

# Propositions By-Laws





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## **Proposition I**

### **Membership in SESUS**

#### **Background**

SESUS is a non-profit organisation (NGO) which is religiously and politically independent and that supports student-, education- and interest associations. Their focus is on people under the age of 26, but everyone is welcome. They currently have about 20,500 members.

SESUS is a federation which receive financial support from the Swedish government, which they in turn distribute to the member associations based on how many members under the age of 26 the members association have.

As a member association in SESUS, one also has the possibility to apply for project grants and they have a large equipment bank where the members can lend a vast number of different equipment free of charge. SESUS also offer services within booking facilities, membership cards and webhosting.

The member association is only required to yearly report in administrative information in the terms of number of members, by-laws, plan of operation and the annual report to get the yearly grant. To get the project grant, one hands in an application containing more details about the project one wish to receive a grant for.

#### **Motivation**

As a member of SESUS, JSU will have an additional income stream which requires very little resources in return. SESUS bases the yearly grant on how many members who are under the age of 26, however once the grant is given, JSU can use it for the benefit of all members. Apart from the extra income, the JSU Board sees a great potential to support the study-social projects in terms of the possibility of applying for project grants and borrowing items from the equipment bank.

#### **The Board propose that the General Meeting approves:**

1. JSU as a member of the federation SESUS.

2. **To add:**  
*“JSU is a member of SESUS”*

**In:**  
By-Laws, Chapter 1, paragraph “1. Introduction”, row 90



**Proposition 2**  
**Leave the editing of JSU Organisation Rules to the Board**

**Background**

JSU Organisational Rules was created in spring 2020 and has the purpose to ensure clear regulations of the daily operations of JSU. The By-laws stipulate that the steering document is the JSU Boards responsibility.

JSU Organisational Rules has been revised 3 times from June 2020 to March 2021 and the JSU board expects that it will be updated 2 more times until July 2021.

JSU Organisational Rules is a newly instituted steering document and in the beginning a steering document is usually more frequently updated.

JSU Organisation Rules must be a living document and there is a chance of frequent changes as it must stay updated with the ever-changing daily operations.

**Motivation:**

JSU Organisational Rules concerns the daily operations, as such, it must be adapted to minor as well as major changes that occurs in the daily operations. The JSU Board sees the risk that this may result in a vast number of changes, which in turn will require substantial time to keep track on, to report back to the General Meeting. The JSU Board believes that the time spent on keeping track on the changes in that way can be better spent. Additionally, the General Meeting has delegated the responsibility for the daily operations to the JSU Board and the requirement to report back via the Annual Report is sufficient.

The JSU Board believes there could be a possibility to develop the annual report if the members wish to have more information on how JSU is operated. In addition to this the JSU Organisation Rules shall as stipulated by the by-laws always be available for the members which gives insight to this continuously.

**The Board propose that the General Meeting approves:**

**To remove:**

“If the JSU Organisational Rules are edited during the organisational year this shall be reported to the General Meeting”

**From:**

By-Laws, Chapter 2, paragraph “1.3 JSU organisational rules”, row 170



**Proposition 3  
The whole organisations responsibility**

**Motivation:**

Letter of Opinion is a document which covers all areas which JSU operates in and therefore the JSU Board believes it shall be followed by everyone working for JSU, remunerated as well as employees.

The JSU Board and JSU Presidium has the responsibility to delegate tasks to the rest of the organisation and shall in every decision, including the decision to delegate, consider the Letter of Opinion. This could be interpreted as that the rest of the organisation is guided by the Letter of Opinion. However, the JSU Board believes that it is important that the Letter of Opinion is a document used by the whole organisation in the daily operations and therefore propose to adjust the sentence in the by-laws.

**The Board propose that the General Meeting approves:**

**To remove:**

“The Letter of Opinion states JSU’s opinions, which shall direct decisions made by the JSU Board or JSU Presidium”

**To add:**

“The Letter of Opinion states JSU’s opinions, which shall direct decisions of the whole organisation.”

**In:**

By-Laws, Chapter 2, point “1.4 *Letter of Opinion*”, row 195



## **Proposition: By-Laws**

Proposition 4 – Remove the name “the Directorate”

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### **Proposition 4 Remove the name “the Directorate”**

#### **Motivation:**

The Directorate's main function was to discuss the service operations and decisions related to it, but as JSU hired a Service Operation Manager in 2018, the forum was no longer relevant for the organisation and was therefore removed by the JSU Presidium. The JSU Board believes that the By-laws should not refer to something that no longer exists and therefore the name should be removed all through the By-laws.

#### **The Board propose that the General Meeting approves:**

##### **To remove:**

The name “the Directorate” through out the By-laws and adjust the sentences accordingly.



