

Jönköping Student Union

Letter of Opinion

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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction.....	3
2.	Basic outlook of the Student Union	3
2.1	Student influence	4
2.2	Compulsory student union membership	4
3.	Recruitment, admission and selection	5
3.1	Recruitment	5
3.2	Admissions	5
3.3	Selection and selection criteria.....	6
4.	Reception of students	6
4.1	Academic introduction	6
5.	Housing.....	7
6.	Education and its forms	7
6.1	Commissioned education	7
6.2	Education programs and courses	8
6.3	Teaching/pedagogics	8
6.4	Placements and internships.....	9
6.5	Course literature.....	9
6.6	Course development, follow-ups and feedback	10
6.7	Examinations.....	10
6.8	Degrees.....	11
6.9	Academic freedom	11
7.	Internationalization.....	11
7.1	Education and research at Jönköping University.....	11
7.2	Studying abroad and doing research outside of Sweden.....	12
7.3	Integration	12
7.4	The Bologna Process.....	13
7.4.1	ECTS	13
8.	Student health and Social security.....	13
8.1	Student health care	13

8.2	Social insurance/ health insurance system	14
9.	Anti-Discrimination, Diversity, Integration, and Equal Treatment	14
9.1	Discrimination issues	14
9.2	Diversity.....	15
9.3	Integration.....	15
9.4	Equal Treatment	15
10.	Work environment and study environment.....	15
11.	Student aid.....	16
	Student aid in general	17
	Regarding studies abroad	17
	Repayment of loans	17
12.	Doctoral education	17
13.	Transparency.....	18

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the policy document of the Jönköping Student Union is to provide the Board with the prerequisites for making good decisions which are based on the interests of the members of the Student Union. The policy document may well be used by the members of the Jönköping Student Union to gain insight into the specific operational area of the Student Union, by the committees of the Student Union to establish goals in their work, and also toward the University and external decision-makers.

The policy document should be revised once per year to stay current and alive. The entire policy document shall work as a basis for the plan of operations and other documents the Jönköping Student Union works with continuously.

2. BASIC OUTLOOK OF THE STUDENT UNION

The basic outlook of the Jönköping Student Union rests on the right of individuals to education and puts the individual student at the center. No one shall have to relinquish higher education because of e.g. gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, ethnicity religion, other belief or disability. Everyone shall have actual equal rights, obligations and opportunities where the legal protection of the individual student is safeguarded at all times.

The State bears the entire responsibility for higher education. In this responsibility it is implied that the State assumes overall responsibility for providing the students of the country with good social and financial conditions during their period of study. These conditions are one prerequisite for the student being able to benefit from of his/her period of study.

The academic environment shall create the conditions for meetings between the first, second cycle and third cycles and the student shall be seen as a co-actor in the education and shall be able to influence both planning and realization of the education.

The Jönköping Student Union takes a positive position on the organization of the University in the form of a foundation and is not of the opinion that the State must be directly responsible for the University in order for the University to have the right to award degrees in higher education. The local regulations at Jönköping University shall be as beneficial to the students as are the regulations laid down in the Higher Education

Jönköping Student Union Letter of Opinion

Ordinance – which includes safeguarding the legal protection of the individual student, regardless of who is responsible for the University.

Regarding students who pay tuition fees and who are from non-EU/EES countries, the opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is that these students are not to be treated any differently than the rest of student population regarding reception or services offered. Because the introduction of education subject to tuition fees in the Swedish educational system may be seen as a first step toward subjecting higher education in general to tuition fees, the Jönköping Student Union also encourages the abolishment of those fees.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that higher education shall be free of charge for all students

that No one shall have to relinquish higher education because of e.g. gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, ethnicity religion, other belief or disability.

2.1 STUDENT INFLUENCE

Through the Jönköping Student Union, student representatives shall gain seats on the decision-making bodies and committees of the University. It is important for the University to encourage student influence and facilitate students' opportunities to participate in the quality improvement work.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that the University shall actively facilitate the influence of the students both on their own education and on the student welfare situation

that the University shall encourage students to be involved in both their studies and their spare time

that students always shall be granted postponement of studies to work actively in the Jönköping Student Union

that resuming studies shall be facilitated and when granting continued *student* aid, the time spent working for the Jönköping Student Union shall be taken into account

that a student who has been offered a place on a student exchange program shall have a place on the exchange program next year if he/she chooses to work for the Jönköping Student Union instead of going on the exchange

2.2 COMPULSORY STUDENT UNION MEMBERSHIP

On July 1st 2010, compulsory student union membership was abolished for all state-owned universities and university colleges. Because Jönköping University is owned by a foundation, the members of the Jönköping Student Union are not subject to the regulation regarding student unions, student nations and student organizations at universities and university colleges that used to regulate compulsory student union membership. To ensure a continued student influence at Jönköping University, the foundation has decided to instate compulsory membership in the Jönköping Student Union for all students at Jönköping University. This is regulated in "Regulations on first-cycle education at Jönköping University".

