



The following 2 motions were passed during the UGM on:

24th October 2019

*All motions have been updated to include any **amendments** passed*

Motion #1

Title:	Mandatory Environmental Education Workshops
Proposer:	Prachi Singhal
This Union Notes:	
<p>1.1 We only have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe, a crisis which is affecting/will be affecting ALL OF US. Most global organisations attest to this data and while we might have more time and less, immediate attention and action on the environment is the need of the hour.</p> <p>1.2 SOAS and SU have acknowledged this by declaring a "Climate Emergency" and committing to integrate climate justice and education for sustainability across SOAS curricula. No action has been taken yet on this and might take a lot of time to update the curricula.</p> <p>1.3 SOAS and SU already runs Mandatory Consent Workshops, a successful example on how they can fill in the gaps left by our outdated academic world and help bring attention and awareness among people, leading them to act better, and advocate for change a very important step towards combating pressing phenomenon like harassment.</p>	
This Union Believes:	
<p>2.1 Globally, most universities and academic institutions do not run a basic environmental education discourse as a result of which most of us graduate without knowing what we can do to protect our environment and ecosystem, how it affects us and the current scenario.</p> <p>2.1 Climate Change and Environmental Degradation is happening at a rapid pace and lot of trends and developments have emerged in recent times. These workshops will ensure all students are equipped with the same base level knowledge in environmental action.</p> <p>2.2 Resultant awareness and behavioural change from these workshops will improve our SOAS as a leader in change and may apply more pressure to the govt / school to bring systemic change.</p>	
This Union Resolves:	
<p>3.1.To pilot an environmental education workshop in Freshers 2020 mandatory for all current and new students by SU.</p> <p>3.2 Form a working group including experts and representatives from staff, SU, Existing societies etc to decide the workshop curriculum.</p> <p>3.3 Similar to Consent workshops, these workshops will be run by pre trained students. Potential</p>	



finance options will be investigated while the school will be lobbied to fund.

3.4. To pilot workshops in line with previous UGM motion on climate emergency (see end of this document for this motion)

Motion #2

Title:	Introducing an Online Voting System for UGMs
Proposer:	Maxine Thomas-Asante
This Union Notes:	
<p>1.1 Open ballots can influence the voting of participants due to a pressure to vote in line with the majority in the room, and may discourage participation by union members in some votes</p> <p>1.2 Encouraging more members to vote could improve the health of democracy at SOAS SU considering the UGM is currently the main method of participation for our members.</p> <p>1.3 Participation with UGM votes could potentially be improved by a secret ballot or an alternative voting system.</p> <p>1.4 The union already uses online voting systems for other methods of democratic participation such as elections. Introducing a new voting system in this context would bring UGM systems into line with this.</p>	
This Union Believes:	
<p>2.1 Potential reformation of the voting system in UGMs would improve accuracy compared to the current system of counting by human sight, and could improve inclusivity as members may feel more confident to participate.</p> <p>2.2 It is in our interest to encourage healthy participation from Student Union members. This includes accounting for members who may want to participate but find the physical space of UGMs a deterrent.</p> <p>2.3 Anonymous voting could safeguard individuals in heated motion debates.</p> <p>2.4 An online voting system would allow more time for constructive debates in the actual UGM meeting.</p>	
This Union Resolves:	
<p>3.1 Students will be openly invited to attend a focus group before the 21st November, to design an alternative voting method that they feel would be most appropriate.</p> <p>3.2 The voting system chosen during the student focus group will be trialled in the two following UGMs of this year: Thursday 21st November and Monday 20th January.</p> <p>3.3 After the third UGM of the year (Monday 20th January) we will propose a referendum with the following 3 options: 1) Keep the current voting system 2) Implement the alternative voting system 3) To increase the trial period to 2 academic years</p> <p>This will be open to all students to decide whether an online voting system would be preferable.</p>	



3.4 Steps will be taken to raise awareness of the new voting system prior to UGMs

3.5 Reviewing and amending [of the] SU constitution [will take place] so the voting system is in line with regulations

Climate Emergency UGM Motion (passed 07 May 2019)

Title:	Declare a Climate Emergency
Proposer:	Daniel Selwyn
This Union Notes:	
<p>1.1 That there is a global climate and ecological crisis: the sixth mass extinction is annihilating life forms at an unprecedented rate; climate change and extreme weather are leading to severe water scarcity and food insecurity, increasing wars and conflict, and displacing millions of people.</p> <p>1.2 That the British state has a particular historical responsibility for creating the climate and ecological crisis as the geopolitical origin of fossil capitalism, which it financed through the profits of racial slavery and spread across the world through (settler) colonialism and indigenous genocideecocide.</p> <p>1.3 That the City of London is a global epicentre of extractive and financial imperialism. The London Stock Exchange lists 'natural resources' worth \$1 trillion in Africa alone, a land area four times the size of the UK, and carbon reserves equivalent to ten times the UK's domestic carbon budget.</p> <p>1.4 That recent mass strike action by students across the world to highlight the immense dangers and injustices of the climate and ecological crisis are encouraging and a political imperative.</p> <p>1.5 That many courses and departments at SOAS do not integrate the climate and ecological crisis into their curricula and pedagogy.</p>	
This Union Believes:	
<p>2.1 That climate and ecological crises are the result of centuries of colonial and capitalist projects in the pursuit of domination and profit; these have been resisted for as long as they have been practiced.</p> <p>2.2 That declarations of 'crisis' or 'emergency' are integrally linked to these colonial power structures which determine which 'crises' are recognised, when, by whom, and who is made responsible for acting on them.</p> <p>2.3 That a just transition is not about managing future risks to Western populations and states but establishing reparations and remediation led by and for Indigenous, Black, brown, queer, trans, disabled and poor communities across the global South and in the global North, who experience the structural violence of pollution, hunger, drought, floods and displacement as extensions of their marginalisation.</p> <p>2.4 That a just transition should establish legal rights for ecosystems to thrive and regenerate; and</p>	



repair the effects of ongoing ecocide to prevent extinction of humans and all species, in order to maintain a livable, just planet for all.

2.5 That climate justice should oppose all forms of capitalism, nationalism, militarism and fascism that profit from ecological and social violence; and refuse any collaboration with agents that uphold and extend the racialized violence of borders, police and prison systems unless it is accountable to the marginalised groups oppressed by them.

This Union Resolves:

3.1 To declare a climate and ecological emergency which acknowledges and apologises for the complicity of academic institutions like SOAS in creating the conditions for it by producing knowledge in service of colonial, imperial and military power.

3.2 To incorporate climate justice integrally into the SU's policy and campaigning; and work to ensure its inclusion in curricula and pedagogy across departments and courses **and research** at SOAS.

3.3 To call on SOAS to divest all of its financial investments in institutions, corporations and government bodies that profit from extractivism, apartheid and climate and ecological crisis, and boycott institutional affiliations with them.

3.4 To call on SOAS to meet net zero carbon emissions as an institution by **2030** through a just transition as outlined above.

3.5 To provide material and logistical support to the Youth Climate Strikes and climate justice collectives in London, such as Wretched of the Earth, Black Lives Matter UK and Platform; to involve them in the above processes; and to facilitate spaces for collective learning, organisation and mobilisation. **We don't support Extinction Rebellion in its current form.**