

Student Union Malmö's operational plan 24/25

§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 2024-2025.

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 union board for 23/24 suggests that, having considered the above areas of focus, the new board should consider how these will work in the development of a sustainable structure for the new internal operation and other components of the union.

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

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 a student safety representative at every faculty. Likewise, the president is the chief student safety representative for all students at Malmö University. This also includes the Union's environment being a bilingual setting. Having said these, the Union should also consider avenues for generating revenue due to increasing budget cost cutting by the government and by the University.

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. Foster an environment that nurtures the needs and circumstances essential for students' overall 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. Exploration of avenues to generate independent revenue for the Union's activities and operations.

#2.5. Realise an effective move to temporary venues in the face of the demolition of the Union house.

#2.6. 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 functions, which must happen in the transitional operational year 24/25. Increased engagement of the council (and committees) and student representation is vital in the new structure, and how to manage and motivate these students are key points.

While looking forward to the implementation of the new structure in the 24/25 academic year, 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. Continuously assess responsibilities, adjust work distribution sustainably across existing, altered, and new roles.

#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 our students, we should strive to do our utmost to reach a 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 (and till the end) of the academic year

#3.3. Maintain and increase our outreach, either by study political or social events, to students via associations and sections

#3.4. Create sustainable and long-lasting engagement in the Union through motivation, incentivisation and camaraderie.

#3.5. Ensure that students are embraced and integrated into the new 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 and other student representatives.

§4. Student representation

Student representation constitutes a pivotal part of the Union's statutory responsibilities, especially in the wake of the new reorganisation within the union. Student representation is the foundation of the 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 and faculties 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 encompasses more than just attending classes and studying. It entails the presence of various conditions necessary for the successful completion of one's education. Factors such as living conditions, the learning environment, available student resources in the city, economic circumstances, and prospects for employment are just a few of the aspects that directly or indirectly impact students and their academic pursuits. The Union serves as the driving force behind addressing these concerns and representing the perspectives of students. All initiatives within this framework should consider the diverse student body of Malmö University. The Student Union will actively engage in critical self-assessment, articulate students' concerns and viewpoints to Malmö University, and advocate for them within Malmö, 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.
- #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.