

# Student Union Malmö's Operational Plan 22/23

## §1. Introduction

The operational plan is a steering document, adopted by the council, setting the work and operations for Student Union Malmö (hereafter, "the Union") for the upcoming operational year 2022-2023.

The operational plan's structure begins with the Union's regular operations, followed by chapters on student engagement and representation, as well as study political work. For this operational year, the former Union board suggests to not have any focus questions. The previously cohesive chapter on student engagement and representation is now divided in two parts: Sustainable Student Engagement and Balanced Representation. Whereas, the study political work remains a separate paragraph.

The former board decided this was the best way to ensure the high quality and sustainability of student engagement and student influence, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The operational plan is written in a way that ensures the board has the flexibility to achieve the set goals in a manner they best see fit. The board therefore has a mission to create an action plan that will complement this document to concretise action steps and division of responsibilities.

## §2. Regular operations

During the last years the Union has seen a number of changes in terms of re-organising and dividing the areas of responsibility among the board. This was done to achieve long-term stability as well as a more clear-cut strategy for who is responsible for a specific aspect of the Union's work. Therefore, every new board must discuss the division of the areas of responsibility at the beginning of their mandate. This should be done with consideration of the structure of the board as well as tasks connected with certain positions, workload, individual skills, and competencies as well as interests of board members. To ensure that these changes are followed through and implemented within the organisation, the development of the Union's structure should continue under the upcoming operational year. Among other things, this includes the continuous work of having internal committees, further formulating an effective strategy on how to achieve the council's independence and increasing the council members' engagement in the Union's operations. Part of the Union's regular operations concerns the future physical location of the Union house. A permanent solution for the location of the future venues of the Union has been secured through the decision taken by the University board to build on the Amphitrite plot and include the Union's operations in the new estate. However, the work on the factual design of the new spaces and the question regarding temporary solutions still prevail.

### Goals:

- #2.1.1. Actively work for increasing the council's independence and reinforce its role as the Union's highest decision-making body
- #2.1.2. Work with the further development of the student errand system and how it can reach out to both the university and the students
- # 2.1.3. Actively be engaged in the discussion of the design of spaces for the Union and all its operations within the new building on the Amphitrite property, as well as take action to secure temporary venues.

- #2.1.4. Continue to work with the Covid-19 pandemic effects and its impacts on students, such as the quality of education and possibilities of student influence, as well as students' well-being
- #2.1.5. Continue the work with and development of the Union's study-social operations
- #2.1.6. Consolidate the bilingual work environment at the Union by fostering a meeting culture in both Swedish and English

### §3. Student engagement and representation

Without students, there is no Student Union! The significance of engagement has become clearer than ever during a time where exceptional conditions caused students to have to change their ordinary way of studying more than ever before. While student engagement and representation have been far from underappreciated, the Union can develop these even further. As mentioned in the introduction, this year's operational plan includes no separate focus questions. This is a conscious decision in our pursuit to help students, as the belief is that focusing on increasing sustainable and balanced student engagement and representation will make the biggest difference. No new focus questions, but increased attention for current affairs. Less becomes more.

#### §3.1 Sustainable Student Engagement

Students are busy people. Besides studying there is work, family, friends, and more. Therefore, when students get engaged, that engagement needs to be sustainable - so that it can be long-lasting and adds value to the students' lives. The Union needs a sustainable working environment in the entire organisation including all of its volunteers. This means striving for well-functioning processes and routines, so that the Union will have attainable working methods and continuity for an organisation in nonstop development and with constant new challenges and opportunities.

##### Goals:

- #3.1.1. Investigate strategies on how to achieve sustainable engagement in all Union operations
- #3.1.2. Ensure that commitment and stability is passed on from one year to the next as to sustain engagement and knowledge
- #3.1.3. Broaden our outreach through sections and student representatives as a way to engage more students and divide the work between more people
- #3.1.4. Consolidate systematic cooperation with the students to achieve durable effective engagement

#### §3.2 Balanced Representation

Malmö University is home to students of many different backgrounds. In order to ensure a genuinely democratic process, the Student Union has to represent the entirety of the diverse student body. A balanced representation requires inclusion of groups that have seen less representation. It is the Union's task to make space for people that are given less space, and make them feel invited to step up, so that everyone's voices will be heard. The Union must be for all students.

##### Goals:

- #3.2.1. Work towards a composition of the Union Council characterised by a more balanced faculty representation
- #3.2.2. Strive for bilinguality during the Union's study social activities and events to target both national and international students
- #3.2.3. Support the creation of sections for students at all faculties
- #3.2.4. Standardise and develop our cooperation and routines with formal and semi-formal student representatives across all faculties
- #3.2.5. Facilitate events and involvement for underrepresented student groups that are and have been less represented within the Union

#### §4. Study political work

Students' life situation is influenced by political decisions they may have little knowledge about or direct power over, whether they are aware of it or not. As a representative body, the Union has the responsibility to ensure the consideration of student perspectives in many aspects that are connected to students' wellbeing, both during and after their studies. These processes in advocacy work have to be grounded in students' best interests and experiences. Furthermore, all activities within these frames shall be accessible, inclusive and allow for genuine participation. Global crises throughout the previous years have proven the need for the Union to offer safe spaces for students to self-organise, cultivate solidarity and take collective action. The Union shall work proactively on reflecting their own operations self-critically, represent students' concerns and opinions towards Malmö University, as well as advocate these towards the city of Malmö, the region of Skåne and beyond.

##### Goals:

- #4.1.1. Continue to proactively drive housing-related questions on a local and regional level through advocacy work and collaborations with relevant actors
- #4.1.2. Continue to be a critical voice lifting students' perspectives with municipal and regional politicians, civil servants, and other relevant actors, not least in the on-going campus development
- #4.1.3. Engage in questions regarding students' employability during and after their studies and advocate for the development of strategies for students' career transitions and regional retainment of talent
- #4.1.4. Continue to advocate for the university's compliance to the steering documents and policies regulating student influence; along with raise awareness for prevailing discrepancies between policy and praxis
- #4.1.5. Pro-actively work for a better understanding of higher education politics among students
- #4.1.6 Take proactive stances for academic and democratic values