Further, it is important that the national student influence and lobby, today largely upheld by the Swedish National Union of Students (SFS), is maintained and that the Jönköping Student Union continues to be active.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that the financial status of student unions must remain stable in order to ensure equivalent student influence.

that compulsory student union membership has been a successful form of raising funds and should remain.

that the student union should act toward becoming financially independent of the revenue that is the mandatory student union membership without damaging the current level of operations

Jönköping Student Union Letter of Opinion

that the school should actively support the Student Union in implementing the student union membership.

3. RECRUITMENT, ADMISSION AND SELECTION

3.1 RECRUITMENT

The development of today's society places great importance on a high educational level. One of the most important factors to increase the educational level of the country is the university. The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is that it is in the interests of the State, the national school system, and future employers to increase public awareness about the opportunities for higher education. It is in the interests of Jönköping University and it is also one part of its mission to broaden its recruitment efforts to give admission to groups from non-academic backgrounds. A broadened recruitment effort is one instrument to increase diversity in academia and may broaden perspectives and increase the quality of the education offered. Thus, a broadened recruitment effort should not only be viewed as a question of recruitment but as an effort that demands active work throughout the entire chain of education from admission to graduation in order to provide students from non-academic backgrounds with places in and equal opportunities to graduate from higher education.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that Jönköping University shall work actively to broaden recruitment to the University

that broadened recruitment shall be seen as a holistic issue, from admission to graduation

that information issued by the University shall be oriented toward the target group, comprehensible, relevant, objective and accessible

3.2 ADMISSIONS

It is important that there are several ways into higher education and for everyone to have the opportunity to be admitted to and study at Jönköping University, regardless of background. Because of this, qualifications, selection and graduation are important factors in the admission regulations.

The Chief of the Student Bureau at University Services has the power of attorney to make decisions on admission to first-cycle education regarding entire programs and courses on the behalf of the Schools. This means that the Chief of the Student Bureau makes decisions in matters such as priority admissions, exemptions and admissions on special grounds for programs and courses. The school makes decision regarding admission to the later stages of a program and admission on the grounds of special qualifications. Each School establishes the qualification requirements for educational programs and courses of the first, second and third cycles. A decision to deny an applicant admission on the grounds that the applicant does not fulfill the qualification requirements for admission to first-cycle education may be reviewed and the applicant is then required to send a letter to the Admissions Office at Jönköping University within three weeks of receiving the decision to initiate a review of the decision to deny admission.

If an applicant has practical experience or if the applicant possesses, through Swedish or foreign education, the qualifications required to complete a higher education, the applicant is to be deemed qualified. The purpose of this is to assess whether the collected competence of the applicant is sufficient to complete the education he/she has applied to.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that applicants shall be able to appeal against decisions regarding qualification requirements and selection

that work experience is to be considered at selections, which will result in several different perspectives being brought into the University. This is to apply to both international and national work experience

that any specific entry requirements posed must be essential to the student's ability to complete the education

Jönköping Student Union Letter of Opinion

- that* at selections, several methods shall be used and the qualifications of the applicant shall be taken into consideration
- that* applicants shall have the opportunity to combine courses from different university colleges and universities in their degrees
- that* the admission procedure to seats of higher learning shall be ~~is~~ adjusted to facilitate the transfer of credits between seats of learning
- that* it should be possible to have ones real competence evaluated in order to be granted admission to higher education.

3.3 SELECTION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

When there are more applicants than places, a selection must be made with respect to the qualifications of the applicants. In the case of equal qualifications/grade averages, the selection must proceed using other methods. The current selection criteria are grades, Swedish Scholastic Aptitude Test (SweSAT), other special tests, prior education, work experience and special grounds. In the case of equal qualifications, Jönköping University practices selection by lot. Jönköping University decides on its own admission regulations and selection criteria.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* quota-based admissions/positive discrimination to any education should not exist
- that* alternative selection methods (interviews, personal letters, etc.) for educational programs should be used to a greater extent to increase the weight of personal suitability in selections

4. RECEPTION OF STUDENTS

The way in which the student is received during the first few weeks is crucial to the student's attitude toward his/her studies at Jönköping University. The reception of students is a shared responsibility of Jönköping University, the Jönköping Student Union and Jönköping Municipality.

