



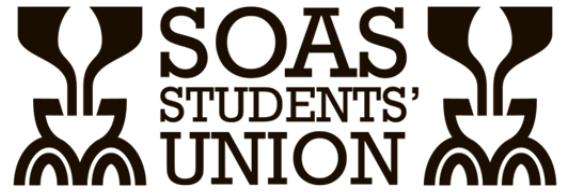
Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	20p be levied on each polystyrene box taken from the Refectory
Proposer:	Edmund Bower
Seconder:	Guido Manfrini
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That the Refectory does not currently charge for polystyrene boxes</p> <p>1.2 That the shop does charge 10p for paper cups which biodegrade.</p> <p>1.3 That polystyrene boxes do not biodegrade and are more harmful to the environment than paper cups</p> <p>1.4 That the boxes are often used needlessly instead of plates for consumption within the canteen itself</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 A small charge on these boxes would drastically cut down on their use</p> <p>2.2 That it is not unreasonable to expect those who want to use a box to pay a charge</p> <p>2.3 That those who need who genuinely need to use the boxes would be prepared to pay a small fee for them</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 A small charge of 20p be levied on each polystyrene box taken from the Refectory</p> <p>3.2 Lobby Elior to encourage them to provide biodegradable boxes, or else make food 20p cheaper.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	A better practise space for SOAS samba band
Proposer:	Ella Jeffreys
Secunder:	Maren Johansen
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That Samba is an integral part of of the SOAS student lifestyle.</p> <p>1.2 That Samba have to practice at Russell Square.</p> <p>1.3 That Samba practice can be distracting for those who have to study on Tuesday evenings.</p>
This Union Believes:	2.1 That Samba needs a consistent, secure and preferably soundproofed place to practice to keep the band healthy.
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 That an appropriate location for practice should be found at the beginning of the academic year with help from the Union.</p> <p>3.2 That earplugs should be available in the SU office for those trying to study while Samba are playing.</p> <p>3.3 That everybody should know when and where Samba are practicing in order to avoid conflicts.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Bigger block grant for sports
Proposer:	Keiko Ono
Seconder:	Harrison Lanigan Coyte
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1. Sports and recreational activities has grown at SOAS in the past year by</p> <p>1.2. Our sports teams are ambassadors to our Union and University at large</p> <p>1.3. Relative to other Universities we are massively underfunded and have significantly smaller staff overseeing its administration (i.e. just the one sabbatical officer)</p> <p>1.4. Physical activity at a competitive and recreational level are both important ways of keeping a healthy and balanced life.</p> <p>1.5. That the only point of recognition our teams really have is at the end of the year during the Sports Dinner.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1. Further strategic development and investment is needed to ensure further participation and success.</p> <p>2.2. Space is a persistent problem which is less likely to change in the short run, but funding is a more flexible aspect that can change for the coming academic year (provided a solid proposal is presented)</p> <p>2.3. More support needs to come from the University</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1. For the current Co-President of Sports and Societies to liase closely with the new Co-President of Events and Activities on the financial and strategic development of sports teams for the next 4 years.</p> <p>3.2. For the Union to request a bigger block grant from the school</p> <p>3.3. For the Union to allocate any remaining money from the collective sports budgets (which does not roll on to the next year) for the end of year Sports Awards.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Boycott Coca-Cola
Proposer:	Maham Hashmi
Seconder:	Charles Brook
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 SOAS prides itself as a center of ethics and morality;</p> <p>1.2 SOAS is an institution that stands up for social justice, equality, and human rights;</p> <p>1.3 The SOAS Student Union has a history of ethical boycotts being put in place, i.e Nestle, Tobacco;</p> <p>1.4 Coca-Cola is notorious for its crimes against human rights and the environment;</p> <p>1.5 That Coca-Cola had to pay \$192 million for being found guilty of racial discrimination in US plants in 2000;</p> <p>1.6 The bar operates under a NUSSL contract which might make it difficult for an ethical policy to be implemented.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That Coca-Cola is complicit in continuing death threats and the systematic intimidation, kidnapping, torture and murder of several union leaders and members of their families in Colombia and Guatemala in efforts to crush their unions and has not yet been called to account;</p> <p>2.2 That Coca-Cola continues to benefit from hazardous child labor in the sugarcane fields of El Salvador;</p> <p>2.3 That Coca-Cola is depleting and polluting drinking water in Michigan, Mexico, India and elsewhere and is destroying water sources of entire communities needed for irrigation and sanitation around the world;</p> <p>2.4 That Coca-Cola bottled water factories in India have taken much-needed water from drought-prone areas, leaving local villagers and farmers with scarcely enough to survive, most of them committing suicide.</p> <p>2.5 That in terms of the environment, animals, people, politics and sustainability, Coca-Cola and derivative brands such as Dr. Pepper, Sprite and Fanta, are at this moment, one of the most unethical major soft drink companies with a rating of as low as 4/20 in the ethical consumer</p>

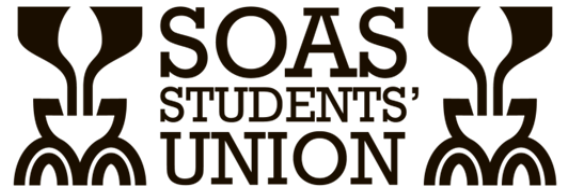
	<p>guide;</p> <p>2.6 That many student unions across the world, trade unions, and organizations have pledged to support the Coca-Cola boycott due to its widespread labor, human rights and environmental abuses;</p> <p>2.7 That Ubuntu cola, an ethical alternative to Coca-Cola, is currently being sold in the shop and is highly popular;</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To put in place an ethical boycott of Coca-Cola and its affiliated products in the Student's Union shop as soon as it is practicable and replace them with ethical alternatives, such as Ubuntu cola;</p> <p>3.2 To look into the possibility of revising the NUSSL contract and replacing all Coca-Cola products in the bar;</p> <p>3.3 To demand that the university take out all Coca-Cola products from the vending machines and the cafeteria;</p> <p>3.4 To cease to serve Coca-Cola in all school functions, i.e meetings, conference, workshops etc;</p> <p>3.5 To mandate the Students Union to report back with the investigations regarding the NUSSL contract at the next UGM.</p> <p>3.6 To write a statement to Coca-Cola stating why the SOAS Union is conducting this action.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Campaign to end Homelessness
Proposer:	Tom King
Seconder:	Georgie Robertson
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 The motion at the a previous UGM expressing a desire to help the homeless, and in particular those forced to rough sleep</p> <p>1.2 That the Tory Mayor of London Boris Johnson has failed to meet his target to end rough sleeping on the streets of the capital by the end of 2012</p> <p>1.3. That the number of people rough sleeping in London has increased every year since Boris Johnson was elected in 2008 and that around 3,500 people slept rough last year</p> <p>1.4. That 1 in 10 Londoners are on council housing waiting lists; a total of 886,000 people</p> <p>1.5. That average rents have soared to £1,083 a month in London, while wages are stagnating and benefits being cut</p> <p>1.6. That 74,811 homes in London are left empty</p> <p>1.7. That in the 6 months to May 2012, just 56 “affordable” homes were started in London</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That whilst charity can provide support to the homeless, the housing crisis can only be solved through political action</p> <p>2.2 That the Mayor of London and the Government should begin a mass council house building programme to provide no less than 1 million social homes</p> <p>2.3 That the ‘Right to Buy’ policy must be ended in order to preserve council housing stocks</p> <p>2.4 That Housing Benefit simply subsidises the</p>

	<p>profits of unscrupulous private landlords charging extortionate and unfair rents</p> <p>2.5 That the Mayor of London should take action to regulate the private rented sector by imposing rent controls which cap increases at no more than rises in average earnings</p> <p>2.6 That the Mayor of London should demand London Councils make use of Empty Property Management Orders to force landlords to put empty properties back into use</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To launch a campaign to demand that the Mayor of London and the Government take action to end homelessness</p> <p>3.2 To demand the Mayor of London and Government implement the policies outlined in 2.2-6</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Change to Students' Union Sabbatical and Part Time Positions
Proposer:	Alex Fulton
Secunder:	Harrison Lanigan-Coyte and Keiko Ono
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That SOAS Student Union structure has not been changed in eight years</p> <p>1.2 That the Student Body has grown considerably since the Union structure was last revised</p> <p>1.4 That the roles as they stand are not as effective as they could be</p> <p>1.5 That the past two Sabbatical Teams have seen the need to change the Sabbatical Roles</p> <p>1.6 That it is the roles of the Union to represent the interest of Students</p> <p>1.7 That the Students' Union Executive Committee have agreed to the changes proposed below</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That it is the Students' Union's responsibility to the student body to be as effective as possible</p> <p>2.2 That changing the Sabbatical Roles will help the Union become more effective in representing the interests of SOAS students</p> <p>2.3 That changing Executive Officer Roles will help the Union become more effective in representing the interest of SOAS students</p> <p>2.4 That in the changing of these roles, the cornerstones on which the Students' Union's Constitution is built on will be enhanced</p> <p>The Union's objects are the advancement of education of Students at The School of Oriental and African Studies for the public benefit by:</p> <p>1. Promoting the interests and welfare of</p>

