

## Student Union Malmö's operational plan 2019/2020

### § 1 Introduction

Student Union Malmö's operational plan is the Student Council's task for the board. The operational plan is an important component of what the Student Union Malmö works with.

The operational plan's structure begins with the Union's daily work, from regular operations to recruitment to study social and study political work. This will be supplemented by focus areas, where Student Union Malmö's work is defined and put to goals. The various sections of the operational plan have been written by different authors but have two editors, with previous Student Union council having the chance to give feedback. The operational plan is written in such a way that it is not too narrow in its task to the next board nor too broad in order to reach the goals.

### § 2 Regular operations

The Union's structure has been more or less unchanged during an amount of years even though the university has grown and changed. During the operational year 17/18 Student Union Malmö started a re-organisation with some changes in the administration as well as the board. The work with re-organisation has continued during the operational year 18/19 by looking into the work tasks and areas of responsibilities within the board.

The purpose of these changes has been to develop the operations and to make the Union's work more long-term and effective while taking into consideration the university's future development. To ensure that these previously done or suggested changes will be followed through and implemented within the organisation, the development of the Union's structure should therefore continue under the upcoming operational year. A part of the continued work with the regular operations should include the new work division and the implementation of committees under board members, which are part of the re-organisation.

A part of the Union's regular operations concerns the Union house's future physical location. It is yet unclear where and in what form the future Union house will be, which influences both the board and all the associations' operations. It is of utter importance that the work for finding a convenient building for the Union's current and future operations continues and is prioritised.

#### Goals for § 2 Regular operations

#### How to:

The Student Union Malmö shall develop and work with the student council and its role as the Union's highest decision-making organ

- Explore the possibilities of expanding the council's independence
- Increase the visibility of the council and its activities so that the students better know of FUM and their function
- Do an evaluation of the FUM-meetings structure and quality in order to explore how these can be developed

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Student Union Malmö shall work for a better system for student errands and communication about it

- Together with other unions develop a system for errands that are overarching for the whole university
- Look into how other student unions in Sweden report their student errands
- Develop a communication method for student errands, which can reach out to both students and employees at the university

The Student Union Malmö shall ensure that the Union and its associations can continue their activities in the best possible way in the future

- Keep on being updated regarding the situation with the current union house
- Actively look for the possibility of a new union house
- Keep an active discussion with Malmö university and Malmö city regarding the future of the Union's house

### § 3 Recruitment, engagement and closeness to the students

Student engagement plays a pivotal role in the Student Union Malmö's daily work. To ensure that the Union keeps its relevance as such, we must create stable recruitment and well-implemented routines in regards to how student engagement is encouraged and rewarded. To do this, we must continuously create and develop strategies for high student engagement. Both study political and study social aspects are crucial for the Student Union Malmö's continued development. The former aspect secures stronger student influence within Malmö University and develops the students' knowledge and competence. The latter aspect enriches the students' social life and cultural experience.

#### Goals for § 3 Recruitment, engagement and closeness to students      How to

Student Union Malmö shall further develop the pre-existing methods for engaging and recruiting students as well as introduce new ones

- Develop faculty time further
- Increase physical closeness to the students (classroom visitations, FORUM, etc.)
- Revise and further develop the structure of the Union prize
- Continuously explore new ways to reach out and communicate to students both physically and digitally

#### § 4 Study political work

Students' lives are touched everyday by different decisions, some more political than others. However, we want to safeguard the rights of students and their well-being. In order to do this, we must engage politically with university and the surrounding society while simultaneously engaging students in the process.

| Goals for § 4 Study political work  | How to  |
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| The Student Union Malmö commits to working with questions regarding students' housing situation on a local and regional level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By collecting and presenting qualitative data regarding students' housing situation in Malmö</li> <li>● By creating activities with purpose to acknowledge the problem with housing in Malmö</li> <li>● By working together with other student unions and organisations.</li> <li>● By creating and maintaining dialogues with the university's leadership, Malmö city and other policy makers</li> <li>● Shine light upon the housing issue in media (debate articles, interviews, press releases)</li> </ul> |
| The Student Union Malmö will promote internationalization not only as students going on an exchange but as a larger concept   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Help the university promote the Certificate of International Merits (CIM)</li> <li>● Establish more connections with other student unions from Europe in order to gain knowledge and exchange experiences</li> </ul>   |