The voluntary commitment from existing students is a prerequisite for new students to get a personal and rewarding introduction to Jönköping University. This involvement should be encouraged not limited by the commitment that comes with studies. Through advance planning and good preparation there is the opportunity for students to contribute with their engagement without their studies suffering.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* the overall responsibility for the reception of new students rests with the University
- that* students shall be offered an introduction week prior to commencing his/her studies
- that* consideration shall be given to involved students that contributes with their engagement during introduction weeks by giving them the opportunity to prepare their studies in advance.

4.1 ACADEMIC INTRODUCTION

It is the opinion of the Jönköping Student Union that Jönköping University shall offer all students an introduction course, common to all students at the University, at an early stage of the student's education. The completion of this course is to be awarded higher education credits.

The purpose of the course shall be to facilitate the introduction into higher studies by offering the student an opportunity to acquire learning skills and presentation skills and also knowledge about the organization and traditions of the University, the implications of studying at a university college, and the rights and obligations of a student. The course shall also teach the importance of critical thinking and reflection in the education together with basic approaches to science.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that Jönköping University shall hold an introduction course that is common to all Schools

5. HOUSING

Students are a heterogeneous social group with varying needs and preferences. To many students, the place where they live is not only their home but also their main place of work and good housing conditions are a prerequisite for succeeding in their studies. That is why student housing must be characterized by flexibility and diversity and viewed as an integral part of the academic environment. Students with different kinds of disabilities shall be guaranteed student housing adapted to their needs. This is not to cause any extra expense for the student.

Housing issues, whether caused by a lack of available housing or price levels above what the students can afford, shall not force anyone to relinquish his/her studies, neither in Jönköping nor at any other seat of learning. The goal of the housing policy should be to ensure that all students are satisfied with their housing situation. The housing issue for students must be coordinated between the State, Jönköping University and Jönköping Municipality. They share the responsibility for satisfying the future demand for student housing. When an increase in the number of places at the University is under way, the amount of available student housing is to increase at the same rate. Also, the rents of student housing is to be reviewed continuously and assessed in proportion to the type of housing and the income of the students.

When Jönköping University enters into agreements regarding student exchanges, Jönköping University shall assume overall responsibility for ensuring that exchange students and guest students find housing with reasonable standard during their studies at the University. Housing shall be available at the arrival of the student and be reasonably priced. Housing for exchange students and guest students shall be well integrated with other student housing in order to facilitate contacts with Swedish students and Swedish student life.

The Housing allowance shall be designed to allow all students in need of the allowance to receive it regardless of age. In addition the procedure for applying for and adjusting housing allowance should be revised in order to facilitate the applicant and reduce the risk of faulting estimations that can lead to repayment.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* both the State and the municipality through specific actions shall promote construction of student housing, primarily in the vicinity of the University environment
- that* the supply of student housing is to be subject to continual review
- that* in applications for Housing allowance, study aid shall not be considered a source of income
- that* the level of Housing allowance shall not to be an aspect when setting rents
- that* the level of Housing allowance shall not vary with the age of the student
- that* the University and the municipality together with the Student Union shall adopt a common approach to the current housing situation
- that* student housing in Jönköping shall be offered at reasonable prices
- that* students shall not have to decline places offered them at Jönköping University because of a lack of housing.
- that* the housing warranty should cover all students at Jönköping University and students should not be discriminated because of e.g. gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, ethnicity religion, other belief or disability.

6. EDUCATION AND ITS FORMS

6.1 COMMISSIONED EDUCATION

Jönköping Student Union Letter of Opinion

In order for Sweden to withstand the increased international competition and maintain its prosperity, the Swedish workforce must be among the best educated in the world. The only chance to achieve this in the ever accelerating scientific development is for the citizens to be prepared and have the opportunity to study throughout their working lives – a life-long learning. To make this possible, the collaboration between the business community and the universities needs to be intensified both at the first and second cycles and in research. It is of great importance to extend the opportunities for higher education to professional university graduates and other groups at the labor market. This includes among other things commissioned educations, research in collaboration with the industry and opportunities for students to carry out some parts of their educations in collaboration with actors in the public sector and the private sector. However, guidelines for commissioned educations are required.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* commissioned education shall not be allowed to compete with regular education
- that* businesses and organizations must pay the full price of the commissioned education so that no resources are diverted from the students
- that* commissioned education shall not be awarded higher education credits or academic degrees

