

# Student Union Malmö's operational report 23/24

## §1. Introduction

Constructive, intense, and productive talks have been prevalent within the organization during the operational year 2023/2024. Long-term, this gave Student Union Malmö (the Union) a solid foundation on which to work throughout the year to examine the roles and responsibilities within the board in order to improve the Union's operations and raise significant problems for the students.

This report on operations will outline the year's progress, the Student Union Malmö's implementation of the 23/24 operating plan, and the absence of focus questions for this academic year.

## § 2. Areas connected to the operational plan

While the operational plan had no focus questions, the Union had a particular attention for the following topics during the operational year:

- Sustainable student engagement
- Balanced representation

### 2.1. Sustainable student engagement

The Union has many volunteers and these are essential for the Union's operations. In order to continuously have volunteers and for these students to enjoy their time and stay for longer periods of time as a support system, and work voluntarily, we have to make it sustainable. Due to the reorganization and transition period we need to continuously attract new volunteers and sustain the ones we already have. This topic focused on long-term development, sustainability but is even connected to the success of the new board structure.

### 2.2. Balanced representation

As the Union represents many students, from diverse backgrounds, faculties, etc. We worked hard to establish a diverse and welcoming environment in order to equally represent all students.

## §3. Monitoring of courses and programs and student influence

Ensuring student influence and actively supervising courses and programs are two of the Union's primary duties.

### 3.1 Student influence Forum

At the beginning of the operational year, FORUM was held at all faculties as well as the central level.

At the Faculty of Health and Society, three students attended the meeting during HS FORUM, while in the previous two years we had zero up to two students attending. During the beginning of operational year 23/24 we had HS ombud in place which helped encourage more students to come than the previous year.

In september 23 KS FORUM, four students got elected to different positions including LFN, Utbildningsnämnd, Gps Kursnämnd; K3 kursnämnd. Currently most of the councils and boards in KS have at least one student representative. It is interesting to also know that the faculty is supported by Gps Section and Artcom for both study political and Study social activities

During the LS FORUM, Students got elected to different positions. Some positions were left vacant as student representation LS is something we continue to struggle with in LS.

At the TS FORUM, four students came to FORUM. All of them got elected into TS specific councils and boards: TS Education Board, Ethics Council, LFN and Course Council and internationalization council. Currently, most of the council and boards in TS have at least one student representative. Having said that, the faculty also has its first section called The Section for Technology and Society faculty (TSS). This is important for student influence activities for TS in the coming years.

During the Central FORUM, seventeen students attended. They were elected in various positions in the central level meetings; however some positions were left unfilled. On the other hand, the remaining spots for the Student Council were filled as well as two reserves.

### 3.2 Quality of education

The Union has monitored students' educational quality and work environment continuously during this operational year. We have also been discussing with the university as well as in the Council the reasons for the low attendance at classes and lectures. Together with the board the president has lifted this up at one of the council meetings where the university's vice dean for education was also invited and came as a guest attendee to discuss the issue.

This question was continuously discussed in various meetings and different levels at the university which led us to take the decision and carry on a short survey in order to find out more about the cause of the under attendance. in lectures.

Enhancing the student experience is a top priority for both the Student Union and the University of Malmö. During the "Kaffe med Kåren (KMK)" activity, a survey was conducted to obtain insights into attendance trends and student preferences, as well as to better understand recent attendance trends. An extensive examination of the survey data is provided in the report provided after carefully analyzing the survey. This report will be presented to the University on the suitable meetings.

The preparation for education at Mau has had student influence as one of the discussion and focus points as well as increased campus/lecture presence. The advisory board has also discussed the course evaluation questions and revised them.

Throughout the operative year, the Union served as the go-to source for a wide range of questions and processes related to the implementation of new procedures, governing documents, and general concerns and decisions. The Union must remain a consultative entity on all matters that may have a direct or indirect impact on students.

### 3.3 Student errand management

The Union has continued to work with student errands in faculties and will publish an annual report on student errands at the end of the semester.

The number of disciplinary cases at Mau continues to rise. This has led to a significant workload for the Disciplinary board at MaU, where the Union represents the students. There has not been sufficient analysis of what it is due to, however after attending disciplinary meetings and going throughout different cases that are reported the impression is that even though we still have students that are cheating due to increased use of AI tools we have also cases of reported student errands that shouldn't even come to disciplinary. We have noticed that there is an increase of reported students to the disciplinary board due to the fact that teachers are concerned and even in sort of a panic mode about the use of AI tools. The conclusion is that in order to prevent similar cases being brought up to the disciplinary board clear guidelines need to be set for both teacher and students in what tools are allowed to be used and when. This will help to prevent overload of the disciplinary board, prevent stress that students endure when reported on cheating, clarifying for the teachers which cases should be reported as cheating as well some ethical questions in regards to the examinations from the teachers side.

## §4 The Student Union's operations

### 4.1 Working environment

The Student Union Malmö is an organisation that represents students at four out of five faculties at Malmö university but has only three people employed in the office and six remunerated. This type of organisation often leads to a very high workload, many unplanned extra hours, and potential burn-out.

Due to a bit of a rough start with the Union being without its vice president at the beginning of the autumn term 2023, the redistribution of responsibilities was required. As no areas of responsibility were de-prioritized but only redistributed among the work team, the workload was constantly very high during the year, both for the office and for the board. We started the year with missing one person, found her at FORUM, only to lose her as well as the two ombuds in the middle of the operational year (the end of autumn semester). This meant that the board had to redistribute the workload and the areas of responsibilities between 3 board members instead of six. This redistribution of responsibilities happened at least three times during the whole operational year within the board. This has naturally been grounds for some potential misunderstandings and minor conflicts. However, even though we were understaffed in the beginning of spring semester we still had a very strong and supportive working team that helped each other out during this tough period of work overload.

In order to fill the empty positions in the board, the Union has organized by-elections at the end of January. This gave us three new members of the board., filling out the spots of two ombuds and vice president. However, after less than two months we had the vice president dropping out due to personal reasons.

With everything going on and all the changes happening in the Union board, both of our Kick-offs, as well as two workshops, autumn and spring ones, were focused mostly on systematic work environments, importance of clear communication as well as collegiality and mindfulness. This was very much appreciated by the whole working group and indicated the need for systematic integration of these aspects in future handovers and kick-offs. The ambition for further training or mentoring for the president has not been fulfilled,

The fact is that the president had to sit alone in the presidium for the most part of the operational year, which represents a work environment problem, as far too much responsibility and demands are placed on this position. Nevertheless, the support of the team members who stepped in when necessary has been a huge helping hand in overcoming the work overload.

During the year, APT was held by presidium, and resulted in a verbal and written agreement on how the work group wants to work together further. This has proven highly effective and was much appreciated by the whole team, and since February 2023, the team as a whole has experienced less misunderstandings and confusions regarding their work. Likewise, during the year, the president has held development talks with each member of the team, and this has helped everyone understand their roles better and perform more satisfactorily. Overall the working environment has had its ups and downs, but can be seen as very successful as the team accomplished quite a lot together despite all the challenges faced during the year.

The operational auditors did not hold any interviews this year, instead they monitored the correct use of the statutes, that the board followed the student council decisions and that were acting in a democratic way.