	<p>Students at The School Of Oriental and African Studies during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising Students.</p> <p>2. Being the recognised representative channel between Students and The School Of Oriental and African Studies and any other external bodies; and</p> <p>3. Providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its Students</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Students' Union Constitution</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To change the three Sabbatical Roles from Co-President Welfare and Education, Co-President Finance and Communication and Co-President Sports and Societies to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Co-President Welfare and Campaigns Co-President Democracy and Education Co-President Activities and Events</p> <p>3.2 To remove the role of Vernon Square Officer</p> <p>3.3 To remove the role of Union Secretary, and replace it with a paid member of staff</p> <p>3.4 To lobby the school to help in financing a member of staff to deal with independent advice on complaints and appeals</p> <p>3.5 To endeavour to work with those current sabbatical officers and those incoming to develop these new roles and ensure that they have effective communication built within them.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Commitment to an expansion of Asian regional studies at SOAS to include the broader Asia-Pacific region
Proposer:	Keiko Ono
Seconder:	Omar Zaki
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That the 21st Century has commonly been referred to as the Asian Century due to the projected dominance of Asian politics, economics, and culture in world affairs</p> <p>1.2 That new social constructions, such as the Asia-Pacific, Pacific Rim, and Trans-Pacific, have emerged in the last few decades to challenge traditional definitions of “What constitutes Asia”</p> <p>1.3 That strategic discourse on Asia coming out of Washington, Canberra, Beijing, Tokyo, Wellington, New Delhi, Jakarta, Suva, and other capitals does not demonstrate consensus and consistency on the geopolitical limits of “Asia”</p> <p>1.4 That the United States is in the midst of a strategic pivot to Asia that encompasses the entire Asia-Pacific region</p> <p>1.5 That a new economic community, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, is being negotiated which could create a create common market across the Pacific Rim</p> <p>1.6 That a new defence cooperation treaty has recently been signed between the United Kingdom (UK) and Australia whose aim is in part to strengthen UK engagement with the region</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That SOAS must seize the opportunity afforded by these developments and expand its investments in Asian regional studies to account for the widened geography of the Asia-Pacific region</p> <p>2.2 That SOAS risks forfeiting its long held position as an academic thought leader on Asia if the Administration fails to act on this initiative</p>

	<p>2.3 That SOAS desperately needs to fund research on strategic issues in the Pacific Islands through the creation of two new research degree scholarships</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To state its commitment to an expansion of Asian regional studies at SOAS to include the broader Asia-Pacific region</p> <p>3.2 To work with the Administration to realize new investments in Asia-Pacific research, including the funding of two new scholarships, in time for the 2013-2014 academic year</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Condemnation & Spreading Awareness of Rape & Sexual Assault
Proposer:	Omar Zaki
Seconder:	Aurora Reid
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That on the 16th of December, 2012 in New Delhi, India a 23 year-old university student was assault along with her male friend and then gang-raped by 6 men.</p> <p>1.2 That on the 28th of December, 2012 after transferred to a Singapore hospital, she died as a result of her sever injuries.</p> <p>1.3 That following her death there has been constant protests from across all of Indian society condemning the rapists and in addition the police, government & judiciary for its weak conviction of previous rape cases. In 2011 nationwide, 15,423 rape cases were decided, only 26.4% of them received convictions (Ministry of Home Affairs).</p> <p>1.4 That the incident has sparked in India, a national debate about the treatment of rape victims by the police & overall human rights of women.</p> <p>1.5 That some Indians on social websites have referred to the victim as 'Nirbhaya' as Indian Law prohibits identification of victims of sex crimes.</p> <p>1.6 That the incident has raised discussion & debate on the overall issue of rape around the world.</p> <p>1.7 That rape and sexual assault are global problems particularly in conflict zones, and that similar issues in India mirror those in many other nations such as the United States, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo & South Africa.</p> <p>I. In the United States according to the Department of Justice there is a yearly average</p>

	<p>of 207,754 victims of rape & sexual assault (which is a sexual assault every 2 minutes).</p> <p>II. In Egypt according to the Interior Ministry, 20,000 women are raped every year (55 cases a day).</p> <p>III. Rape has even been conducted by UN peacekeepers in Haiti & when mass rapes occurred close by to a UN peacekeepers camp in the Luvungi & Uvita areas of the DRC in late 2010, they failed to stop these attacks.</p> <p>1.8 That Western media outlets have made insulting generalisations of Indian culture & Indians males, where causes of rape have been attributed to 'nature' of Indian culture.</p>
<p>This Union Believes:</p>	<p>2.1 That rape is a abhorrent, inhuman & intolerable crime which impacts both females & males across the world.</p> <p>2.2 That rape & sexual assaults are global problems in every nation & society and all attempts should be made by international organisations, national governments, local authorities and civil societies to address & attack against them.</p> <p>2.3 That as human beings and members of humanity we have an moral & ethical obligation to act against the injustices & crimes that are rape &sexual assault and/or least condemn them.</p> <p>2.4 That the burden to prevent rape should not fall on the rape victim, but on the rapist/s.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To support, in solidarity the protests in India.</p> <p>3.2 To support future protests here in London lead by local community groups such as the Southhall Black Sisters & ULU Women's Campaign.</p> <p>3.3 To condemn those protests which have called for the death penalty & chemical castration of the rapists.</p> <p>3.4 To show greater awareness on the international issue of rape & sexual assault.</p> <p>3.5 To create a week within the Union Calendar</p>

	<p>known as 'Nirbhaya Week' in memory of the student victim & all victims of rape. The week will be used to educate and spread knowledge on the issues of rape & sexual assault.</p> <p>3.6 To hold the first 'Nirbhaya Week' of this year 2013, in conjunction with the SOAS Women's Conference.</p> <p>3.7 To call on the Union's Women's, Campaigns & LGBTQ officers, along with all women & human rights related societies to assist on this issue & remain actively seized on spreading awareness.</p>
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Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Defend the welfare state: March the 20th of October
Proposer:	Kristian Bruun
Seconder:	James Meadway
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 Education has faced massive cuts at the same time as it has been opened up to for-profit private providers. The rest of the public sector also suffers from both cuts to funding and a drive towards privatisation, forming part of a large scale dismantling of the welfare state in the UK.</p> <p>1.2 Unemployment amongst youth is skyrocketing, with around one in five young people now out of work - rising to half of those from ethnic minority backgrounds.</p> <p>1.3 Spending cuts disproportionately affect the most vulnerable. The closure of health clinics, for example, has had disproportionate effects on women, black and ethnic minority communities, LGBT citizens and disabled people. The appalling treatment of the disabled, facing severe restrictions in Disability Living Allowance, is now well-documented, with a rise in suicides reported.</p> <p>1.4 The crisis is not only in UK. Similar scenarios are seen throughout Europe as well as Canada and Mexico.</p> <p>1.5 The Trade Union Congress (TUC) has called a demonstration on 20th October against the Coalition government's austerity measures.</p> <p>1.6 UCU (the lecturers' union), UNISON (the cleaners and other support staff's union) are balloting on whether they should strike on the 18th and the 19th of October.</p> <p>1.7 University of London Union (ULU) has called for all students and educational workers join the march and call for free and publicly owned</p>

	<p>education.</p> <p>1.8 The National Union of Students (NUS) has called for a demonstration on the 21st of November. It calls for job creation, stopping the fee hike and investment in education.</p>
<p>This Union Believes:</p>	<p>2.1 Austerity isn't working. It sucks the demand out of the economy and creates unemployment rather than jobs. Austerity has led and will lead to a vicious circle of decline. It is not working in Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland and it is not working here.</p> <p>2.2 Austerity, privatisation and marketisation limits the access to essential services such as healthcare and education.</p> <p>2.3 Education is a public good - not a privilege for the few or a commodity which only can be accessed by the well off. Therefore the union believes in a publicly funded educational sector with no fees.</p> <p>2.4 Austerity and marketisation is a threat to democratic influence in the running of public institutions.</p> <p>2.5 In a democratically run university with staff and students in the center of the decision making process.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To build for the demonstration on the 20th of October by flyering, postering and hosting debates and activist training.</p> <p>3.2 To campaign together with the UCU and UNISON.</p> <p>3.3 To picket with or lecturers and/or support staff in case of strike action on the 18th and 19th of October.</p> <p>3.4 To assemble on the SOAS steps 11am on the 20th of October demonstration, whereafter we join the ULU block.</p> <p>3.5 To start building for the NUS demonstration on the 21st November.</p> <p>3.6 To send solidarity messages to like minded students in struggle in Quebec and Mexico.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Demonstration in Solidarity with Greek Anti-fascist Movement – No to Golden Dawn
Proposer:	Dave Allen
Seconder:	Keiko Ono
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 Times of crisis sometimes expose the worst elements of the society we live in</p> <p>1.2 The Golden Dawn party in Greece is one of the most vicious manifestations of that tendency.</p> <p>1.3 It is unashamedly anti-Semitic.</p> <p>1.4 It is directly involved in attacks on immigrants and the Muslim community, which are happening daily.</p> <p>1.5 Critical journalists and oppositional politicians have also been attacked.</p> <p>1.6 One of its leaders physically assaulted two women MPs on television before polling day.</p> <p>1.7 Despite all this Golden Dawn is in the Greek parliament having come third in the most recent polls.</p> <p>1.8 It denies that it is a fascist party, but does not seek to hide its neo-Nazi ideology, credentials or regalia.</p> <p>1.9 Far from being exposed by rational debate or the glare of publicity, Golden Dawn has used it to grow since entering parliament.</p> <p>1.10 It has organised paramilitary gangs and infiltrated sections of the police.</p> <p>1.11. Neo-nazi assault squads of Golden Dawn have organized racist pogroms in immigrant neighbourhoods with stabbings, destruction of shops and house intrusions, and yet there have not been any arrests for these crimes.</p>

