

MOTIONS

1. What is a Motion?

A Motion is the formal expression of a members request for the Union (as represented by its officers) to behave or act in a certain way on a specific issue, matter, or campaign. This is then discussed and agreed by the relevant Zone and passed by Student Senate, as appropriate. If passed by Student Senate, the actions in the Motion will be pursued by the Union for the balance of the academic year or until achieved. Motions are formally defined under Bye-law and can be found on our [website](#).

2. Motion format.

In order for the Motion to be understood by all parties, the Union provides a simple structured format. You do not have to write an essay but do think about enough detail to convey your points. A Motion is structured within these four headings:

- *Title*
- *Background*
- *Purpose*
- *Action*

What do they mean?

- **Title** should name your motion in simple terms with an economy of wording.
- **Background** allows you to share any relevant information about the issue or the current situation. These should be facts that provide context to the Motion.
- **Purpose** allows you to set out your opinions regarding the issue and your vision for a better situation. These are opinions you feel other need to know in order to understand and pass the Motion.
- **Action*** allows you to define the action(s) that you believe needs to be completed, when the Motion passes, in order to achieve your vision.

You will also be required to include your first and last name and your student number, in order to establish that you are a member of Winchester Student Union, and owner of the Motion. Additionally, the same information is required of a 'seconder' who is named to support your motion.

** in terms of actions named in Union Motions, Winchester Student Union is a registered charity and there are certain actions we would be unable to undertake by law. If you are uncertain about the achievability of your actions, please speak to the Student Union [President](#) or [Student Engagement Manager](#) who can provide you with more details.*

3. How do I submit a Motion?

Motions can be submitted by any member of the Union to the appropriate Zone committees (Education Zone, Welfare Zone, Activities Zone, Services Zone) or a Union General Meeting (UGM). In all cases, these should be received by the President of the Union at least 7 days prior to the meeting. You will also be required to attend the meeting to which the Motion has been submitted, in order that you might speak to the Motion and answer any questions. If you cannot attend the meeting, please nominate someone to speak for you (your seconder would be ideal for this) or submit a speech to be read on your behalf.

Motions can be submitted by either completing the below template and emailing it to: su_pres@winchester.ac.uk.

4. Additional information.

If your Motion passes it might affect all students at the University of Winchester. For that reason, you should give careful consideration to all the ways your motion impacts upon different areas of the student body and the SU as a general, such as:

- Equality implications
- Democratic implications
- Welfare implications
- Financial implications
- Responsibilities for implementing the Motions actions
- Being prepared to work with the Student Union and committing time to achieve this motion.

TEMPLATE

Type of Meeting

Motion Title:

Background:

The current situation, include any relevant information about the issue.

- 1.1*
- 1.2
- 1.3

Purpose:

If the motion is successful, what do you want to achieve? What's your vision for the future?

- 2.1*
- 2.2
- 2.3

Action:

How are we going to make your vision happen?

- 3.1*
- 3.2
- 3.3

Proposed by:

Your first and last name:

Your student number:

Seconder first and last name:

Seconder student number:

**You can have as many or as few points in each section as you like. If section one needs 5 bullet points, then that is fine! Likewise, you may only need 1 bullet point to make your issue understood.*

EXAMPLE MOTION

This is an example of a motion which might be submitted to a Welfare Zone meeting. This motion could use more clarity - however lacking clarity allows us to also example the kinds of questions you might be asked in a Welfare Zone meeting (and hence the details you should ideally put into a motion).

Welfare Zone

Motion Title: Winchester Student Union Dog

Background:

The current situation, include any relevant information about the issue.

- 1.1 Dogs are personable and attention grabbing
- 1.2 Animals are good for emotional wellbeing
- 1.3 Dogs are allowed in Offices via University policy
- 1.4 Some people are allergic to dogs

Purpose:

If the motion is successful, what do you want to achieve? What's your vision for the future?

- 2.1 That a dog would add to the atmosphere of Winchester Student Union
- 2.2 That a dog could aid with engagement and wellbeing
- 2.3 That the dog could become a mascot of the whole Union

Action:

How are we going to make your vision happen?

- 3.1 To buy a rescue dog from the RSPCA (under £200)
- 3.2 To train the dog to sit by the SU offices so students can interact with it
- 3.3 To hold a student competition to name the dog

Proposed by:

Your first and last name: A Student

Your student number: 00112233

Seconder first and last name: A Student Too

Seconder student number: 33221100

Examples of questions Welfare Zone might ask this motion:

- Who will feed and look after the dog?
- What budget will the dog and dog food come from? What is the total lifecycle cost of the dog?
- How can we ensure the welfare of the dog in such a busy, public setting?
- What about members who are scared or allergic to dogs and might stop visiting the Union officers because of it?
- Why a dog, why not a cat?