## 4.2 Meet your ombud

Meet-your-ombud is when the student ombuds spend time out on the faculties in their respective offices. Previously called faculty time, this part of the Union's activities was renamed to meet-your-ombud, in an effort to clarify to students what this entails. At the start of every week, the student ombuds for their respective faculty have set times for this, which the communicator then posts via our social media. Being out in our offices at the faculties as much as possible is important and relevant to maintain close contact with our students. It is almost impossible to establish weekly recurring times when all ombuds can be at the faculties due to meetings that appear and the various individual work schedules they have. However, it is important that our students are kept up to date on these times, but even more importantly, that the ombuds are present at the faculties at the announced times. The LS ombud also has new office in which students are free to visit.

## 4.3 Union house

The question of a new Union building has been urgent but, at the same time, unclear for the Union for several years due to vague timelines regarding the demolition of the property Amphitrite, the building where the Union is located.

During the operational year 23/24, the president has continued discussions about cooperation on the issue, both with the City of Malmö and Malmö university.

After many meetings back and forth and discussions with different representatives from Malmö university, Malmö city and our current landlord it has been decided that the moving out date will be in August 2024. The Union has accepted this after we found the temporary replacement premises for union office space and with the condition that our current landlord gives us time to move out until the 23rd of August due to the fact that our board as well as staff members are on holiday during the month of July.

The president has been involved in Stygruppsmöte för Amphitrite and had continuous discussions with the university director, the building department chief, and other concerned parties at the university regarding the union's needs in terms of space in the new building. There

have been discussions about incorporating premises for a new student pub, but the negotiation needs to be continued due to the high costs of the premises in the future building Amphitrite.

The president was a part of workshops where there were discussed questions about the needs, the layout plan as well as the appearance of the new building Amphitrite.

The Union's needs and requirements regarding new premises will need to be worked on carefully during the coming operational year 24/25.

The premises for the temporary office space has been secured and the president has signed the contract for next four years with the possibility to prolong it or cancel it earlier depending on when the new building is built. However, the work on finding a temporary location for the kölis and pub is still in the process and needs to be worked on continuously.

The president has been in contact with the person from Malmö city who is helping us find something suitable and near campus. She helped us get a view of a couple of potential locations, however some of them were not suitable for our needs but others could work out if the conditions are suitable for us. While there are two potential locations which we will hopefully view by the end of the current operational year, the question of temporary premises for the Union during the construction period is still urgent. The Union must find a temporary solution as soon as possible.

Lastly, the president will meet with MAU GV management and Studentstaden Malmö's coordinator to discuss the future space in the Amphitrite building.

The discussions regarding the future of the financing of the temporary premises needs to continue with Malmö city as well as to secure the new revised agreement/contract that benefits both parties.

We need to keep discussion open, both with the University and Malmö city, and even have in mind the financing of the future space in Amphitrite, as the costs will be extremely high.

## **4.4 Committees and working groups**

The guidelines for committees made it so that committees ceased to exist at the end of every operational year, after which the new Council made or remade committees. In order for committees to be more sustainable, the guidelines were changed so that committees now not automatically cease to exist.

### **4.4.1 Event Committee**

The event committee was dormant for the operational year 23/24.

### **4.4.2 Committee for Student Engagement**

During the operational year, the Committee for Student Engagement remained largely dormant, mirroring its state from previous years. Despite being in its fifth year of existence since the establishment of FUM committees, the committee's tangible activities were non-existent. No projects were handed over from the previous year, while projects from earlier years were finished up or had become areas of responsibility to Union board members.

#### 4.4.3 Committee for Students' Health and Well-being

##### Positives:

- The committee started strong with routine activities and a desire for long-term collaboration with the Health Center.
- Mental health awareness and promoting available health services are commendable goals.

##### Challenges:

- Lack of response from two committee members after a meeting with the HS ombudsman.
- Limited contact information for committee members hindering communication.

##### Recommendations:

1. **Re-establish Communication:**
  - The HS ombudsman should try contacting the two committee members again through different channels (email, phone, social media).
  - Consider reaching out to other committee members for their contact information.
2. **Strengthen Committee Structure:**
  - Ensure clear roles and responsibilities for committee members.
  - Establish a point person for communication with the Health Center.
  - Regularly update member contact information within the committee.
3. **Joint Planning & Action:**
  - Organize a follow-up meeting with the Health Center to discuss potential collaboration activities and communication channels.
  - Consider co-creating a communication plan to promote health services through social media and events.
4. **Leverage Student Resources:**
  - Explore collaborating with FUM (presumably another student organization) for broader outreach and event planning.

##### Additional Actions:

- Utilize online platforms like shared calendars and document repositories to improve communication and collaboration.
- Conduct surveys among students to understand their preferred channels for receiving information about health services.
- Consider creating joint activity together with Student Union to promote activity and increase visibility.

#### 4.4.4 Committee for Education Monitoring

The Committee for Education Monitoring had a hiccup in its activities due to its leadership. Historically, the Vice-Ordfarande is responsible for the coordination and organization of the committee. However due to the lack of a Vice-ordfarande in Kåren. Many of its activities were hampered. On 22/23, the Committee planned to do a quality survey on education. The future of the committee lies in the availability of Vice ordfarande, given the change in structure of Kåren in 24/25 academic session, this committee needs to be prioritized.

#### 4.4.5 Career and Business Transition committee

Business and Career Transition Committee (BCTC). After the last member resigned in April and the decision by FUM to keep the committee for the coming operational year, ombud HS tried to recruit new member and reboost the committee. There were three students showed interest and in the end of April ombud HS had a meeting with one student. The planned coming event will be focusing on video gaming and animation fields which are the interests of the student. The expectation is to organize one event before the end of this academic year and with a continue in the next operational year.

- **Reduced Activity:** The committee started strong but didn't perform as expected due to staff changes.
- **Recruitment Difficulties:** Attracting and retaining committee members was an issue.
- **Limited Impact:** There was a gap between desired activity and actual accomplishments.

Here are some suggestions to help the BCTC overcome these challenges and improve its function in the upcoming year:

##### Recruitment and Retention:

- **Targeted Recruitment:** Connect with student groups related to business and career development (e.g., business clubs, career centers).
- **Highlight Benefits:** Emphasize the value of the BCTC in helping students navigate career transitions.
- **Showcase Success Stories:** Share stories of how past committee members benefited or how the BCTC helped students secure jobs.
- **Flexible Commitment:** Offer flexible participation options for students with busy schedules.

##### Engagement and Activity:

- **Develop Clear Goals:** Outline the BCTC's goals for the year, focusing on activities that directly support student career transitions (e.g., workshops, industry speaker events, resume reviews).
- **Event Variety:** Organize events that cater to different student needs (e.g., mock interviews, career fairs, networking opportunities).
- **Student Input:** Conduct surveys or hold focus groups to understand student career concerns and tailor activities accordingly.
- **Collaboration:** Partner with career centers, alumni networks, and businesses to offer students valuable resources and experiences.

##### Communication and Promotion:

- **Increase Visibility:** Actively promote the BCTC through student union channels, social media, and campus bulletin boards.
- **Develop a Social Media Strategy:** Create engaging content on platforms like LinkedIn that showcases the BCTC's value and upcoming events.