The Student Union Malmö commits to working so that the students have the ability to better their own academic competence

- Together with Studentcentrum, CAKL, and the library work to increase the knowledge of supportive functions for students, which provide for example mentors, language, math workshops and lectures about study techniques
- To shed light on the different support functions that exist at the university and emphasize on the importance of them
- By offering events where students can learn more about the student life

### § 5 Study social work

The Student Union Malmö chooses to focus its study social work on conditions for social life and the possibilities to have rewarding leisure time. The study social work that is done by the Student Union Malmö shall be inclusive and welcoming and has the purpose of creating a feeling of community for the students in Malmö. Furthermore, the Union holds the belief that a good balance between social and academic life brings about an improved mental health. The beginning of the semester is always filled with lots of introductory study social events and information about support functions. The social aspect of introduction is very important, especially on the first academic year, when students are finding their way, but it is as important that students have a steady social life throughout their studies.

#### Goals for § 5 Study social

#### How to

The Student Union Malmö shall work towards creating a stronger sense of community for the students of Malmö University

- Ensure that the introduction programs are inclusive in nature so that they can create lasting bonds between students
- Further develop study social events not only during introduction, but throughout the year as well
- Spread information among the students about the associations and facilitate the process of creating student groups and associations
- Spread information regarding the union house as a good place to meet other students

The Student Union Malmö shall help the students find rewarding ways to spend their leisure time

- Create a variety of social events, which contribute to larger student engagement
- Work for an open and inclusive environment within our own organisation and associations so that students feel welcome to both come and stay
- The Student Union Malmö shall look into improving its already established study social events

## § 6 Focus areas

The focus areas for the operational plan have been selected after an assessment, done by the board and council 18/19, on the most significant questions which came up during the year.

At the same time, the board has included certain aspects from the old focus areas that the operational plan 18/19 had - Internationalisation, digitisation, academic literacy, housing, as these are major recurring issues that the Union should continue to work with.

Focus areas for operational year 19/20 have been decided to be the following:

- Mental health
- Pedagogy
- Student representatives
- Malmö Student city

### § 6.1 Mental health

Mental health issues are more widespread in society, especially among the younger population which is studying in higher education. According to studies, almost half of the students in Sweden have experienced worsened mental health over the course of their education. This can manifest itself in a number of instances such as high levels of stress, anxiety, depression, and more. The Union shall shed light on the aspects which can contribute to mental health issues. These can be studies, housing, economic situation, loneliness, cases of discrimination and more.

Mental health is as important as physical health and thus should be treated with the same level of seriousness and urgency as any other illness - proactively in order to have good mental health and reactively in order to support the students whose mental health has worsened.

## Goals for § 6.1 Mental health

## How to

Student Union Malmö will work to be informed about mental health

- Follow local, regional, national and international news, reports and conferences about mental health, especially in regards to higher education
- Encourage university to gather information on mental health from Malmö university students
- Have frequent contact with Student health services and Region Skåne in order to be updated about the situation at our university and in primary care
- Gather qualitative information from students at Malmö university through for example Coffee with the Union
- Keep the Student Union council and board informed about the latest developments on the question, for example through workshops

Student Union Malmö will work for all students' possibility to live well and enjoy sound mental health

- Work for better chain between primary care in Region Skåne and Student health services at the university
- Work with other student unions in the region to discuss our positions in mental health
- Work so that all the different support functions are more easily accessible and clearer to find information about
- Work so that teachers have better conditions to meet students with different needs and that they are aware of the various support functions at the university
- Work to prevent loneliness on campus
- Work to have better study and learning environment at the university, which is accessible and encourages a sense of community

Student Union Malmö will work to communicate about mental health to all relevant partners in order to create an open environment and better access to help in questions in mental health

- Discuss mental health openly in different fora such as KMK, social media, the Toilet Paper and meetings with the university
- Shed light on the link between mental health and other aspects of (student) life through debate articles, workshops and more
- Work to communicate support functions clearly

### § 6.2 Pedagogy

The question of pedagogy is a consistent and important part of higher education. Pedagogy isn't only addressing teaching methods, but is a rather broad and extensive area that connects teaching methods, examination process, learning environment, the interaction between teachers and students in that environment and all the questions and issues that can be connected to those, such as accessibility, safety, widened participation and recruitment, equal treatment and other aspects of the education. Student Union Malmö thinks that all aspects of pedagogy are equally important and hang together, thus should all be taken into consideration while working with this big question.

