



Plan of operations for Jönköping Student Union, 2016/2017

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Introduction

The Jönköping Student Union is an association of students at Jönköping University and its purpose is to work toward high quality of the educations and a good studysocial 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. Through good anchoring in the industry and a large focus on the future's development in combination with the interests of the students, the university have 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 studysocial environment. By raising the interest of the students in various bodies of authority, the Student Union works for development within the main areas of Education, Students' health and well-being, Campus, Student housing and Integration.

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 2014/2013. The plan of operations is to be considered a steering document for the entire operations 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.

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.

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 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 point was on last year’s plan of operations, men 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 the Head of Education.

In 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Continue to develop clear faculty transcending instructions for course developers.
- Working towards having each group of students 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.
- Work to identify hidden expenses with regards to education and strive towards their future elimination.

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 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Actively work towards the implementation of legally secure examinations.

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- Work towards all students receiving equal assessment, independently of examiner.
 - Ensure that anonymous examinations are applied on all occasions deemed practically possible.

2. STUDYSOCIAL

The studysocial 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 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 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Promote the availability of all members in the planning of social events, with respect to variation, language and disability adaptation.
- Promote an inclusive alcohol culture where alcohol is not a central part of the social context.
- Develop the supply of studysocial 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 introduction week where all active associations are given the opportunity to exhibit their activities so that students at Jönköping University easily are able to take part of the range of activities available in the Student Union.
- Review the capacity and interest of the students to expand the organized travel activities to more, or other, destinations both within and outside of Sweden.
- 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).

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 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work actively to ensure that all students, regardless of gender, sexuality, background, ethnicity or disability should feel welcome and able to participate in the activities, and that no one should feel discriminated against or excluded.
- 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 introduction week with respect to all involved for future reference and recap.
- Work actively for the kick-off to be classified as an IQ-project.
- Work for alcohol consumption not being a being in focus during the kick-off.

2.2 70 year anniversary

Jönköping Student Union was founded in October 1947. The organization has since then grown and developed through many stages into what it is today. The Student Union is something both the

university and the students view with pride and trust, and therefore one should, during the fall of 2017, celebrate 70 years in the service of the students.

In 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Initiate preparations for celebrating Jönköping Student Unions anniversary in October 2017.

2.3 Spring ball

Up until the spring of 2014 the Student Union has, with the help of a project group, arranged a spring ball for the university's students. During the year of operations 2015/16 interest has once again been shown to arrange a cross-faculty spring ball where all students can meet and enjoy each other's company.

In 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Look over possibilities and interest of students to arrange and realize a spring ball.

3. INTERNATIONALIZATION

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, English courses, or how many students you annually send on exchange semesters. What it comes to internationalization, integration is a just as important aspect, and it's often foreseen, as well as the fact that international students should be offered the same possibilities as Swedish students. It is important that all essential information is available in English, but also that you work to ensure that that students are not inhibited by the language barrier of not knowing Swedish. Other difficulties may be experienced in integration if Swedish students, and even teachers, miss the intercultural competencies which would ease integration. It is in the Student Union's mission to notice these problems and ensure that measures are taken to solve them.

In 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work to ensure that international students to a greater extent will be offered training in the Swedish language.
- 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.
- Work for the university to offer international students internships in Sweden in the programs in which internships are a requirement.
- Actively create opportunities for international students to integrate with Swedish students and the Swedish society, for example through contact families and buddy programs.
- Ensure that all official documents in the Student Union are available in English.

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 can be stressful and it is therefore important that they 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 and drugs are gaining all the more attention, it is important that students gain an awareness and information about these areas to prevent 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 2016/17, 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 has an increased awareness regarding physical and mental well-being with focus on sexual health, alcohol, narcotics, doping and stress.
- Arrange at least one event per year where health becomes illuminated for the students.
- Work to make the university allocate enough resource 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.
- Investigate the needs of students and well-being with respect to health related issues, preferably 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.

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 2016/17, 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 proactive towards 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 of 2015. Summarize the results and compare data to previous years.
- Ensure that information regarding relevant basic housing laws, and reasonable rent, is available in order to be able to act as advisors to 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 2016/17, 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.
- 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 sports activities and training in Campus Arena. The campus is in many respects 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 2016/17, 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 (for example, the need for more study rooms or the development of Service Center).
- 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.

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 has interest associations in Jönköping Student Union has continued to increase in number and commitment. During the year 2015/16 the Student Union's interest associations collective reached about 500 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 2016/17, 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.

8. SERVICE OPERATIONS

8.1 Plan 0

During the year of operations 15/16 renovations and construction of a kitchen at Plan 0 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 the likes.

In 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Initiate the development of a work procedure for evening activities.
- Continue the development of the lunch operations.

8.2 Akademien

The Student Union's, and foremost the students' nightclub Akademien has during many years been a highly appreciated gathering point and is the largest faculty independent, social meeting point for Jönköping's students. 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 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- 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 locals 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.

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 Unions 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 ones 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 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Work actively to increase the visibility of the Student Union and the students' awareness of the Student Union's work.

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- 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 communications 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 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Actively participate and understand the SFS advocacy work at 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.

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 required maintenance in itself and that is something that should be worked upon continuously.

In 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Continue to work on defining processes and routines that functions within the Student Union and document them for increased continuity.
- Organize one collaborative activity for Jönköping Student Union's and the student associations' boards per semester.
- Promote the opportunity for increased awareness and a more active management of the Student Union's dormant capital.
- 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, to create quality education and studysocial conditions for its members.

11.1 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, gym memberships, home insurances and more. They lead to the construction of more student housing, that the university's development 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 introduction week.

In 2016/17, Jönköping Student Union shall:

- Ensure that student representation is added in all bodies, both permanent and temporary in nature, in JU, 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.