

Meeting of:	Goldsmiths Student' Union – Student Assembly 17th November 2015, Ian Gulland Lecture Theatre
Officers Present:	Laith Whitwham (Chair), Alex Etches (Campaigns and Activities Officer), Danny Nasr (Education Officer), Bahar Mustafa (Welfare and Diversity Officer), Eliane Edmund (Disabled Students' Officer), Alice-India Garwood and Serena Savini (Womens' Officer), Polu McEwan (LGBTQ Officer), Alessia Cancemi and Tara Mariwany (Palestine-Twinning Officer), Kiona Nieheus (Postgraduate Officer), Lynsay Hodges (Campaigns Coordinator), Liam Renouf and Felix Porter (Housing Officer), Georgina Ingram (Sports Officer).
In Attendance:	Jamie Green (Clerk), Graham Gaskell (CEO), Jennifer Hart (Deputy CEO)

1. Welcome and Introduction

1.1 LW opens the meeting and welcomes everyone, then goes through the agenda for the evening. The Safe Space video is played.

2. Apologies

1.2 Hani Rashid has sent her minutes ahead of the meeting.

3. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting.

3.1 Clearly passes

3.2 DN announces that, following a motion from the last meeting, the SU has secured funding for bursaries for refugees.

4. Motions

4.1 Support a Strike Ballot!

4.1.1 AE speaks in favour of the motion, but suggests it is voted down until there is a meeting with more people present to make such a decision.

4.1.2 A member raises a question about resolves of on the motion, challenging the factual basis on the parts regarding Northern Ireland.

4.1.3 A member asks about the basis of the motion and for clarification. AE responds explaining that is for NUS to call a ballot on a strike but believes the meeting is too small to make such a decision.

- 4.1.4 A member asks whether the ballot is being called by NCAFC and why it doesn't mention a particular organisation. AE says he thinks it's called by them but is unsure.
- 4.1.5 Polu asks how the conversation can be broadened and made more accessible for members with children. AE says there needs to be more meetings on the matter particularly in regards to demands about the recent government Green Paper.
- 4.1.6 A member argues the case for a student strike and draws comparisons to UCL on speaking to students about strikes. Member suggests a meeting should be held about widening the debate.
- 4.1.7 A member asks whether all tonight's motions are illegitimate and given this is a normal attendance, aren't all meetings illegitimate?
- 4.1.8 LH asks that a mention of NCAFC is in a future motion and a discussion of allegations made against the organisation to ensure accessibility.
- 4.1.9 A member asks whether a referendum is possible? JG responds with the technicalities on referenda, stating it needs a petition with 5% of members.
- 4.1.10 AE responds to some of the points made by members, arguing it's a bigger decision than is usually brought to this meeting. Argues that the motion and building around it needs more thought before being brought to a future meeting.
- 4.1.11 A member asks the difference between a march and a student strike arguing the former is more disruptive than the latter. EA explains how a student strike may work, comparing it to a lecturers' strike. The member responds saying any action needs to be disruptive to admin rather than students.
- 4.1.12 BM: there would likely be a form of political action around a strike that people could participate in. The SU needs to do more work to on diversifying political tactics.
- 4.1.13 A member discusses the question around democracy and attendance saying there needs to be more of an effort to make motions legitimacy. An action needs to hurt the government rather than the university and ensure action in the university doesn't target innocent people.
- 4.1.14 A member asks if the motion can be changed to hold a vote on whether to have a referendum. It is clarified that this is not possible.
- 4.1.15 Vote: For 1, Against 8, Abstain 29. **MOTION FALLS.**
- 4.2 Organising to Win
 - 4.2.1 *WITHDRAWN BY PROPOSER*
- 4.3 Cap Rents
 - 4.3.1 FP speaks in favour of the motion. LR raises the issue of gentrification in the local area.
 - 4.3.2 No opposition to the motion, it opens to the floor for discussion. DN asks what a collective bargaining deal would mean. FP says it's

about democratising the process and negotiations on behalf of students and the deal they're getting in halls.

