

Plan of operations for Jönköping Student Union, 2018/2019

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INTRODUCTION

The Jönköping Student Union is an association of students at Jönköping University and its purpose is to work towards high quality of education and a good study social environment. The Student Union shall represent all students at Jönköping University.

The goal of the Student Union is for all students at Jönköping University, national and international students alike, to receive an education of high quality and relevance for their future profession, as well as to have a fun and engaging time of studies. The University is well-anchored in the local industry and is having a long-term orientation. In combination with keeping the students' interests in mind, the University has good prerequisites to provide a rewarding education and time of studies.

The Student Union shall participate and work actively within the community and on all levels within Jönköping University to strive for higher quality of education and good study social environment. By raising the interest of the students in various bodies of authority, the Student Union works for development of the followingly outlined focus areas.

The Student Union aspires to be at the forefront with regards to internationalization. The Student Union aims to be a strong and independent organization acting in service of the students' interests with a high level of cross-faculty involvement.

The Student Union's operations shall be imbued with open, current and easily available information towards the students at Jönköping University.

DISPOSITION

The plan of operations dictates which areas shall be directed by the Board during the year of activities 2018/2019. The plan of operations is to be considered a steering document for the entire operation of the Student Union and is established by the Annual General Meeting. The board is entitled to interpret and actualize the plan of operations with the help of the other documents that form the foundation of the organization, 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 the Student Union to participate and be involved in matters that affect education and students' environment.

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Strive for teachers to have pedagogical competence
- Strive for teachers to have competence of the language of the course they intend to teach

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 less good by students. The Student Union and the students at Jönköping University have a responsibility towards

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the University to evaluate the education so that it continually improves. This should take place by each class having course developers who have an extra responsibility to report to the course responsible which areas that are subject for improvement and which ones that are satisfactory. The Student Union has the responsibility to annually ensure 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 clearly elected by their student peers which they are representing. 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 the Student Union it is important that significant information do not remain in any individual group of students, but is provided to the Student Union and its Head of Education.

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Continue to develop clear faculty transcending instructions for course developers.
- Working towards having each group of students democratically electing their own representatives as course developers.
- Work towards a more accessible contact between students and course developers, through contact information via internet for example.
- Demand that results and possible action taken based on earlier years' course evaluations are presented at the beginning of each course in accordance with current regulations of Jönköping University.
- Establish a clear contact between course developers and Heads of Education Quality.
- Actively work to increase the quality and quantity of course evaluations.
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1.2 EXAMINATIONS

The Student Union 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 actually perform during an examination. This is something that students from all faculties are positive towards and thus, it is also something which Jönköping Student Union shall continue working with.

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Actively work towards the implementation of legally secure examination
- Work towards all students receiving equal assessment, independently of examiner.
- Ensure that anonymous examinations are applied on all occasions deemed practically possible.
- Actively work towards exam-free weekends

2. STUDYSOCIAL

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

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Promote an inclusive alcohol culture where alcohol is not a central part of the social context.
- Develop the supply of study social activities with the aim to attract those who are not already actively involved to engage in student life at Jönköping University.
- Organize an “associations’ day” after each Kick Off where all active associations are given the opportunity to exhibit their activities so that students at Jönköping University are easily able to take part of the range of activities available in the Student Union, now called “Student Life Fair”.
- In order to expand the organized travel activities, review the student union’s capacity to do so and the student’s interest in a greater variety of destinations.
- Actively arrange events with the aim to integrate students of different nationalities and raise awareness of cultural similarities and differences (such as culture days and language cafés).
- Work actively to ensure that all students, regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, ethnicity, religion, other belief or disability, should feel welcome and able to participate in the activities, and that no one should feel discriminated against or excluded.

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 are able to, participate. Therefore, one must be self-critical in ones planning and continually review opportunities for improvement, if certain events are suitable for all types of students or if there is something that can be done differently.

