

Plan of Operations for Jönköping Student Union, 2019/2020

INTRODUCTION

Jönköping Student Union (JSU) is the central student association at Jönköping University (JU) and its purpose is to work to secure the quality of education the quality of the study-social environment at JU.

The goal of JSU is that all students of Jönköping University – national and international students alike – receive an education of high quality and relevance to their future profession, as well as have an enjoyable and engaging experience at JU. The university is well-anchored in the local industry and has long-term orientation. In combination with keeping the students' interests in mind, the university has good prerequisites to provide a rewarding education and student-life experience.

JSU shall participate and work actively within the community on all levels within Jönköping University, striving for high quality of education and a good study-social environment. By representing students' interests, JSU works for the development of the focus areas outlines in this document.

JSU aspires to be at the forefront of internationalisation. JSU aims to be a strong and independent organisation, acting in service of the students' interests with a high level of cross-faculty involvement.

JSU's operations shall be imbued with open, current and easily available information towards its members.

DISPOSITION

The plan of operations dictates which areas shall be directed by the JSU board during the year of activities 2019/2020. The plan of operations is a steering document and is established by the Annual General Meeting. The board is entitled to interpret and actualise the plan of operations with the help of the other documents that form the foundation of the organisation, all resources at hand, and in accordance with the current circumstances. Specifically, the board should build the plan of operations on basis of the opinion document and include areas in the plan of operations from the letter of opinion that have not been sufficiently worked on.

1. EDUCATION QUALITY AND EDUCATION POLITICS

Jönköping University is a private institution of higher education, which entails that they are not bound by the Swedish national university regulations known as "Högskoleförordningen" which most other Swedish universities are. There are both advantages and disadvantages to this construction. With such freedom follows a high level of responsibility for JSU to participate and be involved in matters that affect education and the student body's environment.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Maintain a constant dialogue with JU to monitor and develop education and study-environment quality through student representation in relevant JU organs.
- Strive for teachers to have competence in the language they use to teach.
- Take a proactive stance in cooperating with external authorities (e.g. UKÄ) relevant to education and studying environment quality at JU.
- Investigate the validity of preregistration of academic papers.

1.1 COURSE DEVELOPMENT

In order to show progression with the education provided by Jönköping University it is crucial that the university responds to completed course evaluations and takes measures in order to improve that which has been considered worse by students. JSU and the students at Jönköping University have a responsibility to evaluate their education and to strive for its continuous development. Course developers are students who have an extra responsibility to report to the course-responsible which areas that are subject for improvement and which ones that are

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satisfactory. JSU has the responsibility to support the student body in its work for course development, so that the course developers have the best possible prerequisites in order to complete their job and that they have an information database that they can easily rely on.

This is an area that requires continued work, since course developers are student representatives, they should also be democratically elected by the peers they represent. With a functioning system for course developers the Heads of Education Quality at each faculty have a greater possibility of reaching all courses and that way raise the quality of course evaluations. For course developers to have a clear purpose even for JSU it is important that significant information do not remain in any individual group of students but is provided to JSU.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Continue to develop clear faculty-transcending instructions for course developers.
- Work towards having each group of students democratically electing their own representatives as course developers.
- Work for effective communication routines between students and the course developers.
- Lobby for feedback from course evaluators to be presented to new iterations of courses in accordance with current regulations of Jönköping University.
- Lobby for development of the quality and quantity of course evaluations.
- Work towards JU implementing a sign-off routine for all exams so that they must be approved by a person who must not be the author of the exam and who must be competent in the subject area. The process must include student representatives and inform them about the sign-off prior to the exam taking place.

1.2 EXAMINATIONS

JSU has since several years advocated anonymous exams in order to increase the legal security of the students, since there should be no possibility of being examined on other criteria than those you as a student perform during an examination. This is something that students from all faculties are positive towards and thus, it is also something which JSU shall continue working with.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Require the provision of legally secure examination.
- Work towards all students receiving impartial assessment, independently of examiner.
- Ensure that anonymous examinations are offered for all occasions deemed practically possible.
- The JSU is to work actively to improve security at exam halls to prevent cheating, e.g. reinforcing no phone policy etc.