**Proposition 5  
Rights of employees at the Annual meeting**

**Motivation**

The Student Union as an organisation advocates for students' rights and shall operate accordingly to what its members decide upon the Annual meeting. The persons who are the driving force in the different student questions are students, some of them as volunteers and others as full-time remunerated. Following this, the JSU Board believes it contradictive to the core idea, by students – for students, of the Union, that the employees of the Student Union can put forward proposals at the Annual Meeting.

The employees are still involved in the creating of the next plan of operation and have continuously the right to express their opinions of the operations internally to the JSU Presidium and JSU Board. The JSU Board believes that this is sufficient and does not interfere with the idea that students shall determine what JSU as an organisation do.

The JSU Board believes that there is still need for the employees to be able to attend and speak at the meeting. The employees should be able to stay informed about the decisions that will affect the organisation and they should be able to answer questions from the meeting or assist the JSU board in presentations or clarifications.

**The Board propose that the General Meeting approves:**

**To remove:**

“All regular members of JSU have the right to attend, speak and make proposals at the General Meeting. The same rights are granted employees and remunerated of JSU.”

**To add:**

“All regular members and remunerated of JSU and have the right to attend, speak and make proposals at the General Meeting. Employees of JSU have the right to attend and speak at the meeting.”

**In:**

By-Laws, Chapter 3, point *1.8 Rights at the General Meeting*, row 461



## **Proposition 6-8**

### **Background**

The JSU Board currently consists of 11 members where 7 of these are so called student representatives, in other words students who are members of the board voluntary. 4 of these 7 student representatives are so called faculty representatives. The other 4 positions are the President, Vice President, JSU Alumni and JU Representative. These four have the task of representing the students, however as they are not volunteers, they are therefore not considered as student representatives in the context of the board.

During the last years, JSU has had difficulties filling the entire JSU Board, even after 1-2 by-elections. It has been especially difficult to find faculty representatives from JTH and HHJ.

The JSU Board can see that several factors have an influence on this result. For one, JSU has struggled with communicating what the organisation does and what the JSU boards tasks are. The JSU Board believes that students will not apply for a position in which information is not sufficient. However, the JSU board believes that the communication issues are only one factor and that there are possibilities to clarify and make the JSU board position more attractive for students by amending parts of the by-laws.

The JSU Board has experienced and received information from students as well as the student associations that it is unclear what the tasks of the JSU Board are and not merely from a marketing perspective but the tasks themselves. It has also become clear that the mandate periods of 2 and 3 years is a factor that have discouraged many candidates from applying. In addition to this, the function of faculty representatives as four positions in the board does not fulfil a purpose, and these positions are the hardest to find any candidates for which has led to the JSU Board questioning if there is a more effective option in regard to the constellation of the board.

Following this the JSU Board proposes three different propositions.





**Proposition 6  
New constellation of the JSU Board**

**Motivation:**

**Motivation for removal of faculty representatives**

The current constellation of the JSU Board is based on that each faculty has a representative in the board. However, these positions have been the most difficult positions to fill during the Annual Meeting, as well as the by-elections. The difficulties in electing certain faculty representatives have left the board more fragile from the perspective of student influence. JSU is built upon the idea: by students – for students. The students express this by the Annual Meeting but also by the JSU Board and if the board is left without student representatives it leaves JSU Board without the input from those the organisation shall work for.

From the JSU Boards experience from as far back as the board members memory reaches (2-3 years), the faculty perspective that these four positions can offer has not been essential for the decisions taken by the Board. Most of the decisions or questions that the JSU Board handles concern the internal organisation where the faculty perspective is unnecessary.

In addition to this, the faculty perspective as expressed in the by-laws, is only an extra perspective. In the by-laws it is clearly stated that all board members have the task of representing all students and the JSU Board believes this is the most important part to fulfil.

The JSU Board also see a risk of electing less capable candidates if it is difficult to elect students for certain faculties, as one might reason that it is better to have any representatives instead of none. From the boards experience this is not the case and it's more damaging to have an unsuitable person on a position, rather than leaving the position vacant.

Following this the JSU board believes that it would not harm the organisation or the students who JSU shall represent and work for, by removing the requirement of faculty representatives. The JSU Board believes it would rather be to the benefit of all if the board positions are filled each year and with students who have an interest in working for the JSU purpose, regardless of which faculty they belong to.

**Motivation for the new constellation**

As already mentioned, JSU is an organisation for students and shall thereby also be run by students' opinions which is why the Board believes that the student representatives in the board shall have the possibility of being in the majority.

The JSU Board believes that the current 4 non-student representatives (President, Vice President, JSU Alumni and JU Representative) should remain in the board and following this and the reasoning above the minimum number of student representatives in the board should be 5. The current constellation gives a total of 7 student representative, however the JSU Board has been unable to find any specific purpose of having two additional representatives. The board has struggled with filling 7 student positions previously and therefore believes it would be unwise to add 2 extra student representatives which have no clear purpose.



