the union to find a symbolic target to occupy under section 6 in protest against these draconian new laws. The occupation would be used to hold awareness raising discussions on the consequences of the new laws.



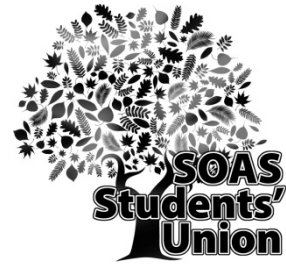
Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Pay Cuts in the Construction Industry
Proposer:	Joana Ramiro
Seconder:	James Chitham
This Union Notes:	<p>1. The austerity measures pushed through by the government have affected several areas of work. One of these areas is construction. Eight major construction employers (Bailey, Balfour Beatty, T. Clarke, Crown House, Gratte Brothers, MJN Colston, SES and SPIE Matthew Hall) want to eradicate the Joint Industry Board, Pay and Conditions agreement. This would mean that workers in construction sites could take up to 35% cuts in salary (this in a time of 5% inflation).</p>
This Union Believes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay cuts are inhuman and throw many into poverty 2. Pay cuts lead to exploitation of workers 3. SOAS students must show solidarity with construction workers
This Union Resolves:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issue a solidarity with construction workers statement 2. Condemning all companies enforcing the eradication of the Joint Industry Board, Pay and Conditions agreement 3. Hold a solidarity (and possibly fundraising) meeting, with a speaker from the construction workers movement (e.g.: The Sparks or Siteworker) and inviting local trade unionists, too (UCU members, for instance) 4. Support any local or broader campaign set up in defense of construction workers



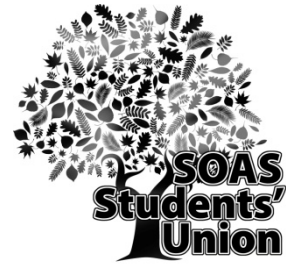
Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Representation at NUS Conferences
Proposer:	Maham Hashmi
Secunder:	Arianna Tassinari
This Union Notes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SOAS is affiliated to NUS. 2. NUS changed the format of democratic say, recently into having smaller more specific zone conferences that feed into national conference. 3. SOAS SU currently does not have a specific procedure to send delegates to conference. 4. That liberation campaign should answer to their constituencies.
This Union Believes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SOAS representation in NUS is very important as this is the only way we have to make sure we have a say on national policy. 2. Liberation campaigns are independent of national policy.
This Union Resolves:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To vote by show of hand delegates to zone conferences if there are more people standing than positions at the closest UGM to the conference. 2. To mandate students that do get to go to zone conferences to submit a report to the SU or they won't get their travel paid for them. 3. To send liberation officers to liberation conferences. 4. To implement this policy from this conference.



Union General Meeting Motion

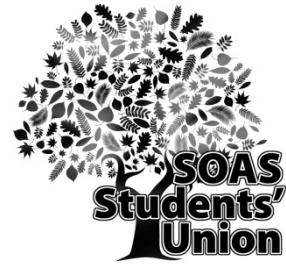
Title:	Save Dale Farm
Proposer:	Fanny Malinen
Secunder:	Kristian Bruun
This Union Notes:	<p>1: That one third of the British admit being personally prejudiced against Gypsies and Travellers.</p> <p>2: That Dale Farm in Essex is a Traveller community under threat of eviction. The residents own the land they live on, but have not been given planning permission because the site is officially registered as greenbelt. However, the concreted site was a scrap yard before the Travellers bought it.</p> <p>3: That there are cases where planning permission has been given retrospectively, e.g. in the case of a neighbour of the community. According to the Commission for Racial Equality, more than 90% of Travellers' planning applications are initially rejected. This compares to less than 20% of rejected applications for everybody else.</p> <p>4: That the eviction of Dale Farm has been condemned by several including Amnesty International and the United Nations.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>1: That no culture should be discriminated against. The Travellers' way of living should be appreciated not attacked.</p> <p>2: That the great percentage of rejected planning applications in the case of Travellers demonstrates institutional racism and should be campaigned against.</p> <p>3: That UK authorities should recognise the special needs of Gypsies and Travellers.</p> <p>4: That the moral of a society is measured by how it treats its minorities.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>1: To publicly condemn the discrimination of Travellers and Gypsies and the planned eviction of Dale Farm.</p> <p>2: To send a four-people delegation to Dale Farm to show solidarity with the Travellers and to peacefully resist the eviction.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Solidarity with SOAS Lecturers and Staff - Keep Up the Fight
Proposer:	Mona Dohle
Secunder:	Riya Mary Al'Sanah
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 The magnificent strike by 2.5 million public sector workers to defend their pensions on 30 November, which has been actively supported by SOAS Staff as well as students. This strike has demonstrated the strength of the Unions and opened potential for radical demands.</p> <p>1.2 That the pensions fight is especially important for young people who will have to carry the burden the increases of pension age. It is therefore particularly important for students to support the fight for fair pensions.</p> <p>1.3 That UCU members from SOAS who participated at the strike action have been intimidated by the Human Resource Department and that SOAS management is trying to direct pay deductions away from the student hardship funds which up until this day has been a normal practice.</p> <p>1.4 The decision by a number of union leaders to sign the 'Heds of Agreement' over the government's pension deal. This accepts the basis of the government offer and rules out industrial action in the near future.</p> <p>1.5 The final offer on pensions does as Danny Alexander (the government's Chief Treasury Secretary) made clear, "Deliver the government's key objectives in full, and does so with no new money since our November offer." The agreements will ultimately deliver the government's agenda of making millions of public sector workers work longer, pay more and get less in their pensions.</p>