2. STUDY-SOCIAL

The study-social environment is an important foundation of many students' everyday life and simultaneously functions as a channel of communication for JSU. JSU wants to continue the good traditions that we have created and further build upon the good reputation that Jönköping University has. JSU works for all its members and should therefore try to offer possibility of participation, and communication. This also applies to groups which do not naturally take part of the Student Union's social activities today.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work for a culture where alcohol is not a central part of the social context.
- Work to attract those who are not already actively involved, to engage in student life at Jönköping University.
- Support interest associations in their marketing and communication efforts.
- Promote the student welcome fair together with interest associations.
- Work towards integrating students of different nationalities and raising awareness of cultural

differences and similarities through organised activities, e.g. excursions, buddy-programmes and culture days.

2.1 KICK OFF

The autumn- and spring Kick Off weeks are incredibly important to the Student Union, the university and to all the new students at Jönköping University. It is a chance to get to know the future people you are going to spend much time with and be introduced to the city and university studies. It is incredibly important to maintain a high quality on the range of activities the Kick Off provides, but also to ensure that everyone wants, and is able to participate. Therefore, the kick off must be continuously assessed and developed in order to remain attractive and viable to as many students as possible.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work to ensure that the range of activities includes all students and encourages them to participate.
- Work with JU to evaluate and document the work and participation in the Kick Off and the Kick Off Festival with respect to all involved for future reference and development.
- Work actively for different projects under the Kick Off to adhere to IQ-project standards.
- Work for the Kick Off to not focus on alcohol consumption.

3. INTERNATIONALIZATION AND INTEGRATION

Jönköping University has a vision of being an international university by 2025. In order to be a truly international university, it is not enough to lean on numbers like number of international students, amount of partner universities across the world, courses taught in English, or how many students are annually sent on exchange semesters. When it comes to internationalization, integration is an equally important aspect. International students should moreover be offered the same opportunities, rights and possibilities as Swedish students. Furthermore, Student Union shall work for the Swedish students to be more aware of and open to the internationalization of the university, as it must come from their side at least as much as from the international students' side.

In 2019/2020 Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work to ensure that international students will be offered training in the Swedish language.
- Strive for information about rights and obligations with respect to education, housing and health care to be provided to international students by JSU, JU and the municipality and other relevant agencies.
- Lobby for JU to be mindful of intercultural factors in the provision of its services.
- Create opportunities for international students to integrate with Swedish students on and off campus.
- Ensure that all official JSU documents and all other essential information in channels such as the webpage and social media are available in British English.

4. STUDENTS' HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Good health is an important prerequisite to perform well in everyday life. Approximately 8000 students attend Jönköping University. Starting studies at university level, as well as settling in new city or country can be stressful and it is therefore important to know where to turn with regards to health issues.

Since the students at Jönköping University come from different cultures, and that we now live in a society where alcohol, sex, drugs, mental health, and stress are gaining more attention, it is important that students gain an awareness and information about these areas to advocate good health during their studies. The Student Union

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works for all members and should therefore try to work to ensure that information regarding health care and well-being is disseminated among all members.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work actively to ensure that students at Jönköping University are aware of where to turn to with questions about healthcare and well-being.
- Work to make students at Jönköping University more aware about the effects of physical and mental well-being with focus on sexual health, alcohol, narcotics, doping and stress.
- Work with JU to develop the Student Health Center in pace with the needs of a growing student body.
- Work to ensure the Student Health Center is sufficiently staffed
- Continuously assess the student body's well-being and its need for health-related services.
- Work towards the Student Health Center offering services in both English and Swedish.