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### **Proposition 6 – New constellation of the JSU Board**

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Since the requirement of faculty representatives is removed, the current structure of electing those positions at the student associations bi-annual meetings is no longer necessary. All JSU board members should instead be elected at the JSU Annual General Meeting or through the by-election process if necessary.

#### **Motivation for changing the quorum criteria**

The current quorum criterion is that at least half of the elected board shall be present to be able to vote.

As the board has had difficulties finding student representative during the past year this has resulted in that quorum is reached when 4 board members are present, and thereby open for the possibility of taking decision without student representatives present.

Following this, the JSU Board proposes to add an additional criterion for when quorum is reached to ensure that no decisions can be taken without the perspective from the students. Therefore, the proposal is that one member from the presidium and two student representatives must be present in addition to that a least half of the elected board is.

The JSU Board sees the purpose of having at least one member the Presidium present as they possess vital information as a result of managing the daily operations, which the board needs in order to take decisions. Additionally, the President is the chairperson, and the Vice President resumes this responsibility of the president if the same is absent and it's the chairperson's responsibility to lead the meeting and therefore one of these should be present at every meeting.

If the board has no student representatives or only one, it will prevent the Board from taking any decisions, including electing any student representatives in by-elections. This means JSU can take short-term daily operations decisions but not long-term strategic decisions.

Therefore, the JSU Board proposes an exception to the quorum. If the quorum criterion cannot be achieved that board constellation shall be allowed to take decisions to perform by-elections or call for an extra general meeting with the purpose of electing board members.

#### **The result of approving this proposition**

The result of approving this proposition would be that the student associations are no longer in charge of electing any board member.

As the current by-laws are valid until the Annual meeting takes a new decision it means that the student associations might be able to elect the faculty representatives already. If this proposition is approved, these representatives will keep their position in the board but will be named only as student representatives. If no faculty representative(s) have been elected until the Annual General Meeting and the JSU Board are still missing board members after the Annual meeting, the Nomination Committee of JSU is responsible for the by-election of the remaining student representatives up to the number of 9 Board members.

According to the current by-laws, regular board members shall be elected at the Annual meeting in May, which means that if this proposition is approved and if all elections are successful the board would consist of 11 members which would contradict the new by-laws. The JSU Board suggestion is that everyone elected keeps their position and that the number



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### **Proposition 6 – New constellation of the JSU Board**

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of 9 members becomes active either when the board has less than 9 members or when the positions mandate periods are over.

#### **The Board propose that the General Meeting approves:**

##### **To remove:**

From Chapter 3, row 590-630:

- point 3.2 Constellation of the Board
- point 3.2.1 Faculty Representative
- point 3.2.2 Board Member

From Chapter 3, row 662-663:

- point 4.2.1 Voting

##### **To add:**

In Chapter 3, from row 590:

#### **3.2 Constellation of the JSU Board**

The constellation of the JSU Board is:

- JSU President
- JSU Vice President
- One JSU Alumni
- One JU representative
- Five Student Representatives

The total number of board members shall be 9.

Each member of the JSU Board has one vote each, if a JSU Board member cannot attend their vote is transferred to their deputy Board member if such exist.

Terms of office:

- Starts on the first day of the operational year (1<sup>st</sup> of July).
- Ends on the last day of the operational year one year later (30<sup>th</sup> of June).

The JU Representative is excepted from this term of office and is a member as long as the person is appointed by JU.

##### **3.2.1 Student Representative**

The Student Representative must be a current JU-student when elected.



### **3.2.2 JSU Alumni**

The JSU Alumni shall not be a JU-student when the operational year starts for which the position has a mandate period.

### **3.2.3 JU Representative**

JU has the right to the 11<sup>th</sup> board position and can freely nominate a person for this position. The JSU Board must approve the nomination before the person can assume the position. If the JSU Board do not approve the person JU must present another nomination.

In Chapter 3, from row 662:

### **4.2.2 Voting**

A quorum is reached when at least half the members of the elected JSU Board are present. Out of the attending members at least one member of the Presidium and two student representatives shall be present for quorum to be reached.

If the conditions for quorum cannot be reached the JSU Board has the right to:

- announce and hold by-elections for the vacant board positions.
- call and prepare for a general meeting with the purpose of electing the vacant board positions.

Under these circumstances, quorum is reached when at least half of the elected JSU Board is present.

If the numbers of votes are equal, the question is decided by lot.

All elections of people shall use anonymous ballot voting.



**Proposition 7**  
**Shorter Mandate Periods**

If proposition 6 is approved, this proposition is withdrawn.

