



:student voice

HOW TO...

Create UPSU Policy!

UPSU is run by students for students. Therefore, any student can submit an idea that could become UPSU Policy! There are several ways in which your idea could become UPSU Policy, but the most straightforward way is to get it approved by the Union Executive Committee (UEC). The UEC is a meeting made up of elected students and the Executive Officer Team. This handy guide will show you how to submit your policy ideas to the UEC and give you some top tips to give you the best chances possible of getting it passed.

RESEARCH YOUR IDEA

The first step in creating a policy is to do a little bit of research. The more you know about your topic – the more likely it will be that your policy will be sensible, informed and get passed!

Your research could be interviewing students, conducting surveys or looking at other Unions to see what has worked in other places.

What is the issue?

Most policy ideas are focussed around a specific issue that students have encountered. What is the issue? How many people does it affect? What is the impact?

How will your solution work?

What exactly are you proposing? How will it be implemented? Does it require any funding? How much? Who will be responsible? How will your solution fix the issue?

Have other Unions done this?

By giving case studies of other places that have created a similar policy, it will create a compelling argument about making it work here in Plymouth too!

SUBMIT YOUR MOTION

A motion is what we call a policy before it has officially been passed. A motion has to take a specific format containing 3 sections:

The proposer believes:

This is where you outline your issue and state some of your research about your issue.

The proposer further believes:

This is where you go into more detail about your research and general information about how your solution could fix the issue.

The proposer resolves:

This is where you outline exactly what you are proposing and give details about how it will be implemented.

Your motion must also be signed by a proposer (you) and a seconder (another student that agrees with your proposal).

Once you have written your motion, you must email it to the Student Voice Team, who will forward it to the Chair of the UEC and ensure it is discussed at the next possible meeting.

GETTING IT PASSED

The Chair of UEC will most likely invite you in for timed business at the next UEC meeting, where you can present your proposal and answer any questions the UEC may have. You will then be asked to leave the room for the debate and the vote on whether your motion passes and will be turned into UPSU Policy.

There are 3 likely outcomes:

1. The motion passes
2. The motion does not pass
3. You will be asked to do further research on your proposal and return to the next meeting.

Was this helpful?

If you would like more help putting together a motion, please pop in and speak to the Student Voice Team who would be happy to talk you through it!

Get in touch:

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Pop in: 1st floor of the SU (by the advice centre)