	<p>1.12. Instead the police victimize those who seek to fight back. They conduct sweeps through these same areas beating and detaining many immigrants. They attack anti-fascist demonstrations and torture anti-fascists in prison.</p> <p>1.13. The Greek government, alongside the EU Border Agency (FRONTEX) has organized concentration camp style detention camps for immigrants and refugees.</p> <p>1.14. The Greek government recently passed a disgraceful law denying Greek born children of immigrants and refugees the right to citizenship.</p> <p>1.15. These developments have stirred the Greek left to organize a united fightback against Golden Dawn.</p> <p>1.16. They have called a demonstration for Saturday 19 January 2013 and have asked for international support in their struggle against the menace that Golden Dawn represent.</p> <p>1.17. A demonstration will be held outside the Greek embassy in London on that day.</p>
<p>This Union Believes:</p>	<p>2.1 On the 19th of January antifascists will flood Athens from every city and neighbourhood in the country, from every workplace and place of education, the employed and the unemployed, young and old, men and women, straight and gay.</p> <p>2.2. They will occupy the city with music, chants and speeches, to shout that the Nazis are undesirable and that the coalition government with its racist policies will not divide and weaken the resistance to austerity.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1. To send a message of support from SOAS SU to the national demonstration in Athens on the 19 of January.</p> <p>3.2. To support the call for an international day of action to highlight the threat of fascism in Greece. We stand with all who are rallying on 19 January under the banner: Athens – Anti-fascist city. We will gather outside the Greek embassy on that day in London.</p>

	3.3. We ask people to join us
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Union General Meeting Motion

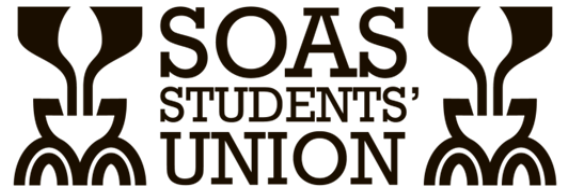
Title:	Extradition rulings
Proposer:	Maham Hashmi
Secunder:	Art Mitchells-Urwin
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1. Babar Ahmad and Talha Ahsan have being extradited to the United States</p> <p>1.2. Talha Ahsan is a SOAS alumni</p> <p>1.3. That solitary confinement is a form of torture</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1. The war on terror has claimed too many lives.</p> <p>2.2. That the United States judicial system has a bias view on Muslims</p> <p>2.3. That Talha and Babar will not receive a fair trial in the United States</p> <p>2.4. That Talha and Babar will be tortured in the United States</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1. To send our solidarity to the families of Babar and Talha</p> <p>3.2. To help Talha's family in their fight to bring their son back</p> <p>3.3. If funds are required to raise said funds through charity events in the union.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Force drafting of new policy on administration's marketing of student-organised high value guest events
Proposer:	Michael Edward Walsh
Seconder:	Miles McKenna
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That a speech on the SOAS campus by an ambassador, high commissioner, head of state, parliamentarian, minister, or any other senior government/military official brings prestige to the university regardless of whether students, faculty, alumni, or the Administration organizes the event</p> <p>1.2 That the SOAS Marketing Department acknowledges that such events add to the value of the SOAS brand and increase the university's standing amongst its peers</p> <p>1.3 That the Administration has refused to properly market student-organized events with such high-value guests in the past, including the recent visit by a high commissioner, because the events were organized by student societies</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That visits by high value guests provide students with an opportunity to engage senior policymakers on current events that matter in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East</p> <p>2.2 That visits by high value guests provide unique networking opportunities for SOAS students and alumni</p> <p>2.3 That visits by high value guests provide unique opportunities to attract media and outside experts to the SOAS campus to cover important issues of the day</p> <p>2.4 That the Administration fails to recognize that educational marketing in the age of social media involves not just selling old-school advertising pitches to prospective students and faculty but at its core is more about promoting the achievements of the entire SOAS community</p>

	<p>and inviting prospective members of the community to be part of it</p> <p>2.5 That the Administration should always promote the marketing of high-value guests speaking on the SOAS campus in the same manner for student-organized events as they would for faculty- or Administration-organized events (ex. events section of the SOAS website, etc.)</p> <p>2.6 That the Administration should also do a better job of promoting student achievements, including paper publications in major journals, OpEds in major news outlets, and other successes</p> <p>2.7 That the Administration must re-evaluate its marketing and communications competitiveness among best of breed peers of similar size (ex. LSE, The Johns Hopkins SAIS, The Fletcher School, SIPA) and make the necessary investments to ensure that the marketing of students and alumni is on par with if not exceeding that of the schools that it aspires to compete with on the international level</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To call upon the Administration to develop a written policy on the promotion of high value guest events that requires equivalent promotion regardless of who organizes the event (student, faculty, etc.)</p> <p>3.2 To call upon the Administration to invest in and disseminate an independent study on the current marketing and communications strategy of SOAS as compared with other top institutions, with emphasis on the promotion of student achievements and the recruitment of high value prospects, to provide a baseline for the university's current marketing and communications competitiveness and recommendations and metrics for how to improve those efforts moving forward</p> <p>3.3 To call upon the Administration to establish a marketing and communications advisory board composing one faculty, one alumni, and one student (from each education level) representative to champion better marketing and communications of the SOAS community as a whole</p>

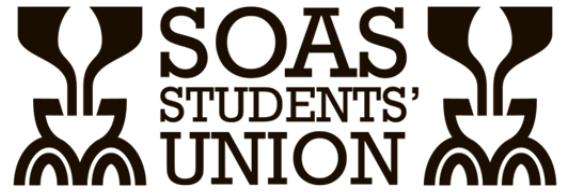


Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Free advertising for sports and Societies in the spirit.
Proposer:	Keiko Ono
Secunder:	Clarence James Tan
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That the Students Union funds the SOAS Spirit in its entirety</p> <p>1.2 That the SOAS Spirit has a dedicated marketing team that is working towards alternative means of funding so as to work towards the ultimate aim of being completely independent of the Union, editorially and financially as stated in point II. of its mission statement :</p> <p>Mission Statement: I. To become a hub for creative and intellectual debate. II. To become a self-funded newspaper. III. To be a sustainable newspaper that has operations that flow with ease.</p> <p>1.3 That it currently charges Union societies and sports teams for 'adverts' within their own newspaper.</p> <p>1.4 That there is an acute awareness of the finite resources both in space and in funding that the Union can provide which is contingent on the school's annual block grant given and plans of expansion onto the North Block.</p> <p>1.5. That the SOAS Spirit is aims to be an integral part of how students will be informed of news and events at the Union, University and London/world.</p> <p>1.6. That the London Student currently provides these advertising opportunities to ALL societies and sports teams ACROSS London, for free.</p> <p>1.7. That the Student paper provides a fantastic</p>

	<p>opportunity for societies and sports teams and students at large to publicise the hub of activity, and to effectively highlight that 'SOAS Spirit' we pride in having as a community.</p>
<p>This Union Believes:</p>	<p>2.1 That the Spirit should look to alternative avenues of funding and should not charge its Union members, who are funding the paper, for publicity.</p> <p>2.2. That as it is a Union funded paper, it is counter-intuitive for it to charge Union societies and sports teams given its mission statement:</p> <p>VIII. To heighten the image of SOAS in the world.</p> <p>This is a shared sentiment amongst societies and sports teams and a big part of that image is painted by the hard work of societies and sports teams. While the initiative of societies to do so is verily there, it is deemed inaccessible or indeed, unattractive, if such publicity comes at a cost. This could also potentially result in a reputational cost to the SOAS Spirit, if it is to thereby lose the support of its students of being commercially driven than community driven.</p> <p>2.3 That there should be greater horizontal integration of societies and sports teams in that each one should support each other either by hosting shared events so as to share finite resources and approach a broader audience; but also to promote one another in their endeavours where and when appropriate.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1. To work with the SOAS Spirit marketing team on finding alternative avenues of funding and supporting them in this way</p> <p>3.2. To ensure that all societies sports teams are able to submit an 'advert' for an event or their society for free in their paper should they wish to do so, within the available space of the publication e.g. through a listings page which highlights key events or new societies etc.</p> <p>3.3. To work towards improving existing outlets of communication and publicity provided by the Union</p> <p>3.4. To lobby the school for a bigger block grant that reflects the running costs of its societies and sports teams which have grown considerably.</p>