#### Goals for § 6.2 Pedagogy

#### How to

Student Union Malmö shall work to encourage alternative pedagogical methods that contributes to widened participation

- Inform students about different pedagogical methods
- Work actively so that different alternative pedagogical methods and also the importance of pedagogy will be discussed at the university
- Encourage the university to create digital solutions and alternative digital activities for courses
- Ensure student influence and feedback on pedagogical methods used

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Student Union Malmö will continue to actively participate in the design and development process of learning environments at Malmö University

- Ensure student influence in the various parts of the university that handle learning environment issues
- Push for a more digitalised education as a whole when it is pedagogically wiser to do so
- Make sure that the learning process is accessible for everyone, when it comes to both physical and digital learning environments
- Concentrate not only on the aspects of teaching and class time, but instead look at the education as a whole, while connecting it to learning environment

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Student Union Malmö thinks that pedagogy within the university as a whole should continuously develop and improve

- Increase the Union's knowledge on pedagogy in order to ensure the student influence regarding these questions and support students interested in them, for example, stay informed on international and national research on university education
- Encourage the university to develop a meeting place for discussions on pedagogy between employees and students

### § 6.3 Student representatives

Strong student influence requires active student representatives. That is why it is important that the group of representatives is as heterogeneous as possible and from all the respective faculties in order to best represent all the students towards the university. Student representatives can be elected via Student influence FORUM, or for example in class to be course representatives. Student Union Malmö wants to support all student representatives to be best equipped as possible to meet the challenges ahead, and to make the role of student representative more attractive. Furthermore, the Union wants to improve the function of the local student councils, which are meant to be a junction of the work of the student ombud and the student representatives of the respective faculty.



| Goals for § 6.3 Student representatives  | How to   |
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| <p>Student Union Malmö shall establish a clearer strategy on how student representatives shall be recruited and at the same time create an active communication channel and cooperation between them and the Union</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Actively keep contact with student representatives</li> <li>● Work for better promotion of FORUM</li> <li>● Establish the local student councils as the place where the student representatives meet the student ombud and give feedback from the meetings they participate in</li> <li>● Together with university work to produce a merit system for student representation at the university, similar to Certificate of International Merits (CIM)</li> </ul> |
| <p>Define the role of student representative and other roles within the Union for both the University and the Union itself, based on the statutory assignment</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Put more focus to the guide for student representatives and have continuous follow-up on it, which includes updates if needed</li> <li>● Review the english translations of our various roles within the Union and define them in a clearer way</li> </ul>  |
| <p>The students at Malmö University should know what rights they have to be represented in decisions at the university</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Highlight the importance of student representation in boards and organs</li> <li>● Organize frequent classroom visits to inform students about their rights; this includes student rights and obligations, the policy for student influence and other relevant documents</li> <li>● Work in a more close collaboration with the university to spread awareness of student rights and influence</li> </ul>   |

### § 6.4 Malmö Student City

Malmö university is the youngest university in Sweden. Malmö does not have as established traditions as other universities and student cities. Instead of it being seen as a downside, we can make the most out of it and be part of creating traditions. We can involve our students in the process of finding out what they want from their city and their university. Students should have the best possible conditions during their studies, and we want to ensure that these are met on each front. We can work for better housing conditions, student influence, social activities and many more. Some of the work that helps ensuring better conditions for a good student city has already been described before in the operational plan, however we will mention here a few other perspectives.

| Goals for § 6.4 Malmö Student City   | How to   |
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| Student Union Malmö shall work so that its students have the best conditions for living and studying in Malmö city | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Keep in contact and create a sustainable communication with Malmö city, the student coordinator and other relevant actors</li> <li>● Map out which opportunities there are in the city and the region for student influence and how they can be used</li> <li>● Encourage Malmö city and other actors to develop social meeting places for students outside of their studies</li> <li>● Create a strategy for Student Union Malmö to work with Malmö Student City as a whole</li> </ul> |
| Student Union Malmö shall work for sustainable VFU for students in Malmö university                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Keep updated on the latest news about VFU</li> <li>● Create a good communication with all relevant actors in VFU questions such as Malmö University, Malmö city, Region Skåne and others</li> <li>● Create a strategy for working with VFU questions</li> </ul>   |