##### Continuity and Sustainability:

- **Transition Plan:** Develop a plan for onboarding new members and ensuring knowledge transfer between graduating and incoming members.
- **Leadership Development:** Offer training and development opportunities for committee members to enhance their leadership skills.

- **Regular Reviews:** Conduct regular meetings to discuss progress, address challenges, and brainstorm new initiatives.

#### 4.4.5. Working group for the Union Award

The guidelines for the Union Award working group have been updated. Furthermore, this academic year, we didn't get many applications for the union award, in fact we only had four applicants and the working group felt that only three of them met the criteria, hence we selected those three to each receive an individual award of 2.500kr.

### 4.5 Council (FUM)

The council (FUM) had two constituent meetings on 3rd of May and 17th of May 2023, where an 9 member board was elected to carry out the Union's activities during the academic year 23/24, three positions were left vacant. FUM met three times during the autumn semester and four times during the spring semester. For the third time, a FUM-Kick-Off was held, which took place on Wednesday, 28th September. The day was devoted to team building and discussions about expectations and visions for the Union's strategic work during the coming operational year, such as the structure and focus issues for the FUM Committees. As a new element during the day, a workshop was arranged on the motion writing to counteract the imbalance between bills and motions discussed during Council meetings. The workshop aimed to explain and practice the process around motions and thus increase the proactive participation of members.

For the second year in a row, there has been a relatively high fluctuation of the members of the Council. Some chose to drop out due to difficulties in balancing their studies, their privacy and their commitment; some who were voted in by by-election did not appear again for meetings.

During the first ordinary meeting, the student council elected the remaining board positions as we missed the vice president at the beginning of HT23. However, we had three members dropping out from the board due to personal reasons at the end of HT23 and one of them dropped out from the council as well.

For the second year in a row, there has been a relatively high fluctuation of the members of the Council. Some chose to drop out due to difficulties in balancing their studies, their privacy and their commitment; some who were voted in by by-election did not appear again for meetings.

In addition, 5 FUM Committees (Committee for Student Engagement, Committee for Health and Well being, Committee for business sector connection and career transition, Event Committee and Committee for Educational Monitoring) were more or less active during this operational year. The committees report on their work in their respective sections.

Discussion issues during the year have been marketing of the Council's work and successes to increase knowledge about these among the student population; ways that the Union can help with the housing crisis in Malmö, union house questions, the students' work environment, students engagement and conditions for a more proactive involvement of the Council members in the committees and otherwise.



During VT24, the Council had sessions with the guests from Malmö university. We discussed issues regarding campus närvaro with the vice-rector for education and digitalisation. With the sustainability developer from MAU we have discussed environmental targets and impact.

The discussions between council members and MAU guests were highly appreciated from both sides and this should be done at least once per semester in order to engage our council, discuss important issues concerning students as well as university and retrieve important information and feedback from both parties.

## 4.6 Visibility and communication

The goal of the Union's communication is to make the Union's work visible to students and other stakeholders, to have an important dialogue with our members where we can capture the students' opinions and reach out and engage more students in the Union's activities and work. It is important that the Union's communication work is given high priority, as it is our chance to reach out with our work and our purpose. To be able to work with an anchored student representation, we must succeed in our goal of capturing the students' opinions. From a member recruitment perspective, both potential and existing members must have full insight into the Union's activities and have the opportunity to influence it.

The primary focus of our communication over the past year has been on promoting our events and inviting to facilitate discussion on our various channels. At the same time, we have developed existing communication channels and made our work visible by making more use of film for better engagement especially on Instagram. During the operational year 2023/2024, the Student Union Malmö has focused on the following communication channels:

### 4.6.1 Digital channels

#### Facebook

The Student Union's Facebook page is one of our largest channels for spreading information about the Union's activities, sharing photos, videos, and other current events.

However, it is not certain that it is the most important channel as our reached target group (women and men aged 25-35) for Facebook does not completely match the target group for our business. Younger people (18-24) do not use Facebook to the same extent, and therefore it may be good to prioritise other platforms in the future.

However, Facebook's chat function Messenger is an important contact area with students, where they can ask questions and get quick answers via chat. At the time of writing, the Union's Facebook page has 5973 likes, up from 5900 people last spring (though down overall) and 6046 following us.. Facebook is an important tool for conveying the Union's message in everyday life, and we can gain a lot from taking advantage of the transparency Facebook offers our brand. The Union has still decreased to help outside companies to share their information; instead, they can share their posts on the Union's Facebook page as visitors or publish in our four student groups for the various faculties. This is because the Union has enough to share from ourselves, our associations or sometimes departments from Malmö University, partly because we want to be more consistent. However, according to our document "Marketing through the Union," the Union can share posts for a fee.

Paid posts have not been used to any great extent this year. This year we paid for a post for the Union elections as it was slow at the beginning.

The Union can add all associations' events under its page on Facebook to increase visibility if desired. This is a good way to increase the visibility of our associations and is appreciated by them and has been done continuously during the year.

On average, unpaid everyday posts on the Student Union Malmö's Facebook page, such as the week's events, divisions from various institutions on Mau or our competitions, reach up to 200-300 people.

### **Film**

We have continued to invest in moving images as they attract the most attention. During the 2023/2024 financial year, films in the form of reels have been made significantly more and worked well. Films for the Student Union elections have also been made.

Moving format is often more time consuming to create but worth the work as it reaches more people and spreads information better than via images.

### **Instagram**

The Union's Instagram account complements other social channels, and is based on spontaneous and direct communication where we share snapshots. This makes planning more difficult, and requires everyone in the working group to contribute pictures from current events so that they can be quickly posted on Instagram before they lose their topicality. On the other hand, there are a lot of regular posts made each year as our events recur. Instagram has been prioritized as the main channel during the financial year and at the time of writing in May 2023: 2596 followers (from 2027 followers in August 2023).

Over the past year, the channel has grown naturally and gained an increased following. The stories/events function is used extensively, with the possibility of posting direct posts for 24 hours, and one goal has been to always have a story up on our account during working days, which has gone well. Our associations' events are also shared on events. Reels continue to be a format that should be used to an even greater extent, where the most attractive formula is short and quick clips, preferably in the form of a music montage. During the year, the student ombuds have also started to use Instagram to post stories when they are out on adventures. However, this has not worked as intended.

Instagram is the channel we will invest most in and want to become even more transparent and personalized to the students. And make more content that students expect to see. An Insta-takovers was done last fall with the associations, which was appreciated. However, more planning is needed to increase the number of followers on Instagram.

### **LinkedIn**

LinkedIn is our newest channel. Here we share things that relate to our business more outwardly towards the business community. Such as larger workshops, meetings, etc. However, not the

same content as on Instagram and Facebook. We have worked more with this channel and have a 50+ follower base.

### **The Union's website - malmostudenter.se**

The Union's website contains a lot of information that is not available anywhere else, and is therefore an important information base and channel for us. The focus has been on structuring and making the website more user-friendly during the year. Work on the web has not been the focus this year. But some pages have been given a makeover with more useful texts and images.