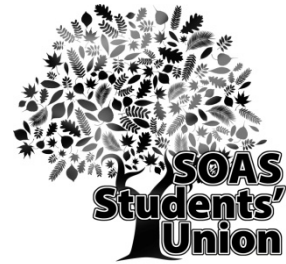
	<p>1.6 The fact that a number of unions including the UCU, PCS, UNITE, NUT and NASUWT have refused to sign. It is also a fact that many members in the unions that have signed the heads of agreement are very unhappy and are demanding that the deal is rejected and that strike action is reinstated as soon as possible.</p> <p>1.7 The shameful decision by the government to exclude the PCS from further pension negotiations.</p>
<p>This Union Believes:</p>	<p>2.1 That the unity shown by public sector unions was crucial to the success of N30.</p> <p>2.2 That more joint national strike action will be needed to defeat the Con-Dem attack on our pensions.</p> <p>2.3 That students have a particular responsibility and interest in supporting strike action and showing solidarity with lecturers on strike. The management's effort to direct pay deductions away from the student hardship funds is an attempt to play out students against teachers on strike.</p> <p>2.4 It was wrong for union leaders to sign the heads of agreement when no serious concessions had been made. This deal is a sell-out which disregards the enormous potential for action following N30.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To strongly condemn the intimidation of strikers by the SOAS human resource department and management and declares its solidarity with lecturers on strike as well as its active support for future strikes and protests.</p> <p>3.2 To denounce the attempts of SOAS management to direct pay deductions away from the student hardship funds.</p> <p>3.3 To agree to consult UCU in order to organize a solidarity campaign against the intimidation of lecturers on strike.</p> <p>3.4 To Support UCU's refusal to sign the Heads of Agreement and encourages UCU, Unison as well as other unions to name the date for the next strike.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Support Actions against public sector cuts and privatisation
Proposer:	James Meadway
Seconder:	Austin Cooper
This Union Notes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Coalition's Renewal plan for the NHS will be contribute to departmental closures throughout the UK; Accident and Emergency departments will be overstretched by doubling of catchment areas to 500,000, and will privatise crucial NHS services. 2. The Coalition plans to dismantle welfare provisions such as the Disability Support Allowance which are beneficial to vulnerable members of society. 3. The Coalition plans to raise Public Sector pension contributions from 6.4% per annum to 9.6%, and from 3.2% to 6.4% in the Civil Service
This Union Believes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The NHS should be free to all at point of contact. 2. Social welfare provisions such as the DSA are crucial in assisting physically and mentally disabled function normally. 3. Cuts proposed by the coalition will be detrimental to the economy and to people's lives. 4. An increase in pension contributions will impinge on those earning lower wages in the public sector and deter future employees from entering these services.
This Union Resolves:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 To support the Action to block Westminster bridge on October the 8th, the NUT Lobby of parliament on October 26th and The General Strike on November 30th and to vindicate those involved. 2 To provide any assistance possible to those

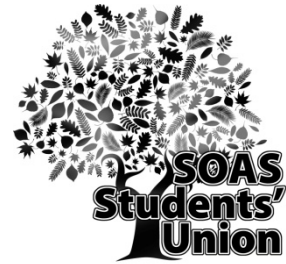
	<p>legally implicated by taking part in aforementioned actions.</p> <p>3 To mandate the Union Executive to support all campaigns opposing public sector cuts.</p>
--	---



