



Guidance on Writing Motions

What is a motion?

When a student wants to shape how Strathclyde Students' Union works, or would like to action their elected representatives to act on an issue, they can submit a motion to Student Parliament. This is then discussed and, if passed, it will become Union Policy.

What can I use a motion to do?

A motion can be a statement on a position and it can also mandate the elected officers to carry out actions. Once it is passed at Student Parliament, this means that it will become policy and Strath Union is obliged to implement it.

You should make it clear what you would like to get from your policy – the more precise your outcomes are, the easier it will be to implement a policy and the more effective it will be. For example, saying 'raise awareness of an issue' isn't as clear as 'the President will host monthly workshops on XXX'.

Who can write a motion?

Any student can write a motion. The staff and officers at Strath Union will be able to provide advice and support when creating your motion. The motion needs to have a Proposer (the person who originally created the motion) and a Secunder (who supports the motion). The best policies are well-researched and have sought feedback from students, staff, and officers.

How do I write a motion?

Below is an example of a motion that could be submitted to Parliament. Motions at Strath Union contain the following sections:

Title of motion

This should be short and briefly explain what your motion is about.

Student Parliament Notes:

This is where you lay out the problem. This section is for FACTS about the issue. You can use evidence to support this section, including news items and research.

Student Parliament Believes:

This section lays out what you feel the Union's POSITION should be on the issue. It can, therefore, contain opinion on the issue, rather than facts.

Student Parliament Instructs:

This section sets out the SOLUTION to the issue. You should detail exactly what The Union should be doing about the issue and, if applicable, who should do it. e.g. The President, The Executive Committee, Members of Student Parliament, etc.

You are welcome to put more than one point per section.



You can also submit policy through the [Motion Maker](#) – this lays out what is needed to submit a policy. Once you have submitted it through this platform, a member of staff from the Representation and Democracy Team at Strath Union will be in touch to offer feedback and advice.

What happens next?

Once you have submitted your motion, it will then go to the next Student Parliament for discussion. You can find out more about Student Parliament [HERE](#).

At Student Parliament, it will be discussed and voted on. Any student is welcome to come along to Student Parliament, so it is recommended that you attend to speak in favour of your motion.

If you have any questions around policy or Parliament, feel free to contact strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk or come to the Student Engagement Zone on Level 7 of the Strath Union Building.

Example Motion

Puppies for Strathclyde Students

Proposed by: Jo Smith; Seconded by: Alex Johnston

Student Parliament Notes:

- 1) Mental health problems are common for students studying in Higher Education.¹
- 2) That puppies, and other animals, provide support and stress relief.²
- 3) Other Students' Unions around the country host puppy petting days, particularly around peak pressure times.³

Student Parliament Believes:

- 1) That Strath Union supports students with mental health issues and should seek out different ways of doing this.
- 2) That bringing puppies onto campus will be an effective stress relieving event, as well as promoting engagement with the Students' Union.

Student Parliament Instructs:

- 1) That Strath Union should host puppy petting sessions at least once a semester, and that these sessions are available to all students.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/2017/sep/07/its-time-for-universities-to-put-student-mental-health-first>

² <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/p/pets-and-mental-health>

³ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/32536857/puppy-room-offered-to-relax-stressed-students>