A new web structure has been sketched out and is expected to be ready before the summer. An effort will be made to update the texts on the website, so they are up to date.

### **Canvas - The Union's course area**

Here students can join and get direct information from us about what is happening at the Union. Canvas is a concoction of our website, you could say, with brief information on how to contact us, what we do and what is current. At the time of writing, our Canvas has 1212 students who have chosen to subscribe to our page. Through a new routine from the university, we have the opportunity to mail information about us to all students every week, which is an invaluable feature.

The development potential for Canvas is great and there are many interactive modules that we do not currently use. We mainly use Canvas for weekly posts every Monday on our course area that informs about the coming week.

## **Other**

### **Screens**

There are three digital screens in Kårhuset, two in Kølsvinets entrance and reception and one in the study rooms, installed by Universitetsmedia (also owner of Studieblocket). All screens have worked well and have given us at the Union an increased visibility among our members who visit the Union House. The screens are continuously updated in connection with new events and events at the Union. Associations and sections also have the opportunity to be on the screens.

The digital screen at the Niagara office is currently used extensively. This is a screen that we have developed ourselves and the Union's own events and information will be visible. Even larger things can be seen here, but not as much as on the screens in Kølsvinet.

### **Student calendars**

This is not something we have access to anymore.

### **University Team Channel**

Here we can still post weekly announcements that are visible on Canvas. Here you can ask questions and easily communicate with the staff at Malmö University at, for example, joint events. This is also where information is added for the common weekly post on Canvas that goes out to all students.

## **4.6.2 Prints**

### **Posters and flyers**

Printed matter in the form of posters and flyers is used to promote the Union's activities for the major events such as the Union Election, the Music Pub, the Christmas dinner and the Union Prize. The Toilet Paper, our physical newsletter, is printed every month of the financial year and is available in the various toilets and poster sites on campus. Posters and flyers are a difficult channel to reach out through as the competition for space is great on campus, but they still fulfill an important function by strengthening the Union's profile and highlighting our messages. It is often difficult to be seen with the smaller A4/A3 sizes that our printers print.

### **Survival guide**

The survival guide contains useful information and tips for the first time as a student in Malmö. The guide is proving very popular, especially in English. After the initial distribution of the guides at the start of the semester, the representatives have distributed the survival guides to students at the different faculties. You can also pick up a copy in Kølsvinet. Printed in a total of 1850 copies June 2023. 1300 Swedish and 550 English.

### **Term appendix**

Along with the membership bulletin, which is sent out at the beginning of each semester. Membbit gets the bulk of these to send out to students to give them all the info they need before they become members. The semester supplement is a condensed version of the Survival Guide and useful info such as contact and our activities and is meant to be timeless during the school year. At the time of writing, we have a small number of annexes left. Has the same information in both Swedish and English. Printed in a total of 7500 copies May 2024.

### **Profile products**

Most of the promotional products have run out. We have cap openers left. We will invest in some of the same as previous years, but look at new profile products. Among other things, we will invest in new tote bags that have been requested by a number of students.

### **Mailing**

The Student Union sends out a welcome email in connection with the start of the fall and spring semesters to all new students at Malmö University. The email contains information links to, among other things, the Survival Guide, the Union's website and Insparken. Statistics from the mailing show a high opening rate and many link clicks, which means that this is an important and effective communication channel. Fewer letters have been sent out during this financial year. However, the opening rate is still just over 50% of those who receive the letters open them, which is positive.

Otherwise, newsletters have been sent out to our members about candidacy, about voting in the Union elections. The idea is that Apsis will be used more frequently next year. Or we are looking at some new tool.

## § 5. The Student Union operations: areas of responsibility

### 5.1 Housing

During the operational year, the first thing done regarding the housing was when SFS listed Malmö again as red in their annual housing report. The listing of Malmö in red has been done based on the phone interview with the president of the Student Union as well as MKB. This has created momentum for both the city and the university to react to the acute housing crisis in Malmö.

The Union supports any actor who wants to be a part of the solution in this regard, both private and public. Whoever wants to build and provide more student housing should be encouraged to do so. With emphasis on that the private actors have more unfavorable rent prices, as there is no student influence secured in this part of the solution, which can be seen on the example of the new Basecamp student housing when they started. However, the board have had meetings with the actors from Basecamp and we got information that the high rent that they had since the beginning will be decreased and will be almost in accordance with the MKB's or even lower. This will benefit our students and if more private actors act the same we will have a better housing situation for the students in Malmö city.

Next to this, the student union would like to see a creation of the housing foundation, as it exists in other traditional cities in Sweden. As the housing foundation is a non-profit organization, this would secure student influence as well as fair and reasonable rents for student housing, and all the money going back into building more student housing. The Student Union Malmö sees a combination of these actors as the best solution to the student housing crisis in Malmö. Private actors and the city could be a faster solution, while the housing foundation would complement this as the most fair and long-term solution.

The Union continued to be responsible for the second-hand portal Hemma, which the organisation administrator manages. Hemma has been working very well during the year and both students and landlords seem happy with the service.

During the operational year, the Student Union has also been running the Sofa Project for the students that had trouble finding accommodation. The project was more successful than the previous year and we even organized a special sofa project for the students from UNIC that were coming to the conference in Malmö during the month of May.

### 5.2 Union election

At this year's election to the council, there were 29 candidates for 19 seats, which is a small increase from last year, it is still difficult to recruit candidates and for the coming operational year, a strategy needs to be worked out in how to increase interest in the council. To reach out to the students both during candidacy and elections, the Union was out on the faculties and spread information and the teachers showed films about the Union's elections. The turnout was unfortunately low and here it is necessary to work actively with how the Union can get more students interested in voting in the Union election.

## 5.3 Events

### 5.3.1 Music pub

We had two Music pub nights in the operational year 2023/24. In Autumn we had 3 bands one DJ booked. Ombud KS was responsible for this event alongside with Ombud LS. The event happened on the 24th of November 2023 and In spring we had it on 23rd of February 2024.

In the autumn edition we booked, lion heart nation, Pojkrumet, Antti and Dj Sus. A. The overall attendance of the event was around 250 students. who had so much fun.

For the Spring Edition, We decided to have a theme: Early 2000s vibes and a dress code. Which spiced up the event. The act of the night included Edmund stardust, Filip Soderberg and Astrolloyd.

This event was record breaking as it was the most successful Music event Kåren has organized. it had 350 plus attendance and the bands were very professional. Most importantly everyone had fun.

For those music pubs, the Union cooperated with Medborgarskolan festmesteriet and Malmö connections, where they provided some equipment for the Union, and publicity in return for their logo and name being on the event.

### 5.3.2 The Faculty Cup

Building upon the success of Insparken, the Faculty Cup returned, aiming to further ignite student social engagement and strengthen the campus culture. The concept remained the same: associations and the Student Union would collaborate on events, with students earning points for their respective faculties. The team with the highest points at year's end would be crowned the Faculty Cup champion.

This year's Faculty Cup kicked off right where it left off – Insparken. But the competition quickly gained momentum. The Student Union actively organized several events, and every pub quiz by Festmesteriet (the Student Kåren's party association) became part of the Faculty Cup. While additional associations participated with their own events, there's still room for even more involvement.

