



University of Lincoln Students' Union Campaigning Policy

Campaigning

The University of Lincoln Students' Union (ULSU) undertakes, hosts and facilitates a variety of activities that may be regarded as involving campaigning or political activity.

Political activity is defined by the Charity Commission as activity aimed at securing, or opposing, any change in the law or in the policy or decisions of Central Government, Local Authorities or other public bodies, whether in this country or abroad. More information regarding this can be found in the ULSU Policy on Political Activity, and ULSU Guidance on Political Activity of Students' Unions.

Campaigning and political activity is undertaken by ULSU only in support of the delivery of its charitable objectives and with due regard to the overall financial position of ULSU, any risks involved in the proposed activity, and its other commitments and legal obligations. This policy clarifies the different types of activity commonly undertaken by ULSU or within ULSU venues, and sets out who to contact should any questions or concerns arise.

Campaigning on matters that advance the education and welfare of students

ULSU often undertakes direct campaigning activity to advance the interests of its student members, in their capacity as students. Examples include:

- campaigning for an increase in contact hours with academic staff
- higher quality student housing

Campaigning activity of this type will only be pursued to the extent that the Trustees believe it will advance the educational experience of students at the University in furtherance of ULSU's charitable objectives.

Debating activity

ULSU's democratic structures include the opportunity for students to debate, and sometimes take a position on, matters which do not affect students as students. This debating activity is intended to be educational in character and not to influence law or policy outside of ULSU and the University, meaning that participation in this activity advances the charitable objectives of ULSU.

ULSU may reach and communicate a "corporate conclusion" on the subject matter of such debates, to the effect that a particular policy or course of action would be desirable, even if that desirability is justified in the course of the debate on the effect it would have on persons who are not students. ULSU will not seek to communicate or otherwise adopt that corporate conclusion outside of ULSU or the University, as this may result in the activity exceeding the boundaries of facilitating educational debate within ULSU and the University.

ULSU is committed to ensuring that the processes of debate are fair, non-discriminatory and impartial, even though the subject matter of the debate may be controversial or politically contentious. The corporate conclusion reached by ULSU is always subject to challenge by counter-motion, reflecting the motion process as one of continuous debate. ULSU will assist those who disagree with ULSU policy in the process of preparing a counter-motion to ensure the continuation of that policy debate.

Campaigning Student Groups

ULSU resources are sometimes used to support Societies, Sports Clubs, Campaigns Networks, Volunteer Groups and/or Representatives. These are supported and dealt with fairly, with funding and other resources being made available by ULSU on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis.

This activity is intended to be educational, and so to further the charitable purposes of ULSU, by encouraging students to develop their political knowledge and awareness and to debate current political issues.

ULSU does not make any direct donations to external organisations and does not permit ULSU resources to be donated to such organisations, parties or causes by Societies, Sports Clubs, Campaigns Networks, Volunteer Groups or Representatives in line with Charity Law.

Students are entitled to provide personal support to political organisations, parties and causes outside the University at their individual discretion, provided they do not use ULSU resources (including resources provided by ULSU to Societies, Sports Clubs, Campaigns Networks, Volunteer Groups and Representatives) to do so.

Processes

ULSU's Board of Trustees oversees the process by which this activity is regulated, funded and managed, ensuring that the charitable funds, property and other resources (including the time of a Sabbatical Officer) of ULSU are only used to further and serve ULSU's charitable objectives.

ULSU's Board of Trustees annually reviews activity and expenditure falling within the categories/definitions outlined above, publishing the results of that analysis and this statement in the Annual Report.

Anyone with questions or concerns about the activity should contact the Chief Executive, jabrooks@lincoln.ac.uk.