6.2 EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND COURSES

The purpose of the education programs is to guide the student through the range of courses offered and to guarantee the student access to courses that are awarded a degree. It is important for the qualification requirements and the admission regulations of the University to be structured in such a way that a student who freely chooses courses has a good opportunity to combine them in order to receive a degree. Course syllabuses are important documents to students, because they contain information on the content and goals of the course.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* the established course syllabus shall be available at least one month prior to the start of the course
- that* it shall be easy to transfer credits to Jönköping University from other seats of learning

6.3 TEACHING/PEDAGOGICS

Teaching is an interaction between teacher and student. Both parties are to be active and interested in order for the teaching process to go forward. The organization of the course content and the type of instruction chosen is to be done with the different needs of the student in focus, which requires a wide freedom of choice. The types of instruction are to be varied, encourage creative thinking, and adapted to the course content and goals. To the extent possible, different types of instruction is to be used at all levels - both in large and small classes.

The persons who teaches shall be competent in his/her subject, devoted and possess pedagogical insight. At employment, setting of wages for and laying off of teaching staff, teaching skills and interest are to be considered alongside scientific qualifications. The goal of the teacher in the education is to support and encourage the student to independent, creative studies and to impart his/her knowledge to the student. The teacher is to stay informed on developments in his/her discipline and incorporate new findings in his/her teachings. In order to make this possible, one requirement on the teacher is that he/she maintains a good relationship with the individual student; this becomes particularly important when major portions of the education is made up of independent studies or when classes are too large and there is an imminent risk of weak feedback.

Under normal circumstances, lectures are to be held in Swedish or English. In order for a course to be held in a foreign language, the teacher is required to speak the language well and master the terminology of the subject. Instruction in a foreign language may not lower the educational quality of the course.

Jönköping Student Union Letter of Opinion

The Jönköping University document Policy with guidelines for teaching, examination and course evaluations, etc shall be revised/updated when needed and shall be followed at all Schools and by all to facilitate and clarify the existing intentions and regulations regarding teaching, among other things.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* the University must work to and offer teaching staff in-service training courses on pedagogical approaches and methods
- that* pedagogical experience shall be considered a very important factor at employment, setting of wages for and laying off of teaching staff
- that* the University shall work actively to achieve greater variation of theA forms of instruction and examination
- that* all students have the right to a well-adjusted balance between teacher contact and individual studies with respect to the conditions of the education
- that* teachers who are to lecture in languages other than their mother tongue must have completed a language developing education in that language and subject terminology of the course

6.4 PLACEMENTS AND INTERNSHIPS

Placements and internships (VFU) is an important part of the education as it provides an opportunity to apply knowledge and skills in the workplace and facilitates the transition between studies and working life. It is important for the students to be given good information about rights and obligations during their placements/internships and that the placement/internship is meaningful and relevant to the education.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* placements/internships are important parts of higher education as they form an essential part of the link to the surrounding society and to improve the employability of the students
- that* placements/internships shall be of high quality, be connected to the studies and thus relevant to the student and his/her education
- that* the rights and obligations of the student during a placement/an internship shall be clear and well communicated both to the student and the workplace
- that* the University shall provide adequate protection prior to, during and after a placement/internship
- that* all students shall be offered the opportunity to a placement/an internship during their educations

6.5 COURSE LITERATURE

Course literature shall, in order to be relevant to the society we live in, be based in a good tradition of ideas and a good research tradition. The international perspective is to be given consideration. The quality of the works and their relevance to the subject in question, including its relevance to the goals of the course, shall be the deciding factor for the choice of literature to be included in the reading list of the course. The University should also keep up with technological advances and adapt the course literature to include e-books and similar literature, which has emerged in recent years. It is important for all course literature to be available to all attending students prior to the start of the course.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* course literature shall be relevant and provide a multifaceted perspective on the subject
- that* an updated reading list shall be available to students along with the course description at least one month prior to the start of the course
- that* the University shall make the updated reading lists known to bookstores and that the reading lists shall be available at the University library

6.6 COURSE DEVELOPMENT, FOLLOW-UPS AND FEEDBACK

Each course and education shall be continuously evaluated to ensure unceasing development. Evaluations shall be performed in collaboration between the students concerned, teachers and assistants. The goal of the evaluation is the same for all involved parties: constant improvement of the education. A course evaluation should not be seen as an activity to be performed after the end of the course, but as a continuous process. It should be possible to anyone who attends a course to discuss and influence the structure and content of the course during the course and not only when it has ended. A scheduled occasion set aside for doing a course evaluation may be an instrument in the hands of teachers and students to improve the quality of the education. The purpose of a course must be made clear so that the students and the teacher are able to shape the instruction in mutual understanding.