Regardless, the Faculty Cup saw a significant rise in activity compared to the first edition. Student enthusiasm was palpable – a welcome change. The Faculty Cup culminated at The Goodbye festival, the end-of-year student celebration. The winning faculty was announced in the evening where the prestigious Union Award is also presented.

The Faculty Cup proved its potential to foster a vibrant and inclusive campus experience. As we strive for even greater participation in the years to come, one thing remains clear: the Faculty Cup is an exciting addition to student life.

### 5.3.3 Utsparken

Utsparken is a social event designed to conclude the academic year, serving as a contrast to Insparken. For the 23/24 operational year, it will coincide with the goodbye party and Kapriset awards. This year, Utsparken will be organized by various association sections and student groups on May 25th.

These groups will orchestrate a variety of activities, including games, painting sessions, workshops, and barbecues, running from 3pm to 6pm. Throughout these activities, students will have the opportunity to earn points linked to the Faculty Cup. With the involvement of 12 association sections and student groups, we ensured that the event was fun and successful.

#### **5.3.4 Thank you-event**

There were two thank-you events, as per usual: the thank-you event in December, and the thank-you sitting in May. But for the 2023/24 year we named the event in may goodbye festival. In December 2023 we invited all the Students representatives both on the faculty level and on the union level. to a small dinner, had fun activities together and the President gave a closing speech expressing gratitude and how they are important to us.

On May 25th, we held a farewell festival featuring the presentation of our annual kårenpris and faculty cup. The event spanned 12 hours and involved collaborations between various associations, sections, and student groups. Throughout the day, students participated in activities to earn faculty points. In the afternoon, we enjoyed karaoke and live music. The day concluded with the last club night before our relocation.

#### **5.3.5 Soup lunch and student breakfast**

During the 2023/24 operational year, The Union was more strategic. We made a new clause connected to Åskning For Sections and Associations that they need to have at least 1 soup lunch in each semester. This significantly took away the pressure from the union board and allowed association to be more visible to students. For this operational Year, i we had ombud LS responsible for the Autumn and ombud LS and Ombud KS for the Spring Semester

It was very interesting to see that a student group also hosted a soup lunch. This is a positive sign for student engagement. The price as usual is 15kr and student breakfast is 20kr.

We also had some organizations such as swedbank making waffles which was very exciting for student to see

### **5.4 Cultural cooperation**

During the year there have not been many cultural collaborations. Malmö opera offered us tickets to visit the cinema. Beyond that, the secret seats project is still on hold, waiting for the partner to take it up again and revive this collaboration.

The president represented students in the reference group Kulturstart who prepare cultural collaborations at the University and, among other things, are also responsible for the coordination of the design assignment during the academic holiday week. The group met a few times per semester and discussed various ways of including students in the cultural cooperation. Book readings and various guest lectures were organized and all the students of Malmö university were invited. Cultural cooperation should increase in the coming year as the university now officially joined the UNIC alliance, thus creating more chances for cooperation in this regard among ten university members of the alliance. In May 2024 we hosted the student board in Malmö for 4 days with our sofa projects. and we discussed different issues around student engagements.

## 5.5 Sofa project

The sofa project for the 23/24 operational year was more successful than previous years. In the beginning of the operational year we got up to 20 applicants needing to rent a sofa but we had problems with the host having interest. and we figured out that after also matching students with hosts, they don't sometimes take it seriously, maybe because they are not bound by a contract or penalty for sudden cancellation.

The sofa project was at it Zenith when we meticulously used this initiative to host our guests from 10 European universities. This consisted of 16 students from different European countries, Visiting Malmö for the first time and they were able to get accommodation for 4 days using our sofa project initiative. The guests were flummoxed on how we pulled this off.

Again the Sofa Project has proven to very useful in the area of student life and student engagements recommendations would be to use allocate more time and resources to this project as the possibilities are limitless.

## 5.6 Internationalisation

This year saw a continued commitment to internationalization at Malmö University. The Ombud TS actively participated in the Internationalization Council, fostering collaboration and strategic development. Furthermore, the Council for Global Engagement (RAGE) underwent a successful reconstitution with new members joining the effort.

A key highlight of the year involved presentations from various faculty representatives. These presentations provided valuable insights into internationalization and global engagement activities within their respective faculties. The presentations also explored how these activities align with the broader strategic goals of the university.

The year also witnessed a strengthened student presence within university alliances such as UNIC and SASUF. Malmö University students assumed leadership roles within the student boards of both organizations. For UNIC, the university representative actively contributed to the external coordinating group. On the SASUF front, the Malmö University student representative took on a pivotal role as organizing coordinator for the Swedish student network.

Moreover, students were adequately represented throughout the selection process for various international student opportunities and scholarships. This reflects a commitment to ensuring fair access to these valuable experiences.

Beyond Malmö University, student representatives actively participated in the Coalition for Student Representatives in Coimbra, Portugal. This forum provided a platform for discussing issues affecting students and student engagement within EU Education Area alliances. Further, their participation contributed to reflections on the ongoing aims of the Bologna Process.

In conclusion, this year marked significant strides towards a more globalized and interconnected learning environment at Malmö University. The active engagement of students, faculty, and staff across the institution promises to further enrich the university's internationalization efforts.

## 5.7 Coffee with the Union (KmK)

During the operational year from August 2023 to April 2024, the 'Kaffe Med Kåren' initiative was held across university campuses, including Niagara, Orkanen, and HS, fostering an



environment where students actively shared their insights on vital academic and welfare issues. Engagements included deliberations on the student economy, inflation impacts, housing, campus developments, and Kåren elections. This period saw an increased attendance at KMK sessions. Collaborations spanned from Kåren's own committees, like the Health and Wellbeing committee, to external partners such as Swedbank, which contributed through financial management seminars. Other collaborators like Akavia, Cofinans, Drihuset, and Student Halsä enrich the discussions, providing students with diverse support and resources. KMK has proven essential in gathering a wide spectrum of student perspectives that have fueled meaningful dialogues within various university groups, councils, and committees. Notably, student volunteers from councils and FUM played a vital role. Ultimately, KMK served as a dynamic hub for student engagement at multiple levels, affirming its role as a key touchpoint between the student body and the university administration.

## 5.8 Introductions

### 5.8.1 Orientation Week

The Union in conjunction with the university organized the orientation week, The Unions Association ESN, contributed volunteers, gave speeches and organized a welcome party for students. The Union presented herself and engaged students on different possibilities to get engaged. Similarly, we continued the work for Spring Semester, even though the Orientation Week was on a smaller scale due to less international students joining for VT24

Lastly, the Union has continued its close communication and cooperation with the International Office, and has already scheduled our solo event for Orientation Week, Association Fair, which will also be open for the national students and in Tjuvkik schedule, along with having done a handover to the new board of ESN Malmö, so they can continue their work smoothly for HT24.

### 5.8.2 Tjuvkik

Tjuvkik was organized as usual by the Student Center, at the start of both the autumn semester and spring semester. The Union contributed by holding a speech at the fair, by being at the fair itself, and by holding an event for the students "fika with the Union" in Kølsvinet, in the spring semester also with board games by the association the Gaming Guild. The Union, after years of trying and thanks to the Orientation Week responsible for the Student Center, finally managed to open up the mini-fair to national students, now to be called the Association fair (which, despite its name, is also for sections and the Union board).