5. STUDENT HOUSING

For most students the accommodation serves as both a workplace and a safe point in life. The lack of available housing in combination with prices pressured by the high demand means that students are often forced to move around on temporary sublets and in some cases, it takes over a month for new students before they manage to replace the borrowed couch with their own bed. With the current housing situation, it is very challenging for students to find accommodation in the period between the notification of admission and the start of the semester, and many failing to do so. Some even need to decline their admission due to the housing shortage, which is something the Student Union looks very negatively upon. Currently, temporary housing is a necessity at the start of the semester, but it can never be accepted as a long-term solution. However, it is in the Student Union's mission to ensure that such problems are addressed in the short-, and above all, long-term.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Strive to provide temporary housing options to new students who have not yet found accommodation before the start of their education in the form of dormitories, couch lists and other temporary solutions.
- Lobby for the development of student-friendly accommodations, so that their amount satisfies the student body's market demand and JU's plans with respect to student population growth.
- Encourage greater collaboration with landlords and other parties relevant to the student accommodation market in Jönköping.
- Continuously investigate and evaluate the student accommodation conditions in Jönköping.
- Strive for a student body that is informed about their rights with respect to tenancy laws, JU's, the municipality's and other parties accommodation systems.

5.1 Housing for international students

International students at Jönköping University are offered guaranteed accommodation by the university. The fact that the university guarantees accommodation to international students is something that the Student Union looks positively upon, but it also leads to the expectation that students shall be aware of which accommodations they are provided, as well as the conditions at which they are renting and to what standard. If the students are dissatisfied with substandard accommodation, it is favourable for neither the university nor the students. Furthermore, the Student Union sees the housing of students as a strong potential tool for increasing integration of international and domestic students, which is currently underutilised. The accommodations included in the accommodation guarantee is often not even in the same parts of Jönköping as the ones most domestic students live in.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

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- Work to ensure that information about the accommodations that are provided through the accommodation guarantee is accessible for students as early as at the speculative stage of applying.
- Work to ensure that the university's housing capacity with respect to the accommodation guarantee is a factor in the admission of international students.
- Work to ensure that the university, together with the Student Union, require the housing provided by the accommodation guarantee to be held to a satisfactory standard.
- Work towards greater integration of national and international students at student accommodations.
- Students are to be informed before they arrive at Jönköping University about the accommodation that they will be staying in. This way they will have the time to prepare how they will handle their budget for the according rent.

6. CAMPUS AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Jönköping University has a very centrally located campus, close to the urban environment and the city. The campus is a place where many students spend a considerable amount of their waking hours for scheduled studies, like lectures, seminars and labs, or private structured study time in the study rooms or open learning environments. Campus is also a gathering place for students with regards to hobbies such as social activities and training in Campus Arena. The campus is in many aspects the students' workplace where they not only choose, but are expected to spend their time, and therefore the university premises and the campus should be a pleasant and welcoming environment. The Student Union should ensure that the university has an awareness of this, and that both the maintenance and development of the campus is done with the students in mind.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Along with the university, or on their own, investigate how the students perceive their work environment and based on the results suggest measures the university should take.
- Continuously maintain an awareness of local needs the students have, to ensure that the campus development, renovation and constructions are done in accordance with the students' interests.
- Work to ensure that Campus Arena is to the largest possible extent used as a resource for students' activities and students' benefit.
- Participate in the development of the university's digital systems and ensure that it is done with an awareness of the needs of students.
- Work to assure that students have an active and inclusive campus.

7. ASSOCIATIONS AND STUDENT INITIATIVES

Leisure time is an important element in the study time and there should be including activities and engagements for all students to take part of. With the guidance of the Associations Coordinator interest associations in JSU has continued to increase in number and commitment. During the year 2017/18 the Student Union's interest associations collective reached around 600 registered members per semester. For further development and a broader range of activities, continued efforts to support the associations to become more independent practically and economically is required. This creates space and measures to start and support more interest associations.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Strive for all interest associations to be independent in daily operations.
- Support students in starting, maintaining and developing new interest associations, projects and other initiatives.
- Strive to include interest associations in events and undertakings when there is reasonable interest.
- Work to provide interest associations with venue space where they can conduct their activities, e.g. on floor 0 of the Students' House.