Furthermore, each class should appoint students with special responsibility for course development, so-called course developers, who make sure the opinions of the students reach teachers and course coordinators. This is to ensure all courses undergo development and that teachers and course developers

In order for the students to feel that their evaluations are relevant, it is required of Jönköping University, the Schools, to provide the students with feedback on the result of earlier evaluations and the measures taken to improve the quality of the education in accordance with the wishes of the students. It is also important for Jönköping University to participate

both in national and international evaluations, so that the educations at the University will be able to develop in relation to those of other universities and university colleges.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* the result of earlier course evaluations with potential measures and opinions decided by the faculty shall be reported at the beginning of each course.
- that* follow-ups and evaluations shall be done continuously and that possible improvements shall be carried out during the course period
- that* a course evaluation including an evaluation on exams and forms of examinations shall be carried out at the end of the course
- that* the results of the evaluation shall be commented on by the course coordinator and the examiner and, if possible, by a student
- that* the result of course evaluations together with measures, completed as well as future, shall be documented for future reference.
- that* course evaluations shall be characterized by objectivity – not personal attacks
- that* evaluations shall be seen as a continuous process
- that* every course shall have well-trained course developers

6.7 EXAMINATIONS

Course examinations are one part of teaching and shall be treated as such both for pedagogical and legal purposes. In examinations, it is extremely important to observe the diverse prerequisites of each students. In higher education, examinations shall not function merely as measurements of knowledge, but rather as an opportunity for students to reflect on the knowledge they have assimilated during the course and connect the different course element. It is of utmost importance that the examination is carried out in the right and proper way. This is to ensure the legal protection of the individual student. By legal protection, we intend the elimination of any imminent risk the student runs of being charged with cheating or disturbing the peace and also that grading of examinations shall be based on the actual performance and not a personal basis. To promote legal security no part of an examination should ~~the~~ be carried out in a lecture hall that is not suited to this purpose.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

Jönköping Student Union Letter of Opinion

- that* the rule of law shall characterize all forms and parts of examinations
- that* anonymous examination shall be applied to all examinations where deemed practically possible
- that* the time set aside for examination shall be taken from the appointed course time, which implies zero tolerance against examinations on weekends
- that* the scheduled time of the exam may not be altered at the last minute; notice shall be given no later than five days prior to the scheduled date of the exam
- that* different forms of examination should be used to a greater extent

6.8 DEGREES

Regarding the awarding of academic degrees, the opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is that an approach to knowledge that focuses on the fact that the student through his/her education has assimilated the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes should form the basis for assessments. The right to be awarded more than one degree on the basis of the same course requirements should thus be possible and not denied on the grounds that each higher education credit awarded can only be used only for one degree. However, the degree certificate should state when courses have been included in more than one degree.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* Jönköping University shall be able to award more than one degree on the basis of partially or entirely identical course requirements, if the student meets the necessary requirements
- that* the degree certificate shall state whether courses have been included in more than one degree.

6.9 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Academic freedom is the right, without constriction by prescribed doctrine, to freedom of teaching and discussion, freedom in carrying out research and disseminating and publishing the results thereof, freedom to express freely their opinion about the institution or system in which they work, freedom from institutional censorship and freedom to participate in professional or representative academic bodies.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* academic freedom is essential to the pursuit of knowledge and must therefore be unequivocally respected.

7. INTERNATIONALIZATION

Internationalization is a term that students at Jönköping University encounter every day. Today, the world is open to students who thirst for knowledge. The Jönköping Student Union would like for Jönköping University to work actively with creating an intercultural exchange where encounters, education and understanding between cultures and countries are natural. Jönköping University shall be Sweden's leading organization in the international arena.

7.1 EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AT JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY

International exchanges increase understanding for international conditions. Visiting students, researchers and teachers must be seen as a resource in education and research. Their active participation contribute broadening the knowledge taught and allows it to be discussed in relation to different cultural backgrounds. The Jönköping Student Union would like to view Jönköping University as a partner university where an efficient and worthwhile exchange takes place, one which is sustainable in the long term and where students and researchers from the four corners of the world meet.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* instruction in other languages than Swedish shall be organized and made available to both Swedish and foreign students

Jönköping Student Union Letter of Opinion

that teachers and students shall be given the opportunity to study languages

that teachers shall be well versed in the language they use when teaching or in the language in which the course literature is written

7.2 STUDYING ABROAD AND DOING RESEARCH OUTSIDE OF SWEDEN

Giving students and teachers the opportunity to work abroad spreads information about and sparks interest in Jönköping University. This may in turn result in increased opportunities both for having foreign students and teachers come to Jönköping and for additional students and teachers to be able to study and work abroad. Thus, it is very important for teachers and students to be given the opportunity to go abroad for longer or shorter periods of time in order to provide an international perspective to the education.