	3.5 That if a SOAS Spirit issue is published during election times, no advertisement may be published that may unduly influence students.
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Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Get a Coffee Machine in the Postgraduate Common Room
Proposer:	Joe Buckley
Secunder:	Damian Burns
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 In terms of means to refresh and revive oneself, the Postgraduate Common Room has a microwave, but not much else.</p> <p>1.2 The Postgraduate Common Room has no coffee machine.</p> <p>1.3 Students in the Postgraduate Common Room have, on more than one occasion, asked for a coffee machine to be put in there.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 To consistently have to travel from the Postgraduate Common Room to the JCR in order to keep oneself caffeinated is a bit of an effort, wastes valuable study time, and breaks one's train of thought.</p> <p>2.2 Studying for a postgraduate degree is made significantly harder without frequent access to hot, caffeinated beverages.</p> <p>2.3 The smell of the Postgraduate Common Room is rather musty and unpleasant, and that this smell can only be improved with the aroma of coffee.</p> <p>2.4 A coffee machine would be a pleasant addition to the Postgraduate Common Room.</p> <p>2.5 A coffee machine would be a pleasant addition to the lives of postgraduate students, who too often are overwhelmed with feelings of stress, exhaustion, and regret.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 Buy a coffee machine for the Postgraduate Common Room.</p> <p>3.2 Make sure the machine actually works.</p> <p>3.3 Once 3.1 and 3.2 are completed, place the machine in the Postgraduate Common Room,</p>

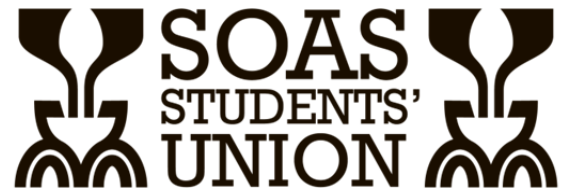
	<p>switch it on, and watch the joyful faces of students in the Postgraduate Common Room as they now have access to coffee.</p> <p>3.4 Not forget to provide cups.</p> <p>3.4 Make a 'coffee photo wall' above the coffee machine, and fill it with pictures of happy students drinking coffee they have got from the coffee machine.</p>
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Union General Meeting Motion

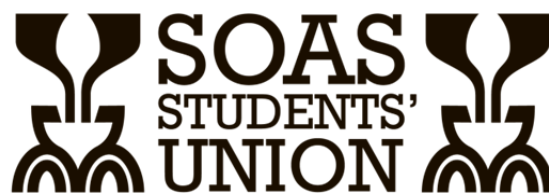
Title:	Hire a student who is a fully qualified AV/Sound Engineer part-time staff member
Proposer:	Keiko Ono
Seconder:	Barnaby Spigel
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That SOAS puts on amazing gigs, parties and general events that bring in audiences from around the institution, this city as well as a wider audience globally.</p> <p>1.2. That there is a constant need for AV advise, support and training</p> <p>1.3. That for every event there is the assumption that someone in the Students' Union is fully qualified sound or AV technician who is ready, willing and able to help set up for an event.</p> <p>1.4. That this is never the case and for the most part there is a delay in the beginning of events as a result.</p> <p>1.5. That there is no sound system of administering or taking care of AV/Sound equipment owned by the Students Union that therein end up being abused, lost or stolen.</p> <p>1.6. We have two wonderful part-time administrative assistants who are both invaluable to assisting in the Union's day to day functioning, a testament for how much an AV support person would help.</p> <p>1.7 That the School's AV department does not work after hours which is when most students have time to host events.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That in addition to the wonderful students who have been hired as part time administrative staff, a part-time student who is a fully qualified sound engineer would add to the overall efficiency in the runnings of the Union.</p>

	<p>2.2. Given the sheer volume of activity that students' societies and sports teams host around SOAS and to ensure the sabbatical officers are able to focus on the fulfillment of their mandates as outlined in the constitution as well as their manifesto, this is key to allowing sabbatical officers the ability to fulfill their duties to the full.</p> <p>2.3. That everybody should be entitled to some level of AV training by a qualified individual where and when demanded - particularly for societies' Presidents so that knowledge is shared and the equipment is cared for.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To hire a student who will work part time to ensure that evening events are ready to go particularly with live performances and guest speakers.</p> <p>3.2. That this individual will be responsible for delivering regular sessions to train students on how to use equipment appropriately.</p> <p>3.3. That this position will oversee the administering of equipment to students so as to ensure their safe return.</p> <p>3.4. That the Students Union will pilot the position in the second term and recruit someone by the end of the first term.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Honorary life membership for Sean
Proposer:	Maham Hashmi
Secunder:	David East
This Union Notes:	1.1 That Sean Rillo Raczka chaired most of our UGMs from 2010-2012
This Union Believes:	2.1 That he is an awesome chair and deserves recognition
This Union Resolves:	3.1 To give Sean honorary life membership to the union



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Improve storage space for sport and societies
Proposer:	Duncan Tarrant
Secunder:	Ian Irwin
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That the current Sports and Societies Cupboard is quite small</p> <p>1.2 That the cupboard is often very messy and unorganised</p> <p>1.3 That Sports equipment usually blocks access to shelves</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That the current mess could cause serious injury</p> <p>2.2 That the current mess could result in damaged property and equipment</p> <p>2.3 That having a separate cupboard for sports equipment would be greatly appreciated</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 That the current cupboard should be tidied, and be kept that way</p> <p>3.2 If the current cupboard still is not large enough then:</p> <p>3.2.1 A larger cupboard be found for the use of Sports and Societies</p> <p>3.2.2 Or Separate cupboards should be used for Sports teams and Societies</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Increase Participation in UGMs and tackle intimidation within UGMs
Proposer:	Adam Barr
Seconder:	Georgie Robinson
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That UGM's are the sole forum for the student body to enact policy within the Union</p> <p>1.2 That in the past there has been cases of participants in UGMS being heckled/booed.</p> <p>1.3 That recently there have been complaints of students feeling intimidated to speak at because of heckling/booing.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That all points of view should be welcome at a UGM</p> <p>2.2 That an open honest and friendly debate is important for student democracy and healthy for the Union as a whole</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 To discourage UGM participants from heckling/ booing speakers and to eject members who repeatedly ignore requests to stop.</p> <p>3.2 To move the last UGM in term 3 to the first week so as to avoid to revision/ exam clashes.</p> <p>3.3 To investigate new ways to increase student participation in the UGM including online participation.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Logo re-branding
Proposer:	Maham Hashmi
Secunder:	Ravi Normandale
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 The university spent according to the figures so far released £110,000 on a visual identity project.</p> <p>1.2 The United Kingdom is facing the worst double dip recession student and staff at SOAS can remember.</p> <p>1.3 Students and staff are unhappy with the cost and the aesthetics of the new logo</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1. The visual identity project was a waste of money the university can ill afford</p> <p>2.2. The universities priorities obviously take into no consideration student priorities and student satisfaction</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1. To write a motion of no confidence in the people involved in making the decision around visual identity</p> <p>3.2. To make sure there are procedures in place when further decisions like these are made Su representatives consult properly with student through public meetings and not in between the lines of long and sometimes uninteresting email.</p> <p>3.3. To make sure the unions visual identity remains separate from the universities NEW identity</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Make 'Gender Matters' an annual event.
Proposer:	Aurora Fairtlough Reid
Secunder:	Alex Fulton
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That Gender Matters is a large-scale highly publicised event that is taking place on the 1st March 2013 from 17:30- 21:00.</p> <p>1.2 'Gender Matters' ties in with the annual 'Nirbhaya Week' as mandated in the last UGM (17th January 2013).</p> <p>1.3 The planning for the event began in October 2012.</p> <p>1.4 That the event a minimum financial support from the union of £350.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 Gender Matters explores important issues of gender in an innovative and dynamic format.</p> <p>2.2 It will bring credibility to the school and the union to have 'Gender Matters' as an annual event.</p> <p>2.3 Gender Matters needs a dedicated team to keep it alive.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 To make Gender Matters an annual event.</p> <p>3.2 To appoint a committee every October, to be chaired by the Women's Officer.</p> <p>3.3 To ensure that the union reserves £350 pounds for the event. Any funds not used will be returned to the union.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Meat free Mondays should be Fish free too
Proposer:	Alex Fulton
Secunder:	Harrison Lanigan-Coyte
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1. That the shop has a Meat Free Monday but continues to sell fish.</p> <p>1.2. That although fish are tasty they are also our friends.</p> <p>1.3. That Fish are not vegetables or minerals but are a form of meat just the same as chickens, cows, pigs and sheep.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1. We should have sustainability and concern for all life at the heart of SOAS Students' Union.</p> <p>2.2. That although Meat Free Mondays have been ratified in the UGM its is not being practised as fish/meat is still being sold.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1. to amend Meat-Free Mondays to include a banning of the sale of fish in the Union on Mondays.</p> <p>3.2. To lobby for the extension of Meat Free Mondays into The Refectory.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