### 5.8.3 Insparken

Insparken continues to build from the success of the 2022 edition. The 2023/24 edition saw more capturing of more nollers and sustaining their interest till the end of the two week long events. The 2023 edition had different insparken responsible from various faculties discharging their responsibilities for the success of the social events. With 4 Generals in the helms of affairs, they coordinated with others responsible to ensure a smooth run of the events. The recruitment group have successfully elected new generals for the next year, 24/25 Insparken

## 5.9 Collaboration

During both autumn and spring semester the Union organized the Union Days. It was for three days and both the University, the associations, sections and several organizations and companies participated, it was very successful.

In September, the Mecenat tour also came to visit, which was very much appreciated by the students. Both companies and organizations have contacted us to visit the university and we have had several visits during the year. The organizational administrator has worked further on strategies for increased cooperation.

During the year we have had various collaborations. We have continued to have cooperation for home insurance with Hedvig and LIREMA eye clinic with discounted prices on laser eye surgery for union members. A collaboration with the mobile subscription VIMLA has also been initiated and is expected to last for a while. Other discussions on collaboration have been held, but nothing else has been initiated.

## 5.10 Associations and Student Groups

During the academic year 2023/24, the Union revived an existing association Malmö Debating Society. and they are proactive in helping student gain confidence in public speaking.

Furthermore, we establish 4 student group with the goal to make them a full fledged association: this include Malmö connections, Malmö Rotaract club, Malmö språkcafe, IT student consulting and fifa club.

The associations have been having at least bi weekly events and have been recruiting new members during the academic year.

On the other hand, some of the associations continued to be dormant, such as the Choir and FAMUS, and two of our associations also became inactive, Triple- S . and Amnesty international.

At the same time, the Union had two joint meetings in the autumn semester and numbers of meetings in the spring semester, with multiple associations and sections joining each time. Lastly, the associations and sections hosted together a joint event, Community Week, Goodbye Party which had multiple preparation meetings and worked quite well.

We also scheduled an annual election meetings with all associations, Sections and Student group to discuss about election plans and ensure continuity.

## 5.11 Sections

As the operational year commenced, the Union comprised four sections: Criminology-students in Malmö (KriM), Socialworker-students in Malmö (SiM), Artcom, and the Section for Global Political Students (GPS Section). However, the GPS Section struggled to form a new board.

A startup meeting took place in late October, allowing us to revive the GPS Section. Fortunately, all board positions were filled. The GPS Section has been highly successful in organizing various events, including study nights, movie screenings, and women empowerment initiatives.

In the spring semester, a new section emerged for the entire TS, named the TSS Section. This section supports ongoing efforts in education monitoring at the TS faculty and receives substantial backing from the dean.

Efforts were made to establish sections at LS; however, these attempts were smaller and lacked focus, resulting in no sections being founded at LS.

The documentation for financial support routines for sections and corresponding associations were merged, meaning both sections and associations now apply for and receive financial support from the Union under identical conditions.

Additionally, a condition was attached to the Åskning, requiring all associations and sections to organize at least one soup lunch per semester. Furthermore, ongoing discussions are underway regarding the introduction of a new position for all sections called Education Monitoring Officer.

## 5.12 Digitalisation

Within the Student Union's digital sphere, the past year has not brought significant alterations to operational practices. Notably, the decision was made to discontinue the LIME Customer Relationship Management system due to a lapse in utilization and an increase in renewal costs. The Union persists in leveraging tools like Zoom and Google for conducting virtual meetings and maintaining communication via functional email addresses.

On the university level, the Student Kåren remains a dedicated voice for students, actively participating in various digital forums, including the Council for Digitalisation, ensuring student interests are well-represented in digital initiatives and advancements. Kåren, being diligent in its representation duties, delegated student representatives to contribute to multiple digital working groups. Notable among these was the working group concerned with digital sit-in examinations, an initiative of the university. Also wide range discussion on the proposal of Council for digitalisation on digitalising activities and workplace in MaU through the LÄRDIG initiative

## 5.13 Student health

This year, the Union still primarily focused on the student's mental health in general. We built mental health and well-being committee and it aims to conduct activities to offers help and support to keep mental health and wellbeing. A close connection with Student Health Center, Student Housing and Student Working Environment is an efficient way to realize the goal.

## 5.14 Pedagogy

During the operational year 22/23, no specific work regarding pedagogy has been carried out.

## 5.15 Verksamhetsförlagd utbildning, VFU

During the year, the student ombuds for HS and LS have been responsible for issues and developments related to the work-based training (VFU) at the University.

Last year's students' errand about VFU raises an issue about timing. It is reflected from the university side, if there is some lack of resources, for example, the responsible teacher has sick leave which results in a late post of information of VFU for students which will impact the

students to arrange the study plan. During the operational year 23/24 the models` length was shortened which led to fewer student errands regarding VFU timing.

In the LS VFU Council, we didn't have a student representative who has participated in all meetings convened during the operational year 23/24.

### **5.16 Labour market connections and Career Transitioning**

This topic became an area of responsibility for the first time in the Union board of 23-24, following discussions among students in the Union Council who sought increased efforts in this area. Initially, we identified that students in the general degree faced difficulties establishing themselves in the labor market, leading us to decide to involve various stakeholders in the necessity of hosting a specialized career fair.

On February 7th, 2024, we organized the "Meet Your Future" event, a specialized career fair for GPS students. This event provided an opportunity for industry contacts, alumni, and students to interact through formal presentations and informal networking sessions. The career fair was a collaborative effort between the GPS department, the Student Union, and the Student Centre (including careers, GPS study counselors, and alumni relations).

We had 15 organizations attended, 400 registered students, 250 cups of coffee consumed, 69 registered student from other faculties and 20 registered on that day

As this was our pilot event, it was hard to predict what the outcome would be, which we can now say was more than we hoped for, both in attendance and interest in panel and networking sessions. The Organisations who attended loved the concept and some commented that they have never talked so much in one day, and they also mentioned that the students came prepared.

Furthermore on the 22nd of April 2024, The Union, in collaboration with the Odontological Union and Studentstaden Malmö, organized a panel discussion about student life, exploring its evolution from the past to the present and envisioning its future. This panel delved into how student engagement contributes to navigating career choices.

The discussion featured esteemed panelists including Zeynep Erdal, Sanjay Thompson, Jed Manguera, and Nikola Stanisch. With 50 guests in attendance, this initiative was deemed highly successful, providing students with valuable insights into career transitions within the context of student life

There is on going discussion and work about the TS abertsmakanagdag, This is scheduled to happen in December 2024 and it championed by the TSS section along side the TS faculty, we discussed the possibility of Union Making money from it and we also encourage them to partner with the career and business committee.

The Union continues to have a board member in the board of Drivhuset. Cooperation has been difficult since half of Drivhusets board meetings were at times where the Union's board members could not participate. There is however a continued good relationship between the two actors.

The Union participated in career transition workshops organised by Student City Malmö at the end of the spring semester. There was no Student-Politiker Afton this academic year focussed on the topic, which means it will be in the next academic year.