One basic requirement for the international exchange to work is that there is an easily comprehensible system with clear rules for the transfer of degrees and individual educational elements.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that each program shall offer opportunities to study abroad

that individuals who on their own accord organizes studies abroad, placements, thesis work, research or similar positions shall be given encouragement, support and guidance

that the student shall receive adequate information on which courses may be transferred when the student is about to commence his/her studies in a country other than Sweden

that it shall be possible to appeal against a credit transfer decision

7.3 INTEGRATION

Jönköping Student Union share the vision of Jönköping University, to have become an international center of education by 2025. In order to truly be an international center of education it is not enough to rely on the number of international students, partner universities, courses that are held in English or how many students that go for exchange every year. When it comes to internationalization integration is just as an important aspect that often is overlooked, as well as the fact that international students should have the same opportunities as Swedish students.

To the greatest possible extent, exchange students shall be integrated in the normal range of courses offered. This is to have the exchange students, the Swedish students and teachers benefit as much as possible by their time at Jönköping University. In order for the quality of the education not to suffer, it is important that foreign students are proficient in the language the courses are taught in.

Difficulties surrounding integrations is often experienced when teachers and students lack intercultural knowledge that could aid integration in the classroom. This could be facilitated by increased awareness and intercultural competence within the teaching staff. The language barrier is also a contributing issue when international students are to find their place at JU. Essential information should therefore be available in English so that students will not be inhibited by the language barrier.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that the University shall require of the student that he/she possesses the language skills necessary to complete the education

that international students should be offered training in the Swedish language at a greater extent

that teachers in courses with international students should get intercultural training from JU in order to promote integration in the classroom during the time of studies.

that JU should make sure that internships and practical placements(VFU) is offered to international students within Sweden for those courses where it is a mandatory element.

that all official documents at Jönköping Student Union shall be available in British English.

7.4 THE BOLOGNA PROCESS

In the summer of 1999, Education Ministers from 29 European countries and the rectors of universities and university Colleges from all over Europe gathered to discuss the development of higher education in Europe. The vision to create a common European area for higher education in 2010 was signed in the so-called Bologna Accords. Starting with the accords, the so-called Bologna Process was initiated and development is in progress. To the Jönköping Student Union, it is of the utmost importance that the University participates in the European integration and collaboration for higher education that is the intended outcome of the process. The overall objectives of the Bologna Accords are to facilitate moving between countries and to increase the employability and also to increase the competitiveness of Europe as a continent regarding education.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that the goals of the Bologna Process to create a European system is beneficial, i.e. the goal to make exchanges easier in the education sector, which gives the student more opportunities to see and understand the attitudes toward learning and knowledge found in other countries and cultures. Furthermore, it will become easier to use a degree abroad after graduation.

7.4.1 ECTS

The ECTS grading scale is implemented by most of the participating countries and is a relative grading system. From a legal protection perspective the individual student must be able to be awarded the grade he/she deserves regardless of the relative distribution of grades among the students. Although the ECTS grading scale has some advantages, it may, however, bring about a narrowing of the number of forms of instruction and examination used, which would be counterproductive to, among other things, fulfillment of the intended learning outcome.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

That each School shall decide for itself whether to use the ECTS grading scale and that any instatement of the system shall be done only after extensive consequence analyses have been carried out

8. STUDENT HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

8.1 STUDENT HEALTH CARE

At Jönköping University the Student health unit is available to everyone studying on ground level or advanced level

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that Student Health Care shall be available at campus

that Student Health Care are to work preventatively and caring for students health and to work targeted in order to reduce health hazards during the students period of studies

that Student Health Care should offer care in the form of:

- Counseling care
- Advisory nurse
- Guidance and support in the search of care
- Health preventing education or classes to reduce the risk of stress related illnesses

that Jönköping University shall provide Student Health Care the resources necessary to ensure good capacity to provide the full requirement of student health care

that Student Health Care should pursue a continuous contact and collaboration with Jönköping University and Jönköping Student Union in order to more easily discover health hazards in the study environment as well as be closer at hand for the students

that Student Health Care shall be included in Jönköping University's development strategies