- 4.3.3 DN asks whether it's more appropriate to remove resolves 4 and have a wider reaching motion about student consultation on issues such as this.
- 4.3.4 AE explains further the logic behind collective bargaining and says it relates to other deals
- 4.3.5 A member argues a motion was passed last year on consultation. Then asks how feasible this is in regards to the SU's resources. Students are part of the gentrification process in New Cross.
- 4.3.6 LW makes some clarifications around the issue based on a recent Warden's Open Meeting saying student housing will have a deal between the SU, College and CLV. Also it has been said the rents will be below the market rate.
- 4.3.7 FP retorts to some of the points, arguing few SU members were allowed in the consultation and it was limited. It needs to be broadened out and more public.
- 4.3.8 The CEO raises a point of information about the deal mentioned. Assurances have been given from last year regarding consultation.
- 4.3.9 A member addresses the point around gentrification and argues the case for creating a housing lettings agency or a housing cooperative. FP responds.
- 4.3.10 DN asks for a delete and replace amendment: 'Mandate the Union to lobby the College to carry out quality checks on student halls in collaboration with the Union.' Accepted as friendly.
- 4.3.11 Vote: For 26, Against 0, Abstain 4. **MOTION PASSES.**

4.4 Fight Fascism and Racism

- 4.4.1 BM proposes the motion underling that it's in response to anti-Semitic graffiti being found on campus.
- 4.4.2 A members asks what the standard fees are for affiliating to these organisations. AE says he is unsure, but it is likely to be around £25. Member warns it's a bad precedent to set by voting for unclear fees. Member suggests amending it to add a £30 cap for each organisation. An Amendment to do so is accepted as friendly.
- 4.4.3 DN asks what affiliation to Anti-fascist network means. AE argues it means offering support to the work of the organisation and potentially sending a delegate to their democratic meetings both regionally nationally.
- 4.4.4 LR asks who would be affiliated to them. BM confirms the SU rather than the College.
- 4.4.5 A member asks whether we're going to debate whether we should affiliate to the AFN because many anti-fascists don't.
- 4.4.6 Polu asks what formal support would look like on the ground.
- 4.4.7 A member asks how the affiliation might look to other people and whether it might make some people feeling uncomfortable.
- 4.4.8 BM (proposer) asks to remove the resolves regarding AFN affiliation.

- 4.4.9 A member argues in favour of affiliating with AFN and argues they're doing positive work.
- 4.4.10 A member argues it would have been good to debated AFN affiliation now to allow a thorough discussion rather than removing the line.
- 4.4.11 DN responds to the argument about affiliating to organisations who are 'adequate' and caution is needed about group's behaviour.
- 4.4.12 A member reiterates the question on what formal support looks like on the ground. AE says supporting the work that group does, particularly local ones who may use their own particular tactics. The SU would have its own stance on anti-fascism but says it would mean offering support.
- 4.4.13 A member questions the risk of affiliating and the effects on marginalised groups.
- 4.4.14 A member argues in favour of leaving affiliation to AFN in the motion.
- 4.4.15 A member echoes the previous point particular in light of the recent graffiti mentioned in the opening speech.
- 4.4.16 Proposed Amendment: add to believes:

"Physical confrontation is not the only affective tactic and is inaccessible to many students, because of reasons not limited to PTSD or other mental health issues incurred by these actions or historical racism, whiteness and generalised privilege often common in this strain of anti-fascism."

"Propaganda and other measures are equally valid" - Accepted as friendly.

