

# AGM Minutes

The 2020/21 SOAS SU Annual General Meeting was held as an online booklet and in person meeting during Freshers 2021. This was postponed to the start of the academic year due to covid. The in person meeting summarised the contents of the online booklet, and the minutes for this meeting were created using the questions asked both during the meeting and via the online AGM form.

## **1. Are the SU doing any action in getting SOAS to streamlining the process of becoming a SOAS student? [enrolment]**

**Answer (Lucia):** One of the pillars of SOAS' strategic plan is to make student services more effective. The SU are participating in this by asking what indicators they'll use to show they're making changes / how they'll measure student engagement and experience is getting better. This is a priority for the SU.

**Answer (Anna):** We have been talking to SOAS about it. I've been going to a 9am meeting every day. They've just recruited a new Chief Operating Officer - responsible for all non-academic stuff at SOAS. We will try and organise for him to come to the JCR and speak to students so you can tell him directly what the issues are so he knows what needs changing.

## **2. Does the SU have any weight in supporting students having a rough time at Dinwiddy house? There's significant issues in caregiving there - reporting issues with no resolutions. Feels like they've taken students money and stopped supporting students from there.**

**Answer (Ella):** Historically there have been problems at Dinwiddy. Email Ella with specific issues. The old SU Accommodation Officer passed a SOAS Housing Emergency last year and as a result the SU is working on a new housing agreement with SOAS. It's our responsibility to make sure SOAS students are safe in their halls, and we're bringing this to the new Chief Operating Officer. Please tell us any issues.

**Answer (Lucia):** Dinwiddy is outsourced, so SOAS throws blame to Sanctuary Students for any issues reported. We're committing to try and get access for funding for international / self isolating students in halls. Accommodation issues at SOAS are longstanding and we're trying to continue pressuring SOAS to ensure responsibility. We can always rent strike!