8.2 SOCIAL INSURANCE/ HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM

A functioning and full-covering security system is crucial to students' ability to take on, undergo and complete their studies. A secure period of study creates opportunities for students to perform at their best during the studies. It is also a prerequisite for more people to want to learn and further educate themselves. Jönköping Student Union's opinion is that a functioning security system promotes lifelong learning and help to secure the future supply of competence.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* student qualifying period be shortened from 30 to 7 days
- that* students should have the right to part-time sick leave
- that* health insurance should be linked to the studies, rather than the student aid
- that* Jönköping University should provide clear and accessible information regarding the conditions surrounding illness

9. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION, DIVERSITY, INTEGRATION, AND EQUAL TREATMENT

9.1 DISCRIMINATION ISSUES

On January 1st, 2009 the Discrimination Act entered into force. The purpose of this Act is to combat discrimination and in other ways promote equal rights and opportunities regardless of

- * *Sex*
- * *transgender identity or expression*
- * *ethnicity*
- * *religion or other belief*
- * *disability*
- * *sexual orientation*
- * *age.*

Within the framework of their activities, universities and university colleges are to conduct goal-oriented work to actively promote equal rights and opportunities in work life from the grounds for discrimination listed above; prevent and counteract harassment of all students; annually draw up a plan that includes a summary of the actions needed to promote equal rights and opportunities; investigate the circumstances around alleged harassment cases and, should the occasion arise, take appropriate steps to prevent further harassment.

Students at Jönköping University who experience discrimination/harassment can turn to the so-called ombudsmen for equal treatment (OLIK) who work at every School. The matter is then investigated by the so-called discrimination committee.

However, the Student Union finds that there are other forms of discrimination/harassment that do not always fall within the statutory grounds for discrimination. It may e.g. concern arbitrary assessments, repeated hindrance to complete education on the grounds of vague directives, or deviations from the internal policy and guidelines of the University. In the absence of "supervision" from the Swedish Higher Education Authority, we find that the University must take such issues seriously and draw up clear and communicating routines.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

Jönköping Student Union Letter of Opinion

that the University shall work continuously with issues regarding discrimination and inform student about their rights

that Jönköping University need to ,maintain an established and well-functioning equal treatment plan

9.2 DIVERSITY

It is important to view people's differences as an asset and not as a problem. Everyone is entitled to equal opportunities to attend higher education in an environment where differences are represented, recognized and viewed as an asset to increase the quality of the education. To achieve this, the University is required to use inclusive forms of education and teaching, where students' different perspectives are utilized and where different learning styles are observed.

Furthermore, knowledge about, attitudes to and approaches to differences must become a more expressed part of many educations. The Student Union views the fact that perspectives on homosexual, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ) individuals as gender perspectives are not given a more expressed position in the education as a problem.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that the University must work actively to utilize the students' differences to achieve increased diversity and educational quality

that LGBTQ-perspectives and gender perspectives shall be natural parts of all education programs

9.3 INTEGRATION

To achieve the best possible outcome, the integration effort should be directed both by the University and the municipality in collaboration with the Student Union.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that the University shall work actively to integrate the housing of international students with that of Swedish students

that all students, regardless of nationality, at Jönköping University shall be able to take part in the activities of the Student Union

that there shall be meeting places and activities where international and Swedish students may collaborate and exchange experiences

9.4 EQUAL TREATMENT

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.

10. WORK ENVIRONMENT AND STUDY ENVIRONMENT

All students are entitled to a good work environment, both physical and psychosocial. Work environment issues shall not obstruct or make it difficult for anyone to attend an education. Jönköping University is responsible for the study and work environment and shall see to it that it is adequate for all students at Jönköping University. In order to be able to make constant improvements to the work environment, it is important for the students to be guaranteed influence on the continual planning.

Jönköping Student Union Letter of Opinion

The physical work environment at Jönköping University must stand up to high standards. This goes both for general requirements and for the specific requirements affecting a work place. These requirements do not only apply to scheduled hours. The work environment of the students also includes the places at Jönköping University that the student use in his/her studies outside of the scheduled hours. The number of such places must be adequate to fulfill the need students have to study alone or in groups.

The psychosocial work environment includes a great number of factors, all of which must work together in order for the individual to be comfortable. The activities of Jönköping University should be organized with respect to the psychosocial work environment. The work climate at Jönköping University shall be such that it stimulates to an open atmosphere between all active parties at Jönköping University.

Students with different kinds of disabilities may have special needs which Jönköping University shall take into consideration. To make up for these needs, special efforts and aids are required to provide these students the same opportunities to study as other students.