8. SERVICE OPERATIONS

JSU is operating three venues where activities are offered to its members. RIO in the Student's House at campus is a café/restaurant, open during daytime. In evenings and night time it serves as a venue for different social activities. Akademien is the nightclub that is open every Wednesday during the semester and for other activities for JSU's members. Sydney is the restaurant at HHJ and can also serve as a venue for different social activities. All service operations should be conducted with sustainable practice in mind – mainly referring to the selection of raw material, consumables and waste handling.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Provide services with good quality to the members at student-friendly and competitive prices.
- Offer activities that bring a positive environment to the members during their studies.
- Create venues where everybody feels welcome.
- Actively work towards having the service operations environmentally certified.

8.1 RIO AND SYDNEY

Rio and Sydney serve as restaurants and event venues. Their purpose is to work for students' welfare e.g. by providing lighter lunches or evening activities like game nights and after-school events.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Continue the development of a work procedure for evening activities. Work to ensure that JSU's facilities can be used for social activities arranged by its members.
- Continue the development of lunch operations.
- Continue to maintain a high standard in service operations.

8.2 AKADEMIEN

JSU's and foremost the students' nightclub, Akademien is a greatly appreciated gathering point for many years and is the largest faculty-independent, social meeting point for the students of Jönköping University. The nightclub has been continuously developed and has even been recognised for its conscientious alcohol culture and drug preventive work. This is something that JSU looks upon proudly.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Continue to work for Akademien to maintain a high standard as a nightclub and be available as a recreational gathering point for the students during the semester.
- Work to ensure that Akademien's facilities can be used for social activities arranged by JSU members.
- Work to ensure that Akademien maintains its alcohol-awareness and drug preventive work, adhering to IQ-project standards.
- Work towards making Akademien available for the night of celebrating of all graduation ceremonies. If two or more schools have their graduation on the same day, all schools would be given the opportunity to have their night celebrated at Akademien.

9. COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING

The purpose of JSU is to work for its members. It is therefore of highest priority that the students at Jönköping University has access to well-functioning, and for them adapted, information channels with relevant information.

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All the Student Union's areas of operations entail to provide the students with help, or information about where they can get it. It may concern health care, education, discrimination or accommodation matters. Furthermore, the communication of the organisation is in high regard a matter of profiling, which in turn has a high impact on the students' involvement in the operations, as well as the collaboration with external actors. By safeguarding one's information channels, keeping a relevant information flow for the students, and maintaining and strengthening one's brand, internally as well as externally, there are opportunities to develop collaboration with the municipality and industry.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work actively to increase the visibility of the Student Union and the students' awareness of the Student Union's work.
- Clarify information to students about where to turn to when problems arise concerning education, housing, discrimination, health care and well-being.
- Strive to develop information channels for internal and external target audiences.
- Strengthen and safeguard their brand through the arrangements the Student Union create or participate in creating together with other actors.
- Review, and possibly develop, the Student Union's current communication's plan and profile document.
- Work to maintain and create new relationships with sponsors and other business partners, to provide benefits and opportunities for the student body.
- Market the interest associations.

10. NATIONAL ADVOCACY WORK

All decisions which affect the students' lives cannot be controlled locally within the University. It is therefore important that JSU continues to be active in the national advocacy work, e.g. by participating in forums such as the Swedish National Union of Students (SFS), the E4 platform, or other national level organisations that lobby students' interests.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Actively participate and understand the SFS advocacy work on the national level and how it benefits the students in Jönköping.
- Actively represent Jönköping's students' opinion at meetings and as far as possible affect SFS work in line with Jönköping students' interest.
- Continue to develop the JSU national advocacy committee.
- Develop forums for inter-student-union collaboration, such as the E4 group.