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Support Bloomsbury Fightback!
Proposer:	Kristian Bruun
Seconder:	Alex Etchart
This Union Notes:	<p>1: That Bloomsbury Fightback! Is a group that brings together students and trade union members from across the Bloomsbury campus who wish to create a broad oppositional front against austerity in the university and more generally.</p> <p>2: The meetings include activists from SOAS, UCL, Birkbeck and Senate House, and from the Unison and UCU trade unions.</p> <p>3: BF! have no fixed agenda. BF! remains open to new ideas, new projects, new voices. BF! to stay active and stay mobile.</p> <p>4: BF! welcome local residents, FE and secondary students and people from further afield.</p> <p>5: BF! has open meetings were everyone can attend.</p> <p>6: BF! has a Twitter: @BloomsburyFight.</p> <p>7: BF! has website: http://bloomsburyfightback.wordpress.com.</p> <p>8: BF! is on Facebook: Search for bloomsbury fightback.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>1: BF! has been giving great support to the cleaners struggle in the Bloomsbury area.</p> <p>2: Many issues are similar across the different universities and can only be dealt with through organising.</p> <p>3: SOAS should engage more in organising on a local level</p>

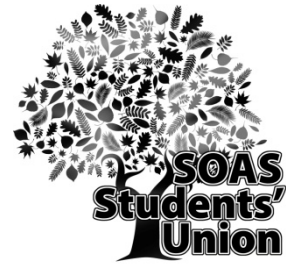
	4: As many SOAS students as possible should attend BF! activities
This Union Resolves:	1: To donate £100 for BF! to print flyers for their activities



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Support November 30th Strikes
Proposer:	Riya Mary Al'sanah
Seconder:	Mona Dohle
This Union Notes:	<p>1: Co-ordinated strike action has been called on November 30th by the TUC This may involve over 3 million working people from the unions Unison, GMB, Unite, NIPSA, FBU, PCS, Prospect, NUT, ATL, UCU, NASUWT, NAHT, UCAC, EIS</p> <p>2: That this union has previously taken a stance of support for UCU strikes</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>1: That strike action on June 30th was a success in that it has led to a wider fight-back against the government's austerity plans and directly led to November 30th, but the fight is not yet won</p> <p>2: That we should stand with working people in their struggles to save their pensions just as they have stood with us in the fight against fees</p> <p>3: The increase in pension contributions that the government is proposing amounts to a pay cut and is unfair and unnecessary</p> <p>4: The fight for pensions being taken up through strike action is one and the same with the fight against fees and HE cuts and strike action is a proven effective method at leveraging such demands as the ones this union already supports (anti-fees, anti-cuts)</p> <p>5: Strike action is taken on a democratic basis by trade unions and is being taken as a last resort. The government has refused to enter serious negotiations over pensions or, for that matter, higher education reforms</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>1: To support the Unite the Resistance conference on 19th November that has been organised by NEC members from the PCS, NUT, UCU and Unite and to send a delegation from Queen Mary</p> <p>2: That if strike action takes place, or any other action as a result of ballots:</p> <p>3: To publicly declare support for the noted trade unions and the November 30th strike action in general</p>

	<p>4: To work within the student body to explain the situation and make clear that strike action by staff and other workers is key to winning the battle against cuts and that student support will aid immeasurably in ensuring a strike is short and effective</p> <p>5: To meet with SOAS UCU and Unison representatives and decide upon joint action as necessary (statements, picket lines etc.)</p>
--	---