- 4.4.17 Amendments: Remove affiliation to anti-raids network. This is opposed by a member and supported by another.
- 4.4.18 Vote: For 2 Against 20 Abstain 5. **AMENDMENT FAILS.**
- 4.4.19 Vote on motion: for 30, against 2, abstain 1. **MOTION PASSES.**

5. Officer Reports

- 5.1 Danny reads a statement regarding the resignation of the President of the SU before a break.
- 5.2 BM reads out a statement regarding recent allegations and an upcoming inquiry.
- 5.3 A member asks if there are any specific reasons behind the resignation of the President. BM says Hani's consent would need to be given before the officers elaborate any further. DN states there are many reason behind the resignation, but they were personal matters that affected the whole team – an investigation is underway.
- 5.4 A member enquires further about the reason. DN says the will be an inquiry around the reasons of her resignation because it is unacceptable and actions will be taken coming out of it.

- 5.5 A member raises the issue of the Leopard and two resignations that have taken place and asks for more information. The member says it will take a while to rebuild trust between students and the organisation.
- 5.6 A member asks who will undertake the investigation and questions the transparency of it. BM responds by stating it will be done by an independent body – the SU’s only role will be answering questions.
- 5.7 The Deputy CEO says advice has been taken on who can undertake a report and someone will be taken soon – the trustees will be privy to the report and some of it will be made available to students.
- 5.8 A member asks who will decide what is seen by students. JH says the trustee board what will be seen from the report.
- 5.9 A member asks what will happen with Hani’s position?
- 5.10 A member asks the role of the trustee board to the SU. DN explains charity law and the role of the trustee board.
- 5.11 The CEO clarifies what will happen with the vacant position and suggests it is unlikely to go to a by-election.
- 5.12 AE raises a point regarding transparency stating this year has affected the officer team negatively. He is in support of making the results as open as legally possible when it is completed.
- 5.13 A member underlines how grave the ramifications of any potential Islamophobia may be if it relates to the resignation.
- 5.14 A member argues there’s been a dialogue lacking around the matter with members and how this is hampering trust with the organisation.
- 5.15 A member asks a question regarding alleged the censorship and silencing of Leopard writers. They ask why the President’s resignation hasn’t been made public before now. BM raises issues around confidentiality and consent regarding officers. BM addresses the question of the Leopard and elaborates on a discussion she had with a writer.
- 5.16 A member asks a question in regards to mental health. LW says the question violates the safe space policy and they are warned.
- 5.17 A member raises a question in regards to the Leopard and the process of submitting an article. Asks who showed the article to the people involved and says the situation shouldn’t have happened. JH responds to the points and explains her role in the situation.
- 5.19 PM raises a point on publishing an article and it potentially putting people at risk.
- 5.20 A point is raised regarding the Leopard resignations and how much BM is mentioned and why they did not want it released. BM responds to the issues in the article and the discussions had with the editor.
- 5.21 A member highlights the importance of transparency and argues a route should have been found to publish the article in question.
- 5.22 A member asks why AE’s ‘sick leave’ mentioned earlier wasn’t in his officer report. AE responds and outlines the issues regarding his sickness.
- 5.23 A member turns to the officer reports and says some officers had put in a lot of work whereas some haven’t. They ask how the officer team can improve having a more noticeable impact on life on campus on the future. BM says they hope the report will hopefully outline ways officers can be supported in delivering their mandates in the future.

5.24 A question submitted online is posed regarding liberation. BM responds by acknowledging previous points regarding internal pressures in the organisation and its effect on wellbeing.

5.25 DN congratulates Kiona on running a successful postgrad forum

6. Solidarity Motions

6.1 Solidarity with the family of Sheku Bayoh

6.1.1 LW reads out the submitted text and goes to a vote. Vote: Clearly passes.

6.2 A member proposes solidarity with Lambeth Library Staff who are going on strike to oppose closures to libraries. Vote: Clearly passes.

6.3 A member proposes solidarity with students in Missouri University following allegations of racism. Vote: Clearly passes.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 TW lets people know about a PalSoc event regarding the right to education and invites people to attend.

7.2 Reminds members about refugee awareness month and lists some events.