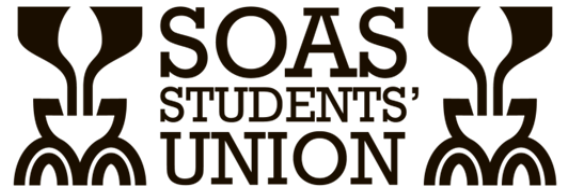
Title:	More money for master students.
Proposer:	Keiko Ono
Secunder:	Harrison Lanigan-Coyte
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1. We have over 50% of our student body are post-graduates</p> <p>1.2. That despite their heavier work load and single-year (or two, if they work part time) time at SOAS they play an invaluable part of the Students Union</p> <p>1.3. That many Post Graduates stay at SOAS, in London over the summer</p> <p>1.4. That virtually all society and sports activities stop in that time.</p> <p>1.5. This year, SOAS is advertising a Summer School which will mean there will be more students on campus than in the past.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1. Activities should not end because UG finish their term.</p> <p>2.2. That they are fantastic, rather attractive and amazingly active group who deserve to carry on doing amazing events and activities over the summer.</p> <p>2.3. That relative to UG there is a slightly smaller level of engagement WHICH CAN BE IMPROVED, particularly over the summer.</p> <p>2.4. The summer is perfection and sports is better enjoyed in the sun, not snow.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1. To allocate an appropriate amount of money for the summer until the submission of PG dissertations.</p> <p>3.2. To provide adequate promotion of this opportunity to PG students</p> <p>3.3. To encourage current societies to work with PG students should they choose to carry on activities relevant to their respective societies or sports teams.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	No to Western Intervention in Mali
Proposer:	Feyzi Ismail
Secunder:	James Meadway
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 Mali is a former colony of France, and that France maintains significant economic and political ties to the country.</p> <p>1.2 Since the fall of the Gaddafi regime in Libya, a Tuareg uprising in the north of Mali has pushed for an independent Tuareg state, leading to a coup d'état by dissatisfied soldiers on 22 March last year, leading to military defeat for the Malian armed forces in the north.</p> <p>1.3 An independent Tuareg state was proclaimed in north Mali on 6 April 2012, but has since been overthrown by a splinter from Al-Qaeda.</p> <p>1.4 France began airstrikes across Mali on 11 January, with logistical support from the UK, to "stabilize" the situation.</p> <p>1.5 The situation has escalated with Malian government troops driven back by Islamist forces over the last week. French troops are already fighting on the ground, with the EU set to approve further troops from other European countries very shortly.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 Since winning independence in 1960, Mali has been subjected to persistent Western interference, including French-backed coups from 1968 onwards. The current military campaign is only the latest in a long line of interventions by the old colonial power.</p> <p>2.2 French (and other European) interests in Mali have little to do with stabilizing the region</p>

	<p>for the benefit of ordinary Malians, or offering support to an independent government. France’s main source of uranium for its huge nuclear power industry is next-door Niger, while France and other European powers have a clear strategic interest in the oil and uranium reserves of the wider Sahel.</p> <p>2.3 “Mission creep” for the intervention is a very real danger, with the intervention having already escalated beyond its original intentions. This conflict is itself very largely the by-product of an earlier French and UK-led intervention in Libya, and the dangers of further overspill are very real. Meanwhile, the unexpected difficulties the French intervention has run into have already prompted demands for more troops and air power.</p> <p>2.4 Nor are claims to be combating Islamism or Al-Qaida greatly convincing, when France, the UK, and other major powers have been willing to provide tacit support to Al-Qaida in Syria.</p> <p>2.5 Divisions amongst the Malians themselves, like those across Africa, are very largely the product of colonialism by France, Britain and other European powers. The “scramble for Africa”, the Berlin Conference of 1884-5, and military campaigns subsequently created divisions that helped fuel secessionist movements and turmoil ever since.</p> <p>2.6 The former colonial powers of France and Britain have no right or place in deciding the future of the Malian people</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To condemn the military intervention in Mali and produce a statement to that effect.</p> <p>3.2 To support protests organized by anti-war campaigners against intervention in Mali.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

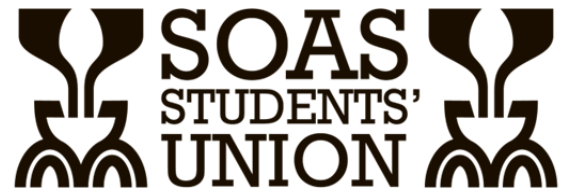
Title:	Rebetiko Monday Jam Sessions
Proposer:	Keiko Ono
Secunder:	Ed Emery
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1. That SOAS is a stronghold for niche and unique disciplines which in particular extends to the music taught and practiced by students in this institution.</p> <p>1.2. Rebetiko music has been played at SOAS since 2006, now entering its sixth year.</p> <p>1.3 That bands in the JCR have been paid wherein exceptional circumstances apply.</p> <p>1.4 That the SOAS SU's JCR currently serves as the only consistent venue for this kind of music in London according to the Greek Embassy.</p> <p>1.4. That Rebetiko music has run workshops, conferences and concerts within SOAS, London and abroad in line with Music Beyond Borders Tours which has been running for the past 5 years. Rebetiko music on Monday evenings have therefore been a continuation of sharing such cross-border musical endeavors sharing music from Greece and Turkey as well as of the Near East in general.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1. That the Rebetiko nights on Mondays should be reserved unless another society requests for the space well in advance.</p> <p>2.2. That £90 should be paid towards musicians expenses to travel as members often come from Coventry and Oxford to perform.</p> <p>2.3. That these expenses will be covered until an adequate bar spend is met to cover these expenses on the Monday evenings. The £90 spend will therefore be considered as the 'start-up' costs towards establishing SOAS as the venue for Rebetiko music in and around London.</p>

This Union Resolves:

3.1. To reserve Monday evenings for Rebetiko performances provided no other society/ student group wishes to book it having provided adequate notice of wanting to do so.

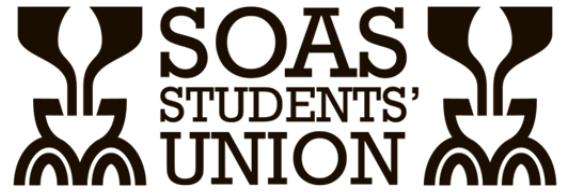
3.2. To pay £90 every Monday from the Union until a high enough bar spend is made on Monday evenings so as to cover these costs.

3.3. To publicize the event across London networks to ensure that Monday evenings at SOAS become an established venue for this unique style of music.



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Recognise and oppose the legacy of Thatcherism
Proposer:	Maham Hashmi
Seconder:	David East
This Union Notes:	1.1) Margaret Thatcher passed away on 8 April. 1.2) As Thatcher herself said, her greatest achievement was New Labour.
This Union Believes:	2.1) Thatcher's politics were the single most harmful thing to have occurred to British society, setting in place the beginning of the end of the welfare state. 2.2) That Thatcher's policies are directly responsible for problems we face in the modern political situation. 2.3) That the union should continue to fight against the legacy of Thatcherism.
This Union Resolves:	3.1) To make the defence of the welfare state a priority campaign until austerity is defeated.



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Redefine extremism
Proposer:	Maham Hashmi
Secunder:	Simon Campbell
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 Under the UK government Prevent strategy, the term 'extremism', is defined in the following way:</p> <p>1.2 Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.</p> <p>1.3 The department for Business innovation and skills (which covers universities) has created 8 new regional HE and FE Prevent positions to liaise with universities and colleges around the country</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 The above definition is counter-productive to the building of cohesive communities in the UK who feel that they are able to express their identities within the boundaries of the law.</p> <p>2.2 That the SOAS union did its best to tell the home office parliamentary committee our concerns for student welfare</p> <p>2.3 That prevent has not heeded to those concerns</p> <p>2.4 Prevents is Islamophobic and discriminates against and puts muslim students on campus at risk</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 To boycott prevent.</p> <p>3.2 To lobby the university to not engage with prevent</p> <p>3.3 To categorically not provide any student statistics and/or personal data to prevent</p> <p>3.4 To take whatever actions necessary to make sure that students are safe from prevent.</p> <p>3.5 To Join the call on the government to end their use of this definition of extremism for the following reasons:</p> <p>3.5.1. Such a vague definition does not adequately recognise the complexities of the</p>

