

# POLICY PROPOSAL

Policy number 2016/17-7

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TITLE: POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS SUB-GROUP

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## INTRODUCTION

In the past, political party societies have been affiliated to the SU but have struggled to meet affiliation requirements due to waves in popularity outside the control of the officers of these societies. This diminishes the Union's political culture by limiting opportunities for engagement and activism for its students. This policy would ensure that political parties and political campaign groups are integrated into Bath SU by creating and maintaining a new Political Campaigns sub-group.

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## REASON FOR CHANGE

Considering ...

1. Bath SU seeks to 'create, launch and win on campaigns by delivering core campaigns, grassroots initiatives and political activity which seeks to improve the lives of our members and wider society'.
2. Currently, different groups exist as unofficial, unaffiliated political party groups working as an independent community of actively engaged students.
3. Bath SU is affiliated to the NUS and has engaged with political issues on a national level.
4. Bath SU currently has no affiliated political party societies.

Bath Students' Union recognises that ...

1. Bath SU has a role to play in encouraging the political engagement of students and helping them realise change locally and nationally.
2. Bath SU has a responsibility to support activism and political engagement amongst all of its students, across the range of their political views.
3. Most universities have affiliated political party groups which enrich the political life on campus, not only improving engagement with local and national politics but increasing student interest in the day-to-day running of the relevant Students' Union and the National Union of Students more generally.
4. Political campaigns can have slim relevancy windows, and may find it difficult to organise under Bath SU's restrictions, and cannot wait the length of time often required to be affiliated to the Societies area. Political campaigns can fade in and out of relevance, which can make it hard for them to stay affiliated to the Societies sub-group.

5. Political campaign groups operate best in a fundamentally different way to societies, and have more in common with each other than they do with most affiliated societies.

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## THE PROPOSAL

Bath Students' Union will ...

1. Amend Regulation 7 to introduce a new Political Campaigns sub-group of Bath SU comprised of student groups focused around political parties, political campaigns, pressure groups and think tanks.
2. Create a Political Campaigns Executive and Political Campaigns GM to govern the Political area sub-group.
3. Ensure that relevant political groups are affiliated to the Political Campaigns sub-group where they do not conflict with Bath SU's values, provided they have a written constitution, and a committee including at least a chair, secretary and treasurer.
4. Commit to supporting each individual political group to fill its committee positions and engage with the wider student body, particularly in years when it is struggling.
5. Provide the Political Campaigns sub-group and political student groups with agreed budgets as part of Bath SU's annual budgeting cycle (this may include a zero budget).
6. Provide pages on the SU's website for the Political Campaigns sub-group and for political groups.
7. Provide a single page on the SU's website for all political groups seeking affiliation, allowing students to declare an interest in joining them, should they become affiliated.