



Policy and motions

What is a policy?

A policy is a course of action which the members meeting has democratically decided it wishes the Students' Union to adopt. When the members' meeting decides on a policy, it is then referred to the Students' Union Trustee Board who then have the final call as to if it becomes official Students union policy. For example, a policy could be that the Students 'Union lobbies the University to increase library opening hours during exam times.

What is a motion?

A motion is simply a vehicle used for a policy to be proposed and voted on. Once a motion has been voted through it becomes a policy. Motions are widely used, not just in Students' Unions but in any member-led organisation such as a trade union, political party or fan-owned football club.

How is a motion structured?

Motions are written in a specific way which summarises the author's (the proposer and seconders) position and view on the matter. It should have three sections - 'notes' are facts around the issue which no one should object to, 'Opinions' are the opinions of the authors and 'actions' are what the authors want to happen if the motion becomes policy, If the Member meeting passes the motion. A majority of at least one vote is required:

A motion is split into 3 parts:

1. This meeting notes... (this is facts)
 2. This meeting believes... (this is opinion)
 3. This meeting resolves... (this is action for the exec)
- Motions should be student centred and on issues facing students
 - Motions should have a proposer and a seconder
 - Keep them brief and to the point
 - Setting them out in bullet points is advisable

- Motions and policies do not need to lay out in great detail what your plan or actions are. Your actions and steps to take can be seen as ‘within the spirit’ of the policy.
- For example if the motion is about a campaign, you don’t need to list all the ways you may campaign: letter writing, posters, facebook, petition, lobby, placards , protests etc. It is enough to say ‘ SU to actively campaign and take action on this issue’
- However if you wish a specific action to be carried out as a result of motion becoming a policy and you are concerned that it might be challenged at a later date, for the avoidance of doubt explicitly state the action within the ‘resolves.’ .

An example of a motion:

Motion Title: Lockers for students

Main Submitter: Jimmy Cliff

Seconder: Horace Andy

Student council notes: (facts)

- Lockers, if provided can help student with on-campus storage
- The University provides very few lockers for students
- Many students have to commute long distances and carry heavy books

Student council believes: (opinions)

- Lockers would be very popular for student
- Lockers are cheap and easy to maintain
- Lockers will improve student satisfaction and be popular with students

Student Council resolves: (actions)

- To mandate the SU Exec to open dialogue with University regarding provision of student lockers
- To ask for a meeting with the dept. of Estates to discuss
- To lobby and campaign for more student lockers