University of Lincoln Students' Union Policy on Political Activity

The University of Lincoln Students' Union (ULSU) Board of Trustees has a responsibility to ensure that Charity Law is always upheld. As such, the purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Trustees can meet their obligations.

The objects of ULSU are the advancement of education of Students at the University for the public benefit by:

- promoting the interests and welfare of our members during their course of study, as well as offering representation, support and advice;
- being the recognised representative channel between our members and UoL and any other external bodies; and
- providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums, for discussions and debate, for the personal development of its members.

ULSU can only engage with political parties in order to educate its members and must maintain a position of neutrality at all times.

Political activities that can be carried out by ULSU in adherence to the Charities Act 2011 are:

- Host a fair and balanced debate involving students and/or guest speakers on any issue
- Provide fair and balanced information to its members on any issue
- Adopt resolutions on any issue through its formal democratic structures, such as All Student Members Meetings (ASMs and referenda
- Communicate any resolutions decided on by those bodies to its members
- Represent positions taken to the University or to NUS

Any campaign that ULSU allocates resources to must pass the Student as a Student test. For example, any campaign may only target students whilst and because they are students, not because they are part of a cohort or community that are affected because they live there or have the same beliefs as non-members.

Clubs, Societies, Campaigns Network & Representatives (Reps)

Whilst Societies and Sports Clubs have their own constitutions, all Clubs, Societies, Campaigns Network & Representatives are part of ULSU and as such fall under the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. ULSU encourages political societies to hold meetings to educate their members on the policies of the party that they support, and to debate issues that affect them as a group. However, they must adhere to the following:

- If a political speaker is invited to speak at a meeting of a a Student Society, Sports Club, Group, Rep or Project, the meeting must be a closed event with only members of that group present.
- The event must be conducted in accordance with the External Speakers Policy.
- No canvasing of support for a political party is permitted to take place at any ULSU event.

- No money may be collected for a political party at an event organised by a Student Society, Club, Group, Rep or Project.
- No money given to a Student Society, Club, Group, Rep or Project by the ULSU may be used for supporting a political party in canvassing. This includes printing and hiring transport to a canvassing event or facilities; only monies donated by members can be used for this purpose.
- If you have any doubts on whether an activity should take place, please highlight this on your event application form and the relevant staff within the Department at ULSU will be able to provide guidance.

HM 03/2019