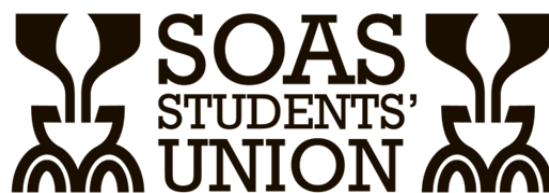
	<p>ideologies it seeks to define.</p> <p>3.5.2. British citizens will be left unclear as to their rights, roles and responsibilities when considering their own belief systems, this could lead to disenfranchisement within communities.</p> <p>3.5.3. The definition seeks to define for religions what is and is not acceptable within their belief systems, leading to a conflict between communities and the government</p> <p>3.5.4. That where a crime has been committed or an act of violence is being perpetrated, that the criminal justice system is used in order to deal with such an offence.</p> <p>3.5.5. Such a definition will only seek to alienate communities further, as any form of dissent will be potentially seen as contrary to UK government policy.</p>
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Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Rename the Junior Common Room to 'The Malcolm X Common Room
Proposer:	Omar Zaki
Secunder:	Binto Bali
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 – That there is one Junior Common Room referred to frequently as the 'JCR'.</p> <p>1.2 – That the JCR constitutes the main hub of SOAS students and union activities.</p> <p>1.3 – That the JCR being under of the jurisdiction or at least care of the Union, has the right - via student democratic decisions – to change the name of the JCR.</p> <p>1.4 – That SOAS students have a right to conduct positive and beneficial impacts to the general state of the JCR.</p> <p>1.5 – That a UGM Motion passed in November 2010 called for the renaming of the G2 Lecture theatre to the 'Lucas Lecture Theatre' this noting, the action of this motion is not uncommon.</p> <p>1.6 – That it is a common practise around the world to rename a public place, structure and entity after persons of significance.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 – That students regularly engage in intellectual discussions of a wide spectrum of social, academic, political, economic and cultural topics.</p> <p>2.2 – That given the great importance of the JCR to the essence and reputation of the SOAS student body, it is fitting to name the JCR after an inspiring individual who has dedicated their life's goals to causes and issues related to the views and actions of SOAS students.</p> <p>2.3 – That Malcolm X (also known by his actual name El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz) was an individual who dedicated his life's work in speaking out against the ills of racism, discrimination and human rights abuses in American society, particularly towards the end of his life between 1964 & 1965.</p> <p>2.4 – That Malcolm X is an individual who has and continues to inspire and influence millions of people today including well known figures,</p>

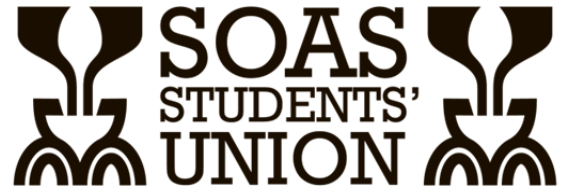
	<p>organisations and movements such as; Rosa Parks, Muhammed Ali, Nelson Mandela, Maya Angelou, Spike Lee, Tupac Shakur, Mos Def, Public Enemy, Tariq Ramadan, Pan-Africanists, Black Arts Movement, various academics, many left-wing parties and countless of individuals around the world.</p> <p>2.5 – That as a further testament to the influence, relevance and interest of Malcolm X, one of the largest SOAS events organised, was the Malcolm X 47th anniversary event. Organised by the SOAS Islamic Society in February 2012 (under the presidency of Abdul Rahim) where around 500 people attended the event in SOAS.</p> <p>2.6 – That SOAS as an institution which has many students who believe and fight for global causes of equality and human rights should name its JCR after such an individual who contributed to these causes and invokes such feelings.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 – To hold an online referendum where SOAS students can vote for an individual whom they want the JCR to be named after. Students will also have the right to vote for the JCR not to be changed. Students can submit names of individuals beforehand.</p> <p>3.2 – To implement the actions of this motion with immediate effect.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Repair the Union yurt
Proposer:	Harrison Lanigan-Coyte
Seconder:	Keiko Ono
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1. That the Union owns a yurt.</p> <p>1.2 That the yurt is controversial but loved by many students.</p> <p>1.3 That the maintenance of the yurt has been neglected.</p> <p>1.4. That the yurt needs to be repaired</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1. That if the yurt is not repaired soon it will fall into an irreparable state</p> <p>2.2. That the Union would be worse off if the yurt never came out to play again</p> <p>2.3. That the yurt has become part of our identity over the last few years and need the Unions support and love</p> <p>2.4. That repairing the yurt is an investment in our future</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1. To repair the Union yurt</p> <p>3.2. To contact yurt making/fixing companies to find out quotes for repairs</p> <p>3.3. To repair the yurt at a minimal cost using the adequate yurt repairing companies</p> <p>3.4. To pay for any repairs up to £2000 from the Unions financial reserves</p> <p>3.5 . To rent the yurt out to people/companies for a fee once repaired. Profits will initially be paid back to the Union reserves until the maintenance bill is repaid. After that any profits made from the yurts rental will be reinvested in looking after the yurts itself.</p> <p>3.6. To look after the yurt better in the future.</p>

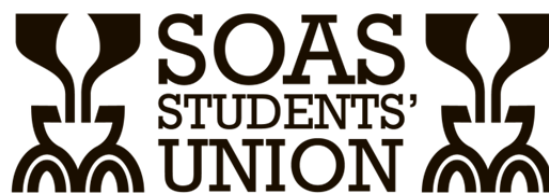
	<p>3.7 For the Executive Committee to seek & elect students for a group committee to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A) Oversee Yurt repairsB) Other Yurt-related business
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Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	SOAS goes to World Social Forum 2013 in Tunisia
Proposer:	Kristian Bruun
Secunder:	Johannes Svensson
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 The World Social Forum (WSF) started in 2001 in Brazil under the slogan "Another World is Possible".</p> <p>1.2 The WSF is a platform, where activist from all corners of the world and all kinds of groups (trade unions, student unions, environmental groups, ngo's, land rights campaigns etc.) come together and share ideas and discuss the way forward for 'another world'. There is no set agenda and all participants are encouraged to host workshops.</p> <p>1.3 The deadline to register workshops is the 20th of January.</p> <p>1.4 Thematic areas this year are: Economy, Gender, War and Peace, Globalization, Migration, Development, Environment, Human Rights.</p> <p>1.5 In 2011 the World Social Forum took place in Dakar, Senegal with 75,000 participants from 132 countries organizing around 1,200 activities.</p> <p>1.6 The WSF is this year (2013) in Tunis from 26th-30th of March.</p> <p>1.7 More info can be find at: http://www.fsm2013.org/e</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 SOAS students should be at the forefront of progressive movements and foster positive change. This is a golden opportunity for the SOAS SU to facilitate that.</p> <p>2.1 The world is changing, thus this year will be of particular interest, especially seen in the light of the Arab Spring, the Occupy movements, the indignados, protests in Greece so on and so on. So far 1834 organisations have registered!</p>

	<p>2.3 The SOAS community will benefit from sending a delegation. First of all, we as an institution will engage our academic knowledge with the practicalities of the world in order to change it for the better. Secondly, there will be immediately feedback from the delegation going there. Thirdly, the delegation will create links to other like minded student unions, activist and academics, which in turn can inspire, challenge and broaden our collective horizon. This will enrich the both the academic and activist side of the SOAS community by bringing home new ideas, having contacts to potential speakers and maybe even creating long lasting relationship with likeminded activists.</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 To call for an open meeting were any SOAS student can turn up. The aim of the meeting is to inform everyone about WSF and see if there is any interest in forming a delegation to go to the WSF. Once that is established a discussion on whether to hold a workshop will take place.</p> <p>3.2 To hold this open meeting on Friday the 18th so the group has a chance to submit a suggestion for a workshop if they wish to do so. The time and place for the meeting: to be confirmed.</p> <p>3.3 To mandate the delegation to report back to the SOAS community. This could be done for example with video blogs, new letters, skype, tweets, etc.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	SOAS in Solidarity with Gaza
Proposer:	Sam Dathi
Secunder:	Barbora Ziackova
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 IDF attacks Gaza on November 14, 2012 breaking a truce brokered by the Egyptian Intelligence Officials;</p> <p>1.2 On the 16th of November 2012 the Israeli Cabinet approved the call-up of 75,000 military reservists, eight times the amount Israel deployed during Operation Cast Lead;</p> <p>1.3 As of November 17 2012 over 46 Palestinians have been murdered;</p> <p>1.4 Israel is allowed to carry out its massacre in the Gaza Strip without being held accountable for any of its actions under the protection of a silenced international community;</p> <p>1.5 Foreign Secretary William Hague has said that the Hamas regime in Gaza bore "principal responsibility" for the escalation of violence.</p> <p>1.6 In 2009, Israel murdered 1,400 Palestinian and injured more than 5000 during its Operation Cast Lead;</p> <p>1.7 SOAS students, standing for human rights and justice, have strongly condemned wars and attacks on innocent civilians.</p> <p>1.8 In 2009 SOAS and other universities in the United Kingdom occupied university buildings in protest against Operation Cast Lead and in solidarity with the people of Gaza. These occupations were successful in pressuring universities to condemn the violence and to provide practical support for Palestinian students</p>
This Union Believes:	2.1 Israel's Attack on Gaza is an act of terrorism and aggression. It is a war crime.