Based on the advice of the Union board, the Union Council built a new committee for labour market connection and career transitioning. It is called the Business and Career Transitioning Committee (BCTC). Initial success followed by decreased activity due to turnover on both the Union and internal sides that the committee didn't act as expected. The BCTC experienced some challenges in the past year and need to recruit new members and revitalize the committee.

**Recruitment and Retention:**

- **Targeted Recruitment:** Connect with student groups related to business and career development (e.g., business clubs, career centers).
- **Highlight Benefits:** Emphasize the value of the BCTC in helping students navigate career transitions.
- **Flexible Commitment:** Offer flexible participation options for students with busy schedules.

**Engagement and Activity:**

- **Event Variety:** Organize events that cater to different student needs (e.g., mock interviews, career fairs, networking opportunities).
- **Student Input:** Conduct surveys or hold focus groups to understand student career concerns and tailor activities accordingly.

**Communication and Promotion:**

- **Increase Visibility:** Actively promote the BCTC through student union channels, social media, and campus bulletin boards.

## § 6. The Student Union's operations in the faculties

### 6.1 Health and Society (HS)

The student engagement at the Faculty of Health and Society continues to have mixed results. While there is no significant drop in levels of engagement, participation in some areas is better than others. Semi-formal student engagement at the Faculty remains relatively positive. A big factor here is the teachers themselves, and the well-structured set-up of meetings between the faculty and the semi-formal student representatives.

However, formal student representation on the other hand has hit a low. While low formal student representation at the Faculty is not uncommon, there were no formal student representatives this year. This is without doubt caused by the continued changing of who is the studentombud at HS - the academic year started with a full-time studentombud for HS for about half a year. Then it changed to another studentombud for HS from mid-February. This causes a lack of connection between the Union and the Faculty's students.

The Student councils (studentråd) at HS received low to no students attending, without doubt due to a lack of established connections between the different ombuds and the students. The connection between the HS ombuds and the Faculty itself however has been continuously positive. Meet-your-ombud time also has mixed results, where students are mostly interested in the free goodies and study-social events rather than the Union's study-political work. Related to

this is that there is a level of engagement by HS students, but this has been poorly reflected in the Union Council which mostly does study-political work.

Opportunities are present too. The continuation of the development of the SiM section shows a strong influence of students in the institution. The Krim Sektion shows a strong intention to take more responsibility for education monitoring in the coming operational year. The president and vice president with around 20 members in the section will develop a handbook and activities plan to increase visibility and influence. They also plan to develop cooperation with police education students and the first meeting is planned to be at the end of May. The KMK activity in Police education was very warmly welcomed and many students came and showed interest in the Student Union. They hope to have more than only one KMK activity each semester there. Although it is still a trial, the cooperation between Krim Sektion and Poice Education can be a good start. At the end of April, there was one nursing student came to studentråd and discussed nursing education in the institution. However, due to the student's study load, the ombudsman couldn't follow up and have further discussions to get more and deep insights about the education. There was only one medical student who came to the ombudsman to get support about discipline and it ended a good result.

However, a lack of engagement in study-social is obvious. While there are indeed two fairly successful sections, the student ombud for HS was unable to gather even a single HS student active in Insparken to join during role-calls to promote the introduction weeks of the Union, despite continued efforts. While there are other factors too, this is once again without doubt due to a lack of connection between the HS ombud and those active in Insparken, caused due to a non-existing handover in June.

The student errands from the academic year 23/24 of the faculty of Health and society are going to be presented. There are nine errands in total. Mainly, the errands were connected with common issues concerning the change of examiner, problems with grades, and questions about problems with exams and the mistreatment of students. The HS studentombud should work closely with the HS vice dean for education, to receive knowledge, advice, and support when dealing with student errands since this collaboration yielded many good results in this and previous operational years.

## 6.2 Education and Society (LS)

The previous changes that have taken place at the faculty regarding meeting structure and group compositions created a clearer structure and which members and student representatives should attend different meetings. Has been evaluated during the year and changed to better suit the organization. The document that went out has clear instructions on the frequency of meetings, who should attend and the content/mission of the meetings.

The results of student engagement in the Faculty of Education and Society continue to change. Student faculty engagement is relatively positive although there are some areas where participation is higher. LS ombud has, together with one of the FUM members, created a list of all semi formal student representatives in different programs. This made it easier for ombud to contact the student representatives and try engaging them in other activities other than faculty meetings.. However it has been problematic to get some semi formal student representatives to come to student council (student råd) to be formally elected.

Student council meetings at the library during the autumn semester had low or none attendance while during the spring semester it got better. This is due to the better spread of information both from the faculty and ombud. Ombud used every resource and opportunity to encourage students to come to upcoming student council meetings. The support from the faculty side was also provided in the form of information spreading.

The faculty of Education and Society still has no sections however there are some students that are interested in making one in future. This is something that we have to continue to work on.

Student errands at the Faculty of Education and Society were few in the end of autumn semester nevertheless they continue rising from January and spring semester. The majority of the errands were related to frequent concerns about the replacement of the examiner, issues with grades, and exam issues as well as mistreatment of the students. Working closely with prefects on LS helped solve student errands on their behalf.

### **6.3 Culture and Society (KS)**

The Faculty of Culture and Society at Malmö University is one of the largest faculties, housing three departments: the Department of Global Political Studies, the Department of Urban Studies, and the School of Art and Communication. These departments offer a wide range of programs.

For the operational year 23/24 However, it must be acknowledged that the faculty faces significant challenges, particularly when it comes to handling student errands at the Student Ombuds office. There are recurring cases related to poor organization of courses, instances of discrimination, student influence, pedagogical competencies, delays in grading, and complaints about teachers. also there has been good improvements and innovation in the faculty. as there was the introduction of cross - boundary education where students could go to other departments and borrow elective courses and add it to their degrees.

Every month I had meetings with the Vice Dean of Education and the Quality coordinator for KS and during these times we kept each other abreast of what was going on in the faculty. I report to her about student errands, upcoming events and new trends. She also reported to the KS Ombudsman what was discussed in the Lednings Rad meeting. Together we have an idea and progressive strategies on how to promote student influence.

Conversations within the course councils of the three departments and Educational board council have been intense, particularly regarding pedagogical competences and the education of teachers on student rights and responsibilities. Unfortunately, there have been defensive reactions and responses from the program coordinator and the vice dean of education.

Unprecedented trends demand innovative responses. With the Emergence of Chatgpt and other Ai tools, teachers in Ks have taken innovative approaches to curb students using Ai to write their exams. I got several reports of teachers planting hidden questions in white color , to detect if students are using the help of Ai to write. From a student perspective, after carefully evaluating

this we believe it is not pedagogically correct to make traps for students. As the Ks ombud I have engaged the Dean and other concerned actors to discourage this approach. Also we engaged them on the need to have a clear cut guideline for using Ai in academic writing.

Another major challenge the faculty faced was the reduction in physical attendance (campus närvaro) during this operational year. Teachers frequently complained about students not attending classes, which can be seen as indicative of the post-pandemic aftermath. To address this issue, we conducted a survey to understand these problems from the students' perspective, and the findings will be presented in various relevant forums.