11. ORGANISATION AND COLLABORATION

For JSU to be able to accomplish its mission, a strong and well-functioning internal organisation is required. An organisation where elected representatives are replaced annually leads to a lack of organisational memory, and it is one of many challenges of the operation. Efforts must be put into structuring the internal, creating systems that support and work well, given the challenges to continuity faced by student organisations, as well as clearly establish responsibilities and areas of operation. JSU is an organisation which requires diligent maintenance and should be given continuous review.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Continue to work on defining processes and routines that function within JSU and document them for increased continuity.

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- Organize one collaborative activity for JSU and the student associations' boards per semester.
- Work towards JSU becoming financially independent of any single revenue stream.
- Continue to develop the handover system and work for a facilitated entry into elected positions in JSU.
- Continuously work for JSU as effectively as possible to work towards its purpose and it's here outlined focus areas.
- Evaluate and maintain the standardized system for study abroad points across Jönköping University's faculties that also includes involvement within JSU.
- Continuously review and evaluate the implementation of JSU guidelines across all areas of operation, e.g. within sustainability, equal opportunity.
- The student union should work towards ensuring that the students pay the student union membership fee.

11.1 Collaboration

Much of the value provided to JSU's members are made through partnerships with external actors. The partnerships that JSU actively maintains leads to student discounts at restaurants, clothing stores, home insurances and more. External collaborations have led to the construction of more student housing, the university's awareness of students' needs and even the adjustment of public transportation schedules to accommodate Akademien nights or Kick Off activities.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Ensure that student representation is embedded in all bodies, both permanent and temporary in nature, in Jönköping University, which may be of relevance for the students.
- Keep, maintain and work to establish more collaborations within the industry and society that may be of use for JSU's member or JSU as an organisation.

12. EQUAL TREATMENT AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

In Jönköping University there are students with different gender, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation, and age.

It is JSU's responsibility to represent all the students and it is important to work towards an inclusive environment. Still, JSU must be aware that those norms can lead to discrimination of some. To counteract against discrimination, JSU should work actively towards that all students at Jönköping University should feel included and equally treated in their education, in social context, and in their study environment.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work to organize events promoting equality.
- Actively educate and involve all students in equal treatment and anti-discrimination.
- Work towards raising awareness and promoting fair treatment and equal opportunity values.
- Actively work towards equal opportunity in higher education.
- Continuously evaluate and reflect upon JSU's work regarding equal opportunity.
- Further develop an equal treatment policy and implement it in the organisation.
- Keep a continuous dialogue with JU to develop procedures for cases within discrimination, equal opportunity and other similar hazards.
- Work together with JU to create a strategy plan for dealing with any cases within Equal Treatment.
- Work toward that all students should feel welcome and able to participate in all JSU's organised activities.

13. ISBSB

The ISBSB is the “International Student Barometer: Student Barometer”. It is a tool for the universities all around the world that measures the perceived quality in a couple of categories like for example the welcome period, social activities, teachers’ pedagogy, places to study and so on. When the results have been summarized the universities will be ranked, international and national, according to how the students answer in the different categories. JSU wants our school to be the best in everything. Thus, Jönköping University will assign resources to the categories that need improvements.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work together with Jönköping University to develop the ISBSB survey and make sure that the opinion of the students’ is the biggest part of decision-making process.
- Evaluate the students’ opinions from the ISBSB and implement changes in JSU according to them.

14. SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is a central matter for the university, the students, and JSU. JSU places an equal importance on the three aspects of sustainability and therefore, should work toward making the university more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. JSU is committed to being ethically minded and reducing the negative and increasing the positive impact our organisation has on the environment. Through continuous review JSU aims to show a continuous improvement in its actions, behaviours and initiatives.

In 2019/2020, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Maintain and develop sustainability guidelines for all areas of operations.
- Relevant associations will be involved and included throughout the process of the continuation of these guidelines.