**Background**

From the JSU Boards personal experience from the last years, potential candidates have been reluctant to take on a position which lasts for more than one year and in many cases, this has resulted in that the person have not applied at all.

In addition to this, the JSU Board has seen that students who only have one or two years left of their studies feel that there is no point of applying since they will not be students during parts of the mandate periods of two and three years.

**Motivation:**

The JSU board believes that the mandate periods should never be a hinderance for students to apply to the JSU Board. In addition, the JSU Board believes that it would give the students and the board more if the board members where experienced students in terms of involvement in the student-life, which can only be achieved after one or two years, even if they only stay for one year. Inexperienced students take more resources and have a longer learning curve even if they can stay for a longer time period.

The JSU Board also believes it's easier to work with encouraging students to re-apply rather than trying to convince already discouraged students from applying to two- or three-year mandates.

**The Board propose that the General Meeting approves:**

**To remove:** Under chapter 3, row 620-622 and 627-629:

**3.2.1 Faculty representatives**

Terms for the Faculty representative:

Starts on the first day of the operational year (1<sup>st</sup> of July).

Ends on the last day of the operational year two years later (30<sup>th</sup> of June).

**3.2.2 Board member**

Terms for the Board Member:

- Starts on the first day of the operational year (1<sup>st</sup> of July).
- Ends on the last day of the operational year three years later (30<sup>th</sup> of June).

**To Add:**

Under chapter 3, point 3.2.1 Faculty representatives and point 3.2.2 Board member:



Terms of office:

- Starts on the first day of the operational year (1<sup>st</sup> of July).
- Ends on the last day of the operational year one year later (30<sup>th</sup> of June).

Under chapter 3:

### **3.2.4 JSU Alumni**

The JSU Alumni shall not be a JU-student when the operational year starts for which the position has a mandate period.

Terms of office:

- Starts on the first day of the operational year (1<sup>st</sup> of July).
- Ends on the last day of the operational year one year later (30<sup>th</sup> of June).

The following paragraph will have their number adjusted accordingly.



## **Proposition 8** **The tasks of the Board**

### **Motivation**

Currently it looks like the essential tasks are preparing matters for the general meeting. In order to prepare matters well it requires that one has good knowledge of the current state as well as of the previous state of the organisation and the strategic direction of the organisation. However, it is vital that the board not only understands these things but actively takes decisions to ensure the decisions made at an annual meeting are executed. This results in delegating tasks and responsibilities, continuously follow - up on the progress and ensuring that the organisation has the conditions needed to achieve the goals.

The JSU Board believes this should be clearer in the tasks and the distinctions are important.

### **The Board propose that the General Meeting approves:**

**To remove** under chapter 3, row 570-589:

#### **3.1 Tasks**

The JSU Board is tasked:

- WITH representing all students at JU
- WITH preparing matters for consideration by the General Meeting
- WITH stating Board's opinions on motions and interpellations submitted for consideration by the General Meeting
- WITH proposing an agenda for the General Meeting
- WITH answering to the General Meeting in matters regarding to the financial situation of JSU
- WITH executing the decisions made by the General Meeting
- WITH proposing a budget to the General Meeting
- WITH establishing an internal budget for the organisation and enforcing it
- WITH writing the annual report and the financial report
- WITH appointing officials as required by these by-laws
- WITH within the limitations of the budget, engaging and dismissing persons employed by JSU, creating job descriptions to establish the tasks of the employees, and assuming responsibility for their work
- WITH holding any elections not stated in these by-laws
- WITH proposing a plan of operations for the coming year of operations of JSU
- WITH establishing and issuing guidelines for JSU Committees
- TO exercise any further powers laid down in these by-laws

**To add** under chapter 3:

#### **3.1 Tasks**

The JSU Board is tasked with:

- representing all students at JU.
- answering to the General Meeting in matters regarding the financial and organisational situation.
- preparing matters for consideration by the General Meeting such as:



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### Proposition 8 – The tasks of the Board

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- proposing an agenda for the General Meeting.
  - proposing a budget to the General Meeting.
  - writing the annual report.
  - approving the financial report.
  - proposing a plan of operations
  - stating the Board's opinions on motions and interpellations submitted for consideration by the General Meeting.
  - any other matters deemed necessary by the board.
- executing the decisions made by the General Meeting which includes:
    - delegating goals, tasks and responsibilities internally to employees, remunerated and other bodies in JSU.
    - following-up on the performance and state of the organisation.
    - ensuring that the organisation has the internal conditions to work in to be able to achieve the goals and tasks.
  - upholding and developing the steering frameworks of JSU.
  - holding any elections not stated in these by-laws.
  - within the limitations of the budget, hiring and dismissing persons employed by JSU.
  - approve role descriptions for the employees and full-time remunerated.