	<p>2.2 Israel has imposed an illegal siege on the Gaza Strip resulting in a humanitarian crisis for the 1.5 million people besieged there.</p> <p>2.3 Israel enjoys impunity and is able to massacre the Palestinians as a result of the continued financial, military, and diplomatic support that it receives from the West.</p> <p>2.4 That student unions should work to support the Palestinian people's human rights and uphold international law.</p> <p>2.5 That Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) is an effective tactic, which educates society about these issues, economically pressures institutions to change their practices and politically pressures the global community;</p> <p>2.6 That Student Unions have a moral responsibility to heed the call of oppressed peoples, like we did so proudly during the BDS campaign to end South African apartheid</p> <p>2.7 That the BDS movement has united human rights campaigners from different nationalities, races, religions and creeds across the world</p> <p>2.8 That student occupations is an effective tool to raise awareness, pressure institutions and promote solidarity with the people of Palestine</p>
<p>This Union Resolves:</p>	<p>3.1 That the Student Union releases a statement unequivocally condemning Israeli military operations in Gaza.</p> <p>3.2 To twin SOAS SU with Islamic University of Gaza (IUG)</p> <p>3.3 To research into university contacts, institutional relations, investments and commercial relationships that may be implicated in violating Palestinian human rights as stated by the BDS movement</p> <p>3.4 To pressure the university to divest itself from and terminate any contracts with companies that are complicit with Israeli violations of international law.</p> <p>3.5 To support demonstrations taking place in solidarity with Gaza.</p>

	<p>3.6 To support an occupation of a SOAS building including the following demands:</p> <p>To demand a statement released from the director unequivocally condemning Israeli aggression;</p> <p>For the Director to additionally issue a statement condemning William Hague's comments;</p> <p>To donate used and surplus equipment, such as computers, books, and journals to Palestinian Universities in need of aid;</p> <p>To release a full of list of SOAS investments and to implement an effective ethical investment policy;</p> <p>No repercussions or sanctions imposed on students or members of staff taking part in or supporting the occupations.</p>
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Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	SOAS Spirit reforms
Proposer:	Maham Hashmi
Secunder:	Adam Barr
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 Newspapers worldwide are having to rely less and less on advertising</p> <p>1.2 Media advertising is a cut throat business and requires a lot of time that can be better spent by our editorial team on creating the newspaper</p> <p>1.3 Most unions fund their student newspapers</p> <p>1.4 The unions that don't run over budget news papers</p> <p>1.5 The London student has run over 30k over budget for the past few years</p> <p>1.6 In the past the SOAS spirit was run as a clique and was inaccessible to many students</p> <p>1.7 The union exec hired an editor this year who managed to rebuild the SOAS spirit from scratch</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That our union needs the SOAS spirit</p> <p>2.2 The spirit is run completely by full time students on a volunteer basis</p> <p>2.3 That chasing advertising takes away time from both the quality of the paper and students education or ability to engage in other union activity</p> <p>2.4 That budgeting for the SOAS spirit to self fund gives the union an inaccurate budget</p> <p>2.5 When the SOAS spirit inevitably goes over budget it puts the unions ability to provide comprehensive services at risk</p> <p>2.6 That it is import to have a union newspaper that is accessible to all</p> <p>2.7 That it is important for the union to create a system wherein neither cliques nor overspending occurs</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 To ring fence a budget for the SOAS spirit</p> <p>3.2 To appoint a working group from exec to maintain the SOAS spirits accessibility</p> <p>3.3 To get the exec to hire an editor every third term to take office in term one</p> <p>3.4 To include the SOAS spirit editor in the handbook for freshers</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	SOAS support for the Save Carpenters Estate Campaign
Proposer:	Hannah Schling
Seconder:	Aideen Elliott
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 UCL is planning to build a new campus in Stratford.</p> <p>1.2 UCL plans to buy land from Newham Council, on which there is already a community of people living. This is a council housing estate called Carpenters Estate with hundreds of residents living there.</p> <p>1.3 Newham council have begun a process of regeneration, and have revealed plans to remove residents and demolish most of the estate.</p> <p>1.4 Carpenters Estate residents are organised in a group called 'Carpenters Against Regeneration Plans'. They are campaigning against Newham Council and UCL's proposal, with the support of UCL students, SU and academic staff.</p> <p>1.5 Despite opposition, on the 24th of October, Newham Council approved UCL's £1 billion proposal to build a new campus on the Carpenter's Estate in Stratford.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 If UCL doesn't pull out now or radically revise its plans, this would mean destroying hundreds of people's homes, their community, and their history.</p> <p>2.2 UCL management say they are in negotiations with residents, but residents have told them clearly that they are opposed to the plan. CARP have stated: "The process of decanting residents (tenants, leaseholders and freeholders) has already begun and we feel it is being done unfairly without thorough consultation and proper advice being offered, and with a lack of transparent information regarding the plans for the estate and the</p>

processes involved.”

2.3 We do not object to regeneration in principle, or the expansion of public services such as education. However, UCL and Newham Council’s proposals amount to gentrification: the removal of a community to make way for a new project not aimed to meet their needs.

2.4 The destruction of social housing is particularly concerning at a time when Newham has the longest housing waiting list of any council in London (over 20,000), and cuts to benefits, a shortage of social housing, high rents, rising unemployment and stagnating wages are making it increasingly difficult for poorer people to continue living in London. Politicians, commentators and campaigners have speculated that in the coming years many will be forced out of our city. This has even been characterised by some as a “cleansing” exercise. Any development must ensure there is no overall reduction of the local area’s stock of social housing and genuinely affordable housing.

2.5 Student opposition from across the University of London to UCL’s proposals is vital to prevent them from happening. SOAS is a part of the University of London, and as students we are implicated in this potential destruction of a community.

2.6 That UCL and Newham Council should not undertake the developments unless the following conditions are met:

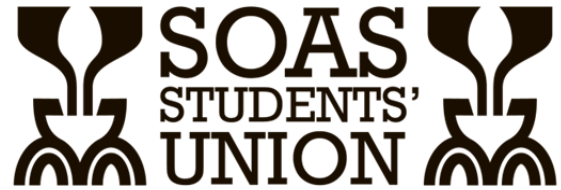
- a. Local residents are not compulsorily significantly geographically displaced and their community remains intact.
- b. Alternative housing is provided which is of improved quality than the unrefurbished existing stock, and not higher cost.
- c. Full, accessible, well-publicised consultation processes allow local residents a genuine and strong voice in the development of any plans. CARP democratic representatives must be included in any meetings or exercises.
- d. UCL makes it clear how its plans will bring specific and substantial benefits to poorer and working class residents of the area.
- e. It is genuinely a regeneration, and not a

	gentrification.
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 For the SU to go on record as officially in opposition to the development plans as the situation currently stands.</p> <p>3.2 For the union to promote action such as protests, letter-writing, petitions and non-violent direct action which are announced by the Save Carpenters campaign and which are organised for and by Carpenters residents.</p>



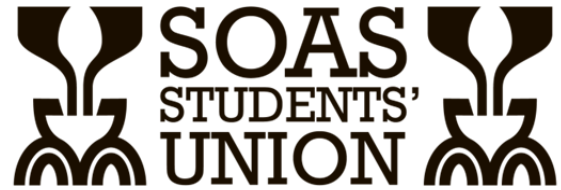
Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Stop Drone attacks in the Pakistan Afghanistan regions
Proposer:	Alia Osman
Seconder:	Sam Dutti
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 Nato and American forces are bombing rural areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan using Drone planes.</p> <p>1.2 Innocent civilians are being killed daily mainly from rural areas. families and communities are being destabilised and destroyed.</p> <p>1.3 This will create a vacuum for reprisals and extremism in otherwise moderate and neutral communities.1.4 The populations affected are uneducated particularly women and elderly who may be illiterate.1.5 These are mostly rural, agricultural communities, living below the poverty line.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 the killing of civilians is illegal and abhorrent.</p> <p>2.2 That Drone attacks are illegal warfare</p> <p>2.3 That Nato and American forces should stop all aerial drone attacks using sovereign airspace and territory of Pakistan, and the killing of innocent civilians in Pakistan and Afghanistan.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 To organise an awareness day with NUS and other U o L college's, about the practice of aerial drone attacks on civilians in the fight against Terroris</p> <p>3.2 To have a special showing of the Panorama BBC documentary on the killing of civilians using drone planes in sovereign Pakistani air space.</p> <p>3.3 To pass a motion that this Union is against drone attacks on civilians internationally</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Support International students
Proposer:	Maham Hashmi
Seconder:	David East
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1. This Union cherishes the diversity that international students bring to our education system.</p> <p>1.2. The current government's attacks on education have recently focused on international students.</p> <p>1.3. Keeping register of students is part of the process for the school to make sure that there is a fair record of attendance</p> <p>1.4. UKBA's decision to revoke the trusted status of London Metropolitan was part of a wider attack on the higher education system</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1. Our lecturers are not BIA staff or trained to be able to collect data for UKBA</p> <p>2.2. Electronic registers are not the solution to keep the highly trusted status</p> <p>2.3. SOAS needs the trustee status in order to function as the diverse university it is.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1. To support UCU in their fight against the online registers.</p> <p>3.2. Support London Metropolitan University in its fight against UKBA.</p> <p>3.4. To support the nus international Student's campaign.</p> <p>3.5. To get involved with and support any actions campaigns we are affiliated with organise around UKBA</p> <p>3.6. To support NCAFC international student caucus with any action they plan to support international students.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Support for the Justice for Cleaners Campaign
Proposer:	Georgina Robertson
Seconder:	Johannes Svensson
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 The Justice for Cleaners Campaign has been supporting the SOAS cleaners in their fight for better conditions and in-house contracts.</p> <p>1.2 That in a referendum held in December 2012, 98,2% of the more than 1,200 students and staff that voted wanted SOAS cleaners to be given in-house contracts.</p> <p>1.3 That a working group has been set up to look into bringing out-sourced workers in-house.</p> <p>1.4 That this working group has invited members of the SOAS student body to present their arguments before the working group.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That the process of the working group has been illegitimate. It was set up as a response to the Justice for Cleaners Campaign, but is looking at all outsourced workers even though only the cleaners have asked to be brought in-house. The group has not included any of the cleaners or campaign representatives. After pressure the working group has agreed for some student and staff representation, but cleaners have been specifically excluded.</p> <p>2.2 The student body should send representatives to support the cleaners' campaign.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 To support the campaign in selecting two students that will represent the student body at the working group meeting.</p>