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work to ensure that the range of activities is as broad as possible, with the aim to cater to students’ interests.
- Evaluate and document the work and participation in the Kick Off with respect to all involved for future reference and recap.
- Work actively for different projects under the Kick Off to be classified as an IQ-project.
- Work for alcohol consumption not being in focus during the Kick Off.
- With collaboration with Jönköping University evaluate and develop Kick Off Festival

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 amount of international students, amount of partner universities across the world, courses taught in English, or how many students are annually send 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 2018/19 Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work to ensure that international students to a greater extent will be offered training in the Swedish language to ensure students are not inhibited by the language barrier of not speaking Swedish.
- Make it easier for international students to get information about their rights and obligations with respect to education, housing and health care.
- Work to ensure that teachers in classes with international students receive intercultural training by the university, in order to promote integration in the classroom during studies.
- Work to ensure that teachers who teach in a language other than their mother tongue has well documented language skills in the subject area.
- Actively create opportunities for international students to integrate with Swedish students and the Swedish society, for example through contact families and the buddy programs.
- Ensure that all students get opportunities for integration on campus between schools, associations and with Student Union as well as with other students, regardless of geographical or cultural background.
- Ensure that all official documents in the Student Union are available in British English as well as all other essential information in channels such as the webpage and social media.

4. STUDENTS' HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Good health is an important prerequisite to perform well in everyday life. Approximately 8000 students study at Jönköping University, both national and international students. Starting studies at university level, as well as arriving to a 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 all the 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 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 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work actively to ensure that students at Jönköping University are aware of where to turn to with questions about health-care and well-being.
- Work to make students at Jönköping University more aware regarding physical and mental well-being with focus on sexual health, alcohol, narcotics, doping and stress.
- Work to make the university allocate enough resources to the Student Health Center in order to accommodate the students' growing need.
 - o Work to make sure that there is at least one full-time nurse.
 - o Work to ensure that there are at least three full-time counselors.
- Overseeing that the investigation of students' need and their well-being with respect to health-related issues, in consultation with the Student Health Center. Previous years' survey questions should be used as the basis for being able to create long-term statistics.
- Continue developing Let's Talk.
- Work towards the student health center having more events regarding student health and well-being available in English.

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 fail 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 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work to ensure that temporary housing is provided to new students who have not yet found accommodation before the start of the semester in the form of dormitories, couch lists or other solutions.
- Work to ensure that the number of student-friendly accommodations grows with the goal that the number of accommodations correspond to the size of the student population.
- Be aware and proactively against discrimination in housing situations.
- Encourage greater collaboration with landlords in Jönköping, as well as the tenants' association.
- Investigate the student housing situation in Jönköping by re-using and developing the questionnaire survey conducted after the Kick Off week in the autumn. Summarize the results and compare data to previous years.
- Ensure that information regarding relevant basic housing laws, and reasonable rent, is available and current in order to be able to be able to support students.

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 favorable 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 not used. The accommodations included in the accommodation guarantee is often not even in the same parts of Jönköping as the ones the majority of Swedish students live in.

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work to ensure that information about the accommodations that are provided through the accommodation guarantee is accessible already for speculative students.
- Work to ensure that information about the university's regulations and policies with regard to the housing guarantee is accessible already for speculative students.

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- Work to ensure that the university's housing capacity with regard to the accommodation guarantee is a factor in the admission of international students.
- Work to ensure that the university, together with the Student Union, actively review the housing provided by the accommodation guarantee and ensure they are satisfactory.
- Work towards greater integration of national and international student accommodations.

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 2018/19, 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 possible measures the university should undertake.
- 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 including 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 Jönköping Student Union 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 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work to make existing interest associations more independent in daily operations.
- Support students in starting, maintaining and developing new interest associations, projects and other initiatives.
- Make effort to cooperate and include its associations in events and other operations and evaluate the possible co-operations until next Annual Meeting.

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. The café/restaurant at HHJ is open during daytime. In evenings and night time it serves as a venue for different social activities. Sustainability shall be a beacon for the operations. This refers to the selection of raw material, consumables and waste handling.

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Provide services with good quality to the members to “student friendly” 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 environmental certified.

8.1 FLOOR 0

8.1.1 RIO

During the year of operations 15/16 renovations and construction of a kitchen at Rio was initiated. The purpose is to increase the service operations for students with lighter lunches and the possibility for more evening activities, like game nights, after-school events and similar events/activities.

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Continue the development of a work procedure for evening activities. Work to ensure that Rio's facilities can be used for social activities arranged by the members of the Student Union.
- Continue the development of the lunch operations.
- Continue to work for Rio to maintain a good standard as a café/pub and be available as a recreational gathering point for the students during the course of the semester.
- Continue improve the sustainability in Rio

8.1.2 FACILITIES ON FLOOR 0

During the year of operations 16/17 the opportunity to rent facilities at floor 0 arises. The place can be used for all Student Union associations as a hangout area and area for them to practice their operations.