Student Health is one of the most important actors within the work environment effort of Jönköping University, their activities shall be directed primarily toward preventive and curative efforts. Student Health shall have a broad orientation in its preventive work to counteract various work environment problems, both physical and mental. Student Health shall develop alongside Jönköping University and thus increase in size gradually.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

- that* students shall have the same rights and opportunities to influence their work environment as have employees of Jönköping University
- that* a living campus environment, where it is possible to offer students in Jönköping meeting places for eating and drinking, taking a break from their studies and recreational activities is provided
- that* the University and the Student Union shall constantly improve the work and study environments of the students
- that* the best interests of the students are to be considered in the planning and running of the health and wellness center.
- that* students must be given opportunities to plan both their studies and their spare time. In order to achieve this, it is a requirement that both the planning of and the information about the education works well
- that* student counselors shall work closely with the students during their entire period of study. The student counselor should also function as a personal advisor. In order to be able to consider the student's situation in its entirety, coordination should take place between Student Health, the authority responsible for reviewing of applications for student aid and student counselors
- that* the State must grant adequate funds to make higher education available to individuals with disabilities
- that* Hälsoparken" (Munksjöparken) is an important part of extracurricular activities such as the Kick-Off and other social events and therefore should be kept as a green area for students.
- that* Jönköping University shall pay special attention to the particular needs of students with disabilities
- that* Jönköping Student Union considers that the university shall only have one campus with all the faculty schools gathered on the same location. This campus shall remain centrally located despite the future plans of university.

11. STUDENT AID

Students shall have the same financial rights as other citizens and the financial situation for students shall be seen from a holistic perspective. Also, the education financing system shall guarantee the student an adequate standard of living. Education is a personal investment as well as a societal one. Viewed from this perspective, the Jönköping Student Union finds that it is reasonable for the individual and the State to assume shared responsibility for financing the education. Many students must work during the holidays to make a living and the students

Jönköping Student Union Letter of Opinion

shall not come under obligation to repay money to the State as a result of this. It is also of utmost importance that the State, by issuing guarantees, secures loans also for students whose credit ratings would not normally allow them to be granted loans to finance their studies.

Studying abroad is an essential part of the education and the internationalization of Jönköping University. Thus, any students who would like to shall be given the financial opportunity to participate in an exchange program or study abroad.

A study strategy must be introduced parallel to the so-called work strategy in the social security system. This is because students rarely are included in the social security system because currently it is connected to work. Students shall be able to maintain an adequate standard of living also at times when the social conditions of the student changes. Thus, Jönköping University demands that students shall have the same right to basic social security as other citizens do. Just like the rest of the inhabitants of the municipality, students shall have the right to income support when need arises.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

STUDENT AID IN GENERAL

- that* the system shall satisfy the needs of all individuals who choose to study.
- that* the student and the State shall share the economic responsibility for financing the education in such a way that the student is actually able to repay the loan in reality. Half of the total amount of student aid shall thus be a loan and half of it a grant
- that* the total sum of student aid must be more closely connected to the general price trend
- that* the State shall make it possible for students who have maintenance obligations toward children to study on the same conditions as students without children
- that* students shall be able to receive extra student aid if there are special grounds
- that* the exempt amount should be abolished

REGARDING STUDIES ABROAD

- that* a total amount of student aid that differs from what the total amount would have been if studying in Sweden, the proportions between grant and loan shall be the same percentage as it would for studies in Sweden and not merely added as an extra loan
- that* the total amount must be adapted to the local price level for studies abroad in such a way that an adequate standard of living is achieved after paying rent, course literature and other costs that come with the studies

REPAYMENT OF LOANS

- that* there shall be a lower income limit for repayment of loans and that repayments shall be connected to the repayment ability of the individual.
- that* for income above the exempt amount, the annual fee shall increase gradually to avoid high marginal effects. When a student has maintenance obligations toward children a higher income limit for repayment shall apply
- that* cancellation of the entire debt shall be done at retirement pension, death and when there are special grounds

12. DOCTORAL EDUCATION

In order to maintain high quality in the doctoral education, it is among other things important for the notification and admission of doctoral students to be open and legally

Jönköping Student Union Letter of Opinion

secure. Notification of available positions shall be posted nationally/internationally and it is the presumed ability of the applicant to complete the education that shall form the basis for admission, not whether or not the applicant has completed undergraduate studies at the seat of learning where he/she applied for the position.

Furthermore, it is important for doctoral students to feel secure during their period of study. To achieve this, all doctoral students should be admitted to and employed by the seat of learning.

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that the notification of and admission to available doctoral positions shall be done nationally/internationally and in a transparent and legally secure manner.

that doctoral students shall be admitted to and employed by the University to ensure secure working conditions and access to the social security system.

13. TRANSPARENCY

The opinion of the Jönköping Student Union is

that financial information shall be presented in a way that is understandable for students regardless of their education or subject matter competence.