

Guidance For New Policy Proposals

Below are factors to consider when formulating your policy proposal – which if ratified, will become SU policy. Throughout this process you will be able to receive support from the Student Voice Team and other relevant staff members and student led Forums.

1. How Will This Proposal Affect Students?

The Students' Union is a registered charity and, as such, we are legally required to make sure that everything we do is in line with our charitable objects. The objects (*aims!*) of the Union are the advancement of education of students at University of Warwick for the public benefit by:

- promoting the interests and welfare of students at Warwick during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising students
- being the recognised representative channel between students and Warwick University and any other external bodies
- providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its students

All Students' Union policies must fulfil these aims. This means that your proposal has to clearly outline how it will benefit students. If it doesn't have a clear benefit to students during their time at Warwick, the Make A Change Platform is probably not the best forum for it.

Furthermore, there are a various Acts and other legal frameworks which we must ensure we do not infringe upon these include but are not limited to:

- [Education Act 1994](#)
- [Companies Act 2006](#)
- [The Charities Act 2011](#)

For example, a student might propose the following policy:

"I would like the Students' Union to publish a statement officially endorsing the Green Party in UK elections

I believe this is important for representing the political interests of Home fee paying students from the Green Party's political views and principles are in line with the views and principles of the Students' Union."

Consideration: Effect on Students

Although this proposal does mention that it will affect home fee students, the link to that effect on students is not very clearly defined. The proposal does not mention the policy's effect on students in their capacity as Warwick students, which is the important criterion here.

Consideration: Political Stance

This policy takes a distinct political stance. As a registered charity, the SU has a legal obligation to stay politically neutral. This means we could not issue a statement explicitly endorsing a political candidate or party.

2. Is This Proposal To Do With The Students' Union Or The University?

The Students' Union is a separate organisation from Warwick university. This means that, although we can lobby University of Warwick to change certain things, the SU cannot directly change things that fall under the remit of the university. If your idea relates specifically to a department or a faculty, they should be reframed to include all students, or you should explore other avenues to achieve it other than Union Policy.

For instance, you could get in touch with one of your Academic Reps*, who can take the issue to a Student Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC) or another meeting; or you could get in contact with our Academic Forum who would raise this at a variety of University meetings.

If you are advised or think the submitting a policy proposal is the best medium for your idea, make sure that you specify whether you are referring to the Union or the university, or even an external stakeholder (e.g. a local council).

3. What Will The Outcome Of This Policy Be?

It's important that your proposal clearly states what outcome you want to happen.

If an issue is very narrow in its remit - i.e. it affects a specific course within a Department - it may be better to get in touch with a relevant person in the Students' Union (if you're not sure who that would be, send your idea to studentvoice@warwicksu.com and we'll point you in the right direction).

Some proposals are to do with very specific issues; the remits of these proposals are too narrow for them to be useful policies for the Union as a whole. In these cases, it is better to speak to the relevant Officer or SU staff member about how to reach a resolution.

4. Is This Issue Covered By Existing Policy?

It may be that your policy proposal is covered by an existing policy, in which case it might be better to follow up that policy with the relevant Officer, rather than submitting a completely new proposal.

We have a list of all our current policies [here](#).

If you are interested in receiving an update about an existing Policy, you can submit a question for them to answer in an Executive Committee meeting by getting into touch with the Student Voice Team at studentvoice@warwicksu.com.