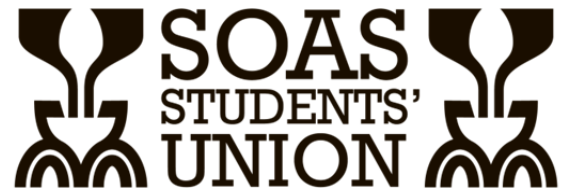
Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	The schools policy on occupations
Proposer:	Maham Hashmi
Secunder:	Mark Thomas
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 The governing board passed a policy on the school not engaging with student occupations</p> <p>1.2 If the union were to occupy this policy would make the union liable for costs and the union could lose funding</p> <p>1.3 This policy leads to the union being an intermediary between the school and the occupiers</p> <p>1.4 The university has often called in external forces to deal with protest on campus</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 This policy has no place in society</p> <p>2.2 That occupations are a legitimate form of protest</p> <p>2.3 That the university wastes the unions time and money buy not negotiating directly with those involved</p> <p>2.4 Most protests on campus would have been avoided had the university bothered to talk to students</p> <p>2.5 That calling the full force of the law in not an acceptable way of liaising with students</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 To call on the governing body to reverse this policy</p>



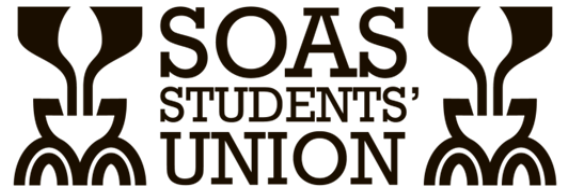
Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	To support a yes vote in the referendum on Scottish independence
Proposer:	Maham Hashmi
Seconder:	Matt Brett
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That a referendum on Scottish independence will be taking place in late 2014.</p> <p>1.2 That Scottish independence would mean the most radical constitutional shake-up of the United Kingdom for generations.</p> <p>1.3 That trade unions, voluntary organisations and students' associations across Scotland are using this opportunity to organise 'town-hall' style events to discuss and debate the kind of Scotland that they would like to live in.</p> <p>1.4 That Scottish independence would mean a radical change to the political dynamic of the entire United Kingdom, not just in Scotland.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That, fundamentally, an independent Scotland would be more democratic than it currently is.</p> <p>2.2 That this represents a unique and exciting opportunity to upset the status quo in England as well.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 To organise at least one event per term in the run-up to the referendum, along the lines of the 'town-hall' style events being organised in Scotland, to discuss how a break-up of the United Kingdom could lead to the development of a more progressive and democratic consensus in England.</p>



Union General Meeting Motion

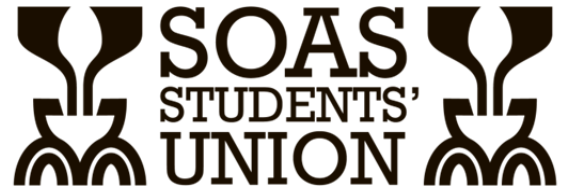
Title:	Unions liaison officer
Proposer:	Maham Hashmi
Secunder:	Simon Campbell
This Union Notes:	1.1 That the unions are stronger when united
This Union Believes:	2.1 That at SOAS this could be done better
This Union Resolves:	3.1 To create a position or add it to the description of one of the current part time position to liaise with Unison and UCU and other trade unions on campus



Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	University-wide walkout
Proposer:	Matthew Brett
Secunder:	Maham Hashmi
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 That the SOAS student union is affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS);</p> <p>1.2 That the NUS has called for a national demonstration on November 21, when tens of thousands of students are expected to march through central London against the tripling of tuition fees;</p> <p>1.3 That the Coalition government is continuing its neoliberal program of privatisation and cuts to healthcare, public libraries, leisure centres and a range of social programs and services;</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 That the Coalition government's continued attacks on public education and cuts to basic social programs is unjust and unacceptable;</p> <p>2.2 That the November 21 national student demonstration is just one mass rally. More must be done and an escalation of direct democracy and action is necessary in the months ahead to reverse all cuts to social and cultural programs;</p> <p>2.3 That student action is necessary on December 5, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer presents the government's autumn statement. This statement is considered "the second most significant economic event of the parliamentary year after the Budget" according to "HM" Revenue & Customs ("HM"RC);</p> <p>2.4 In the fight for free education and universal grants, funded by the taxation of the rich and corporations, and a reversal of all regressive cuts to social programs;</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 To issue a public statement without delay, calling for a university-wide walkout on November 21 and on December 5;</p>

	<p>3.2 To frame our walkout on November 21 as an action in solidarity with the tens of thousands of students on strike as part of the Global Education Strike taking place in dozens of universities from Spain to Italy to India and Québec;</p> <p>3.3 To strike a broad mobilization group that remains autonomous from the student union, which will meet immediately following this UGM to plan regular meetings and actions leading up to the November 21 and December 5 demonstrations and thereafter;</p> <p>3.4 To actively encourage everyone attending the UGM and all members of the campus community to participate in the mobilisation group, working within the group against discrimination and marginalisation based on class, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnic background or skin colour;</p> <p>3.5 To mandate the union co-presidents to call for academic amnesty for all students who choose to walkout on November 21 and December 5, contacting faculty for support in each department to insure that students are not penalised for refraining from class activity in order to protest;</p> <p>3.6 To hold a Union General Meeting before December 5 for the purpose of discussing and implementing a December 5 university-wide walkout mandates;</p> <p>3.7 To discuss and vote upon the International Student Movement's (ISM) International Joint Statement at the December 5 UGM.</p>
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Union General Meeting Motion

Title:	Zero tolerance of sexism
Proposer:	Keiko Ono
Seconder:	Alex Fulton
This Union Notes:	<p>1.1 Sexism is defined as 'prejudice or discrimination based on sex or gender, or conditions or attitudes that promote stereotypes of social roles based on sex or gender'.</p> <p>1.2 Sexism has a disproportionate effect on women and their lives, but can also impact men.</p> <p>1.3 Any notion of superiority based on sex or gender is unjustified.</p> <p>1.4 No student should be made to feel uncomfortable because of their sex or gender.</p>
This Union Believes:	<p>2.1 University life should be free from sexism alongside any other form of discrimination such as ableism, ageism, racism.</p> <p>2.2 Students' Union sports and activities, facilities, services, and events operated through the Students' Union should be free from sexism.</p>
This Union Resolves:	<p>3.1 To work with the Women's officer and other relevant groups to actively oppose sexism and create an environment free of gender stereotypes and binaries in the Students' Union.</p> <p>3.2 The Students' Union values the diversity of our students. Sexism, gender stereotypes and binaries are not acceptable.</p> <p>3.3 The Students' Union should work to deconstruct existing barriers to women's participation.</p> <p>3.4 The Co-President of Events and Activities and current Co-President of Sports and Societies should ensure there is adequate training provided on this issue to all Society and Sports Team committee members.</p> <p>3.5 To campaign against the negative portrayal of women's representation and gender stereotypes on campus, in the media and in wider society.</p> <p>3.6 To hold focus groups surrounding the issue on sexism and to create a code of charter</p> <p>3.7 To support the Nirbaya week which was agreed in the 4th UGM – a week which raises awareness of rape and sexual assault.</p>

