

Policy Proposal:

Date: 09/09/2026

Proposer/s:
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Current Policy/Situation

What happens at the moment?

Community funding requests are currently submitted to the Communities team through an online funding request form. Communities are required to provide relevant information about their request, including what the funding will be used for and how it will benefit their members.

Once submitted, funding requests are reviewed by the Communities team, including the Vice President Communities. The team considers the request and determines whether funding can be allocated based on the information provided and the funding available.

Following the review process, the outcome of the funding request is communicated back to the community. Where funding is approved, the community is informed of the amount allocated and any relevant requirements or conditions attached to the funding.

Currently there is not provision for providing student representatives with a way to access the funds of the Union to further a cause, work or project they are want funding for.

New Proposal

What is your new proposal? This must include the exact wording that you would like in the Standing Orders?

Communities will be able to submit and vote on funding applications, in their capacity as representatives of their relevant student group. Each community will need to determine internally what they apply for and are entitled to submit one application funding per meeting.

Student Representatives will be able to submit and vote on funding applications, in their capacity as representatives of an individual course at the University. Student representatives from the same cohort will need to determine internally what they apply for.

Student Leader funding requests will continue to be submitted through the existing funding application process and reviewed by Union staff to ensure that applications meet the relevant funding requirements. Rather than funding allocations being decided by Union staff, eligible funding requests will be presented at Union Meetings.

There will be a financial cap on how much funding can be applied for within one application at each meeting.

Each community will need to determine internally how they wish to vote on other applications at each meeting. Each community will receive one vote for each of the applications that have been made.

Student Representatives will receive one vote on behalf of their cohort – if there is more than one student representative within an individual cohort then they would need to determine their votes internally as a group.

Each elected Executive Officer will receive one vote – as representatives of the entire student body they are able to help determine these decisions. However, Executive Officers cannot apply for funding via this mechanism.

These three groups would all be able to vote in the meeting. The outcome of each application will be determined by a simple majority of votes.

This change would give students a more direct role in deciding how Student Leader funding is allocated, while retaining necessary checks and balances to ensure applications meet the relevant funding requirements.

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Additions and removals to the Standing Orders are seen below in blue and removals in red -

5.5. Student Leader Funding

5.5.1. All Student Leaders, including Student Representatives, can apply for financial support from the Union through the Student Leader Fund.

5.5.1.1. Applications will be reviewed by Union staff to ensure they meet funding requirements.

5.5.1.2. Information on any restrictions to Student Leader funding will be made available by the Union during the application process.

5.5.2. Applications will be voted on at Union Meetings.

5.5.2.1. Funding applications will be decided by a simple majority of votes.

5.5.2.2. Applications will be shared prior to the Union Meeting.

5.5.2.3. Application outcomes will be shared and published on the Union website after the meeting, following verification.

8.10.3. Communities will be able to apply for financial support from the Union for their continued development through the Student **Communities** Leader Fund set out in Standing Order 5.5.

Rationale for the change

What are the pros and cons of the change? How will any cons be managed/mitigated?

The proposed model would make the funding process more student-led, transparent and democratic by giving Student Leaders a direct role in deciding how funding is allocated. Rather than funding decisions being made solely through the existing staff-led process, applications would be presented at Union Meetings, allowing students to understand and have a say in how Union funding is distributed.

The new model would also broaden access to funding by allowing all eligible Student Leaders to apply for financial support, rather than limiting the process to specific groups. This creates a more consistent and inclusive approach to Student Leader funding and provides Student Leaders with an opportunity to seek financial support for projects and activities that benefit students.

Another key benefit is increased transparency and accountability. This change provides a straightforward and understandable method for determining funding allocations and gives students greater ownership over the use of Union funds.

Overall, the proposed change would provide a more democratic, transparent and inclusive funding process, while maintaining appropriate staff oversight to ensure that funding remains within the relevant requirements and available budget.

What consideration or consultation have you taken prior to submitting this proposal?

All proposals go the exec team to be confirmed, so having insufficient consultation/consideration could mean the proposal is rejected.

Prior to submitting this proposal, a student consultation form was shared with community committee members to gather feedback on the current funding process and understand how a new Communities funding model could better meet the needs of students and their communities. The consultation provided committee members with an opportunity to reflect on their experiences of the current process, identify any issues or barriers they have encountered, and provide suggestions for how the funding process could be improved.

Feedback from this consultation has been considered when developing the proposed funding model, particularly around making the process more student-led, transparent and accessible. The proposal therefore aims to respond to the experiences and feedback of students who are directly involved in managing and developing their communities.

This proposal considers that how to best include all student leaders and ensure they can receive support.

Have you considered any impact of the new proposal on any of the protected characteristics as listed in the Equality Act 2010? *What are the impacts and how will any negative impacts be managed/mitigated? For more information on the protected characteristics please see [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)*

Appendices *if necessary.*