



Idea for Change: Improving Transparency and Accountability in Herts SU

What is the issue you would like to discuss?

The lack of transparency in how Herts SU communicates its actions and interactions with the university prevents students from holding both institutions accountable. Key concerns include:

- **Limited documentation of SU actions:** there is no clear record of how elected officers follow up on passed motions.
- **Meeting minutes are not consistently shared:** the last available student council meeting minutes date back to April 2024.
- **Unclear scheduling of council meetings:** the scheduling of councils is not published, making it extremely difficult for student leaders to participate.

These issues outlined were first raised at the November Student Council meeting. Despite this, they were only meaningfully addressed after this Idea for Change was submitted, four months later. A transparent and accountable Student Union should not require repeated student prompting to make key documentation accessible.

Why is this of interest to students at the University of Hertfordshire?

- **Students deserve to know if their concerns are being addressed, and motions passed in Student Council should be actioned visibly.**
- **Lack of transparency weakens student representation:** Without updates, students cannot assess whether their representatives are effectively challenging the university.
- **Poor communication discourages student participation:** If students are unaware of meetings or the SU's actions, they are less likely to engage in student democracy.

What would you like Herts SU to do moving forward?

We call on Herts SU to commit to greater transparency by:

Publishing Student Council meeting summaries on time

- **Require Student Council minutes and officer reports to be publicly available within two weeks of each meeting.**
- **Ensure this commitment is upheld in all future Student Councils.**

Publishing officer updates on projects and work with the university

- **A monthly update to be published by officers on their key achievements and actions in the period, including references of key meetings with the university and evidence of motion, projects, and campaign progress.**
- **We believe the irregularity of Student Council meetings does not dedicate enough time or promote transparency of elected officers' activity.**
- **While elected officers may individually post updates on their social media accounts, a centralised method of reporting updates would benefit all students.**

Sharing Student Council meeting dates in advance

- **Create an annual calendar of Student Council meetings at the start of the academic year and distribute to all student leaders.**
- **Provide at least four weeks' notice before each meeting to allow proper preparation for student leaders presenting Ideas for Change.**

Maintaining a permanent public motion tracking system

- **Ensure the newly introduced motion tracking system, suggested in this motion, remains a permanent feature of SU governance.**
- **Require SU officers to report on all motion progress within the monthly updates proposed in this motion.**

By adopting these measures, Herts SU can rebuild trust, improve student participation, and ensure that the SU remains accountable to the students it represents.