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Actively work to assure that these facilities on floor 0 will be developed in the interest of the Student Union associations.

8.2 AKADEMIEN

The Student Union's and foremost the students' nightclub, Akademien, has been a highly appreciated gathering point for many years and is the largest faculty-independent, social meeting point for the students at Jönköping University. The nightclub has continually been developed and even been rewarded for its responsible serving of alcohol, and its drug preventive work. This is something that the Student Union looks proudly upon.

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

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- Continue to work for Akademien to maintain a good standard as a nightclub and be available as a recreational gathering point for the students during the course of the semester.
- Work to ensure that Akademien's facilities can be used for social activities arranged by the members of the Student Union.
- Work to ensure that Akademien maintains its alcohol awareness work, and its drug preventive work to a standard where it can be classified as an IQ-project.
- 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.

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. The café/restaurant at HHJ is open during daytime. In evenings and night time it serves as a venue for different social activities.

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Provide services with good quality to the members to "student friendly" prices.
- Offer activities that brings positive experiences to the members during their studies.
- Actively create a welcoming environment for all the members.

9. COMMUNICATION

The purpose of Jönköping Student Union 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. All of 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 organization 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 ones brand, internally as well as externally, there are opportunities to develop collaboration with the municipality and industry.

In 2018/19, 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.

10. NATIONAL ADVOCACY WORK

All decisions which affect the students' lives cannot be controlled locally within the University. It is therefore important that the Student Union continues to be active and participate in the national advocacy work controlled by the Swedish National Union of Students (SFS).

In 2018/19, 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 Student Union SFS committee.
- Work to identify hidden expenses with regards to education and strive towards their future elimination.

11. ORGANIZATION AND COLLABORATION

For the Student Union to be able to provide above mentioned services, or accomplish above mentioned missions, a strong and well-functioning internal organization is required. An organization where elected representatives are replaced annually leads to a lack of organizational memory, and it is one of many challenges in the operations. In the year of operations 15/16, much effort was put into structuring the internal, to create systems and procedures which promotes continuity and to clearly establish responsibilities and areas of operation. The Student Union is an organization which requires maintenance in itself and that is something that should be worked upon continuously.

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Continue to work on defining processes and routines that function within the Student Union and document them for increased continuity.
- Organize one collaborative activity for Jönköping Student Union and the student associations' boards per semester.
- Work towards the Student Union becoming financially independent of any single revenue stream.
- Continue to develop the handover system and work for a facilitated entry into elected positions in the Student Union.
- Continuously work for the Student Union as effectively as possible to work towards its purpose and it's here outlined focus areas.
- Continuously develop the standardized system for study abroad points across Jönköping University's faculties that also includes involvement within the Student Union.
- Set a minimum amount that should be a buffer in the student union's account.

11.2 Collaboration

Much of the value provided to the Student Union's members are made through partnerships with external actors. The partnerships that the Student Union actively maintains leads to student discounts at restaurants, clothing stores, home insurances and more. They lead to the construction of more student housing, that the university's development

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takes place with a strong awareness of the needs of students and even the local public transport buses running a little bit later in the evening for all students to be able to take part of the Kick Off week.

In 2018/19, 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 the Student Union's member or the Student Union as an organization.

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 has to 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 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work together with Jönköping University to organize events promoting equality.
- Actively educate and involve all students in equal treatment and anti-discrimination.
- Actively work towards equal treatment in higher education.
- Continuously evaluate and reflect upon JSU's work regarding equal treatment.
- Add equal treatment into the Policy Document.
- Further develop an equal treatment policy and implement it in the organization.
- Work together with the university management to proactively deal with sexual harassment.
- Work together with JU to create a strategy plan for dealing with any cases within Equal Treatment.

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 2018/19, 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. The student union places an equal importance on the three aspects of sustainability and therefore, should work toward making the university more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. The Student Union is committed to being ethically minded and reducing the negative and increasing the positive impact our organisation has on the environment. Through continuous review the Student Union aims to show a continuous improvement in its actions, behaviours and initiatives.

In 2018/19, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Create and develop continuously sustainability guidelines.
- The association students for sustainable action and any other relevant associations will be involved and included throughout the process of the continuation of these guidelines.