During the 23/24 operational year, the Student Union underwent significant internal restructuring. I was responsible for ensuring that all important forums and actors in KS were informed about these changes. I presented the new structure in the Faculty Styrelse and Utbildningsnämnd meetings and also briefed the Vice Dean and Quality Coordinator about these changes.

In conclusion, KS still lacks organizational infrastructures to effectively clarify and streamline the faculty's operations in a more systematic manner. especially for administrative issues about course registration, admissions, handling discrimination issues, course evaluation processes and follow-ups

### **Student Influence**

At the beginning of the semester, we conducted compulsory visits to all classes in KS, known as "Upprop." These visits aimed to inform new students about the student union, how to participate in insparcken, opportunities for student involvement, and membership details.

During the 2023/2024 operational year, student engagement and participation in KS faculty meetings saw significant improvement. Many positions were elected in forums, and students were excited to participate in these meetings. In the spring semester, we organized elections during a student Råd meeting to select representatives Democratically for faculty meetings in KS. It was remarkable that we were able to fill positions such as US Kursnamd, Gps Kursnamd, and Laraforslsgnamds, which is quite unusual. The elected representatives did an excellent job presenting student perspectives.

The ombud also maintained positive relationships with the semi-formal student representatives and sections within KS, including the Gps Section and Artcom. This provided an opportunity to stay informed about class activities and the beneficial study social events organized by the sections. These initiatives kept students engaged and fostered a sense of community.

## **6.4 Technology and Society (TS)**

In the advent of the 2023/24 academic year, the Ombud was able to conduct introductory visits to all first-year courses across the various programs, with the goal of familiarizing the incoming



students with the Student Kåren. All of the program visitations were done physically, the ombud had 5-10 mins moments in all of the first introductory classes in TS

Furthermore, the established practice of offering designated time slots for students to engage with the Ombud, now called "Meet your ombud Time", continued unabated throughout the year. A significant majority of these interactions were conducted in person. Throughout this operational year, the Ombud's office in Niagara has seen frequent visits from students.

Student engagement remained imperative in the operational agenda of the Kåren, particularly in light of the absence of student representation on various committees and councils beyond the Student Ombud. Efforts have been underway, spearheaded by the TS faculty and the Ombud, to inaugurate a section within the faculty aimed at fostering extracurricular student interaction. Based on these efforts, the The Technology and Society section (TSS) was created with 6 board members made from the two departments within the Faculty. The aim is to have an umbrella section that will accommodate all programmes, then have projects that will carter for the three (3) units of the faculty- Computer Science, Media Technology and Material Science and Applied Mathematics

In tandem with these efforts, the Ombud has maintained a close rapport with program coordinators to ensure that even student issues are solved in no time. the Ombud have monthly briefing with the Vice Dean on Education to discuss errands and issues around TS students study experience

Additionally, the Ombud established and maintained relationships with representatives elected in programs/courses (semi-formalialias). This concerted effort bore fruit, evidenced by well-attended local student council meetings at TS, particularly by the student representatives who were invited.

As for student errands in the TS, there reduction in errands but errands around use of AI is becoming an issue and grading delays were reported towards the end of the spring semester. These issues were brought to the Ombud's attention either directly by the affected students or during the Studentråd. TS semi formal representatives continue to participate in the studentråd

At the time of this report, TS faculty has seen a change in leadership with a new Head of Department for DVMT due to temporary break by the then (new) head and a term extension for the Head of MTM. Furthermore, the TS faculty also has a new dean in person of Martin Höst. The faculty finalized its RoadMap and mapped out its Knowledge environment.

In terms of new programme, the 5 years (3 years bachelor, 2 years master) civil engineering programme was approved UKÄ to commence in 2025

## § 7. External collaboration

### 7.1 Collaboration groups at the University and Student City Malmö

The union has been an active part of the steering group for "Studentstaden Malmö", the group consists of student representatives from the Union, the Odontological Student Union and representatives from the university and the city of Malmö, the student coordinator is the convener. The chairmanship of the group rotates between the City of Malmö and MAU, during this operational year Malmö City held the chairmanship. The rotation is now going to Malmö

university. During the operational year, the collaboration mainly focused on issues of student housing, career transitions and student life in the city according to the action plan. Regarding the housing issue, a survey was distributed among the students of Malmö university in the previous operational year and the results were presented in the follow up meeting in HT.

During the operational year, one physical SPA was held in Rådhuset that revolved around discussions of career transitioning. During the spring semester one inspirational lecture was held in the Union pub and regarded the student life and upcoming changes due to the moving out from the current Union house and the questions that are concerning the loss of the pub and its effect on student life.

The president has been a part of the reference group for collaboration between Malmö University and the City of Malmö. Main task of this group is to plan and coordinate meetings for the collaboration group.

The vice president for education monitoring usually sits on the advisory board of Collaboration at Malmö University. However due to the lack of the VP throughout the most part of the year the president took the meetings whenever the tight schedule permitted it. There were discussions regarding topics surrounding collaborations with other universities and best-practices sharing among faculties.

## 7.2 SFS och SFSFUM2023

During the operational year, the Union participated in one physical member meeting. The autumn semester's physical membership meeting was held in Umeå, where matters regarding university campus, budget, sustainable forms of student engagement, as well as internationalization within the unions were discussed. Second physical members meeting was held in January but there was no attendance due to the lack of board members and the by elections that were held on the same date.

Next to this, there have been a couple of digital members' meetings, and the president attended a few of them due to the busy schedule.

The Unions' delegation to SFSFUM in Kalmar consisted of 9 delegates, with the organization administrator as delegation leader.

The Union continued to be represented in the SFS network for education monitoring and the network for student work environment representatives.

## 7.3 Other Student Unions

Student Union Malmö, Odontological Student Union Malmö and Doctoral Student Union Malmö have had a collaboration agreement since 2019. Student Union Malmö and Odontological Student Union intensified their cooperation through the joint work with the Student City Malmö project. Next to this the Odontological Union and Student Union Malmö started collaboration on the Insparken 2023 together, and had a few joint events at the mentioned kick-off in the autumn term 2023. Likewise, the collaboration with the Doctoral Student Union has intensified as their president now also sits in the Rektorsledniggrupp. Next to this there have been numerous meetings organized by the president during the year where all three unions have updated each other on what is happening at the university, and discussed various issues and cooperations. The unions plan to continue collaborating in the coming year, and are looking at

scheduling regular monthly meetings between the three unions in the future. The three student unions will closely collaborate around the European University of Post-Industrial Cities (UNIC) as well in the future, and most likely rotate in taking place at the Student UNIC Board.

The collaboration within Student Union South (SKS) has continued during the operational year but has been hampered due to more irregular meetings since LUS handed over the coordination of the network to Student Union Malmö. Student Union Malmö could not hold the coordination position during this operational year, as we were understaffed and had to prioritize our assignments. The president had a support of the LS studentombud in this matter, and the ombud attended the meetings when the president could not do so. The president and LS ombud represented the Union within Lärosäten Syd's pro-rector meetings and a few individual rector meetings during the operational year. Much focus during the year in these networks was on various collaborations, higher education politics in the EU, as well as the joint collaboration in Lärosäten Syd's (LSS) Brussels office.