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Support November 9th Demonstration
Proposer:	Riya Mary Al'sanah
Secunder:	Dave Allen
This Union Notes:	<p>1: The education sector is under an unprecedented attack from the coalition government. The cap on University tuition fees has been tripled and the Education Maintenance Allowance closed to new applicants, alongside funding cuts of 40% in universities and 25% in colleges</p> <p>2: In 2010 a series of student demonstrations and occupations took place that began with the NUS support November 10th demonstration to fight back against education attacks</p> <p>3: The legislation to raise fees was passed on December 9th with a much reduced majority for the government</p> <p>4: The HE White Paper now seeks to fully privatise the Higher Education sector at the cost of educationalists and students</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>1: Education is a right, not a privilege</p> <p>2: That the fight against fees is not over, and that against the measures included in the White Paper is just beginning</p> <p>3: That action is needed to oppose education cuts, fees and marketization. This action should be coordinated between students and educationalists across the sector and at a national level, and linked to a strong defence of the right of education</p> <p>4: A demonstration has been called on November 9th by the Education Activist Network and is supported by the NUS</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>1: To officially support the demonstration on November 9th</p> <p>2: To build support for the national demonstration at SOAS.</p> <p>3: To call on all students and members of all other unions on campus to join the demonstration.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Support Owen Holland: Defend the Right to Protest
Proposer:	Bernard Goyder
Secunder:	Arianna Tassinari
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That the University of Cambridge court of discipline ruled to suspend PhD student Owen Holland for two and a half years following a peaceful protest against attacks on higher education, which consisted in him reading out a poem at a protest against the Rt. Hon. David Willetts MP, Minister of State for Universities and Science.</p> <p>1.2 That the protest was a collective action involving both staff and students of the university, yet Owen has been the only person to have been charged and sentenced.</p> <p>1.3 That University court of discipline admits that the sentence that Owen Holland received was, in part, designed to deter future protest.[1]</p> <p>1.4 Over 8000 people, including almost 3000 people from within Cambridge University, have signed a petition calling for Owen Holland's reinstatement, including many prominent public figures, trade union leaders, artists, poets and academics from across the world. [2],[3]</p> <p>1.5 In the last two years we have seen attacks on the right to protest on a national scale against those protesting the government's austerity and cuts agenda, including kettling, violent actions by the police, threats to use water-cannon and rubber bullets, large scale arrests of protesters, and exemplary sentencing, as well as many universities, such as the University of Birmingham, taking legal action to ban political protests on campus and victimising student activists.</p> <p>1.6 That the "Bloomsbury Social Centre"</p>

	<p>occupation in SOAS' 53 Gordon Square building was also violently evicted by the police in December 2011, and that the anti-terrorism division of the MET was involved in monitoring the activities of the occupiers.</p>
<p>This Union Believes:</p>	<p>2.1 The sentence that Owen Holland received is an attempt to deter future protest at the University of Cambridge, and is in line with other exemplary, punitive action against students protesters which have been taken by many other universities across the country this year;</p> <p>2.2 That this exemplary sentence undermines the University's professed commitment to freedom of speech and the right to protest, and represents a dangerous precedent for all student protestors in UK universities, as universities should be safe places where all opinions can be freely articulated.</p> <p>2.3 That the right to protest on campus is enshrined in the Human Rights Act, 1998 and the European Convention of Human Rights.</p> <p>2.4 That there is a move by University managements, in tacit alliance with the government, the judiciary and the police to use legal and bureaucratic punishment as a means of quashing dissent against neoliberal policy.</p> <p>2.5 That Owen Holland should be reinstated.</p> <p>2.6 That the University of Cambridge management should be ashamed and publicly condemned for expelling Owen Holland for reading a poem.</p> <p>2.7 That, in the context of the wider attacks on the right to protest, it is in all our interest to campaign and mobilize against unjust arrests, sentencing and police tactics, to support protestors facing serious charges and disciplinary procedures within our Universities and to defend our right to protest within University and beyond.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To fully support Cambridge student Owen Holland against his two and a half year suspension, to mandate the Union exec to support the campaign and to officially express SOAS Students' Union support for the campaign in favour of his reinstatement;</p>

	<p>3.2 To send a message of support to Owen Holland, CUSU and the Cambridge Defend Education campaign;</p> <p>3.3 To continue working with the national Defend The Right To Protest campaign to raise the injustice of Owen Holland's case and the wider attacks on the right to protest which are being implemented by universities and the police force alike;</p> <p>3.4 To send a delegation of SOAS students to the protest that will be organised by CUSU when Owen Holland's appeal hearing happens;</p> <p>3.5 To continue campaigning against the use of legal action, police intimidation or internal disciplinary procedures for students that engage in peaceful protest activities at SOAS and at all universities in the UK, and to challenge as a union all cases of disciplinary action linked to protest activities;</p> <p>3.6 To mandate the Students' Union and its officers to actively support all students who are subject to disciplinary hearings related to protest activities</p> <p>3.7 That whenever a SOAS student is called to an 'informal meeting' or a 'formal disciplinary meeting' by the School, regardless of circumstances, they will always be accompanied by a SU sabbatical officer of their choice to act as their union representative and advocate.</p>
--	--