LEICESTER STUDENTS' UNION

IDEAS LAB

The Ideas Lab lets you share your suggestions and vote for the ideas you believe in — turning your voice into real change.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

When an idea is submitted, it is reviewed by the Student Voice Team and an Executive Officer before being published.

The purpose of this review is not to judge whether an idea is popular, correct or likely to succeed, but to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Ideas Lab and can be considered through the Union's democratic processes.

In this guide it will explain:

- The Voting System
- Law and Regulations
- Appeals



If you still have questions after reading through this guide, please contact su-voice@le.ac.uk

VOTING ON IDEAS

Voting on Ideas

Once published, an idea will remain open for voting for 10 working days. Students can:

- Vote positively (thumbs up) if they support an idea.
- Vote negatively (thumbs down) if they do not support an idea.
- Comment and engage in discussion.



What happens after voting closes?

The number of negative votes is taken off the total number of positive votes to provide a net vote total.

<50 Votes

A net vote total is less than 50 then :

The idea fails and there is no further action required. The relevant Council may decide to:

- Develop the idea further with the student.

Please note; Full time, and Part Time officers may pick up projects under their democratic mandate.

50-99 Votes

A net vote total of between 50 and 99 then:

The idea must be discussed by the relevant Council. The Council may decide to:

- Take no further action;
- Develop a policy proposal for consideration by Leicester 100 in line with the idea as presented.
- Develop a plan for implementation where the issue is basic. This is whereby time, speed or efficiency dictates a swift resolution or where the issue obviously, and reasonably does not need to wait for a Leicester 100 meeting.

VOTING ON IDEAS

>100 Votes

A net vote total of 100 or more then:

The idea must be progressed through the Union's democratic decision-making structures, the next steps would either be:-



1. Where a full policy proposal already exists, the proposer may take it directly to Leicester 100.
2. Where no policy proposal exists, the relevant Council will work with the proposer to develop a policy proposal for Leicester 100;
3. The Council may decide to develop a plan for implementation where the issue is basic. This is whereby time, speed or efficiency dictates a swift resolution or where the issue obviously and reasonably does not need to wait for a Leicester 100 meeting.

For the avoidance of doubt, Councils should not bypass Leicester 100 when considering ideas that require the establishment of new Students' Union policy or mandate. Direct implementation should only take place where the resource required to consider a proposal through Leicester 100 would be disproportionate to the resource required to enact the idea itself. In such cases, the Council should record its reasons for not referring the matter to Leicester 100.

Working with Councils

If your idea is considered by a Council, you will be invited to attend the meeting and participate in the discussion.

You can be involved as much or as little as you wish in the development, implementation or policy-making process.

Where a policy proposal is required, Council members and Union staff will support you in preparing it.

LAW & REGULATIONS

When might an idea not be published?

The Students' Union is committed to supporting freedom of expression and open democratic debate. We will therefore publish ideas wherever possible.

However, the Students' Union may decide not to publish an idea where there are reasonable grounds to believe that it:

- Is unlawful.
- Would require the Students' Union to act outside its legal powers, charitable objects or regulatory obligations.
- Identifies, names or targets individual student or staff members
- Contains anything defamatory, abusive or discriminatory
- Calls for actions that would unlawfully restrict freedom of speech or academic freedom of others.
- Is substantially similar to an idea that is already active or currently under consideration through the Union's democratic structures.

Where an idea cannot be published, we will contact the student who submitted it, to explain the reasons for the decision.

Where appropriate, we will work with the student to amend the proposal so that it can be published and considered through the Ideas Lab.

Information about how to appeal the decision will also be provided.

LAW & REGULATIONS

Freedom of Speech and Democratic Debate

The Students' Union is committed to protecting lawful freedom of speech and academic freedom.

This means that ideas will not be rejected simply because they are controversial, unpopular, challenging or offensive to some members of our community.

Students should expect to encounter a range of opinions and perspectives through the Ideas Lab. Publishing an idea allows students to debate and vote on it. Publication does not mean that the Students' Union supports, endorses or agrees with the content of that idea.



Policies and Resources

A policy passed by Leicester 100 records the democratic view of students. However, the approval of a policy does not automatically commit the Students' Union to spending money, allocating staff resources or undertaking specific activities.

Where a proposal falls outside the Union's charitable objects, legal powers or available resources, the Union may be unable to implement it even where members have voted in favour of it.

APPEALS

Appeals

Students may appeal a decision not to publish an idea by writing to the Director of Membership Services.

Appeals will normally only be considered where:

- The decision was unreasonable based on the available evidence; or
- Relevant information has become available that was not considered during the original decision-making process.

The Director of Membership Services will convene an Appeal Panel consisting of:

- The Director of Membership Services (or nominee);
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team not involved in the original decision; and
- An Executive Officer not involved in the original decision.

The Appeal Panel may request additional information from any relevant party before reaching a decision.
The Panel may:

- Uphold the original decision;
- Require amendments before publication; or
- Direct that the idea be published as originally submitted.

The decision of the Appeal Panel is final. Wherever possible, appeals will be concluded within seven working days of submission.