

Student Union Malmö's Operational Plan 23/24

§1. Introduction

The operational plan is a steering document, adopted by the council, setting the work and operations for the Student Union Malmö (hereafter, "the Union") for the upcoming operational year 2023-2024.

The operational plan's structure begins with the Union's operations, followed by chapters on student engagement and student representation, as well as study political work. The previously combined chapter on student engagement and representation is now divided in two parts. For a second operational year in a row, the Union board 22/23 suggests to not have any focus questions.

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. Union operations / Kårverksamhet

The Union has been appointed to ensure the good quality of education, and ensure all students feel included and prosper at the University. As such, the Union undertakes to appoint an occupational health and safety representative at every faculty. Likewise, the Union president is the chief student safety representative for all students at Malmö University. This also includes the Union's environment being a bilingual setting.

The issue of the demolition of the Union House on the Amphitrite plot remains. A permanent solution for the future main venue 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 house. However, the work on the factual design of the new spaces and the question regarding a temporary location persist.

Goals:

- #2.1. Cultivate the requirements and conditions for students' well-being
- #2.2. Reinforce bilingualism at the Union by fostering the use of both Swedish and English
- #2.3. Nourish sustainable and continuous collaboration with Malmö University and other actors to improve conditions of students at MAU and in the wider community
- #2.4. Realise an effective move to temporary venues in the face of the demolition of Amphitrite
- #2.5. Actively engage in the creation of spaces for the Union and all its operations within the new building on the Amphitrite plot, and the use of these spaces in an effective way

§2.1 Structure of the Union

After several years of working towards achieving stability and a good division of responsibilities within the Union board, the Union is going into an unprecedented re-organisation of its structure. This will need drastic rethinking of how the Union as a whole

functions, which must happen in the transitional operational year 23/24. Increased engagement of the council and student representation is vital in the new structure, and how to manage and motivate these students are key points.

While preparing the new structure, the Union board must also maintain a good work environment during the transitional year itself, by dividing areas of responsibility and having a clear knowledge of who is responsible for which specific aspect of the Union's work.

Goals for the new structure:

#2.1.1. Maintain high standards of the Union's statutory functions

#2.1.2. Implement a sustainable division of the work in existing, altered, and new positions

#2.1.3. Provide a coherent representation for students across the four faculties

#2.1.4. Uphold a vibrant student community and continued satisfactory study-social experiences

§3. Student engagement

The Union is composed of students, and their engagement is crucial. As we aim to be the Union of all of our students, we must strive to do our utmost to reach the diverse student body. A good way to ensure this happens is if many students are engaged.

There are many ways in which students can get engaged. At the beginning of the academic year students are more enthusiastic and eager to get involved; therefore, this is the right moment to encourage them, attract future talent, and to create ties and connections in the various areas of engagement. This can happen both in the Union and at the University, such as the Certificate of International Merits. Engagement needs to be continuously developed and maintained, throughout the operational year and from one operational year to the next.

Goals:

#3.1. To increase outreach and engagement with students to encourage participation in the Union and its activities.

#3.2. Grab the opportunity to engage students at the start of the academic year

#3.3. Maintain and increase our outreach to students via associations and sections

#3.4. Create sustainable and long-lasting engagement in the Union

#3.5. Ensure that students feel welcomed and a part of the structure of the Union

#3.6. Establish the Union's committees as bodies with real influence on students' situations, including mutual cooperation between them and the student body

#3.7. Find ways to incentivise continued and sustainable engagement of the Union council

§4. Student representation

Student representation constitutes a pivotal part of the Union's statutory responsibilities.

Student representation is the foundation of the Student Union. Hence, serious efforts should be channelled towards recruiting and training student representatives, which would ensure that student perspectives can be raised in all processes and decisions that would directly or indirectly affect them. It is pertinent to note that student representation must be balanced and encompass all student demographics.

Goals:

- #4.1. Sustainable and continuous student representation in University meetings
- #4.2. Drive questions around research and education that are important to students
- #4.3. Facilitate events and involvement for underrepresented student groups that are and have been less represented within the Union
- #4.4. To advocate for initiatives that address the needs and concerns of students from diverse backgrounds, including those from marginalised and/or underrepresented groups
- #4.5. To develop and implement mentorships programs to support the training of new student representatives
- #4.6. To facilitate professional and personal connections useful for students' future aspirations.
- #4.7. To help keep all parties informed and engaged, by having student representatives and section volunteers act as direct connections between the Union and the University

§5. Study political work

Being a student means much more than simply going to class and studying. It means that various conditions should exist in order for one to successfully finalise their education. Living circumstances, learning environment, student content offered in the city, economic situation, and employability are only some of the aspects that directly or indirectly affect the students and their studies. The Union is and always should be the one driving these questions and representing the students' perspective. All activities within these frames should consider the whole heterogeneous student body of Malmö University. The Union will actively seek to critically reflect on its own operations, express students' issues and opinions to Malmö University, and advocate these towards the city of Malmö, the region of Skåne and beyond.

Goals:

- #5.1. Maintain a proactive approach to addressing and improving housing-related issues at the local and regional levels through advocacy efforts and cooperation with relevant actors
- #5.2. Continue to be a consistent ambassador for students' concerns when interacting with local and regional leaders, legislators, and other influential figures, not least in the continuing campus development
- #5.3. Discuss the employability of students both during and after their studies, and promote the creation of plans for career transitions for students
- #5.4. Continue to promote the University's adherence to the directives and regulations governing student influence, as well as bringing attention to the persistent gaps between policy and practice
- #5.5. Work proactively to increase student understanding of higher education politics
- #5.6. Take on a proactive attitude in support of democratic and academic ideals