

**Title**

More sustainable Kick Off

**Background**

Kickoff is the biggest event in an academic year at Jönköping University. Hundreds of students participate in different kinds of activities which creates a lot of unnecessary waste among other environmental impact.

**Motivation**

JSU has the power and responsibility to influence the behaviour of the new students by introducing them to a more sustainable way of events, partying, and overall mindset. The Student Union should be aware of the impact of their communication (or not communication) regarding sustainability and responsibility of introducing and presenting themselves, JU and Sweden generally.

**Proposal**

The proposal is to not use single-use plastic cups, straws, or glowing sticks. Also, to stop the use of fireworks (or anything similar, like smoke, etc.). Instead, alternatives could be sought out that are already very common like system of reusable cups, reusable decorations, being creative and similar. Moreover, the food options at the events should be mainly vegan or vegetarian preferably from local businesses. This way, Student Union would decrease their ecological footprint, already prepare for future that projects even more legal limitations againsts non-environmental behavior, and create more aware and progressive culture.

**Signatures**

Students for Sustainable Actions

## **The JSU Boards reply to the motion:**

### **More sustainable kick off**

#### **Reply**

The Board would like it to be noted that chapter 6 *Sustainability* in Plan of operation was deliberately left without a goal as the board felt we did not know how to express our wishes or know where to start. Thereby we are very grateful for the motions within in this area.

In general, we agree with the motion. As the Kick Off is the introduction to the student life, it can greatly impact the rest of one's study time and as this is the one event which gathers a large number of people (thereby creating much waste during a very short period) we agree that it is an event to focus on in terms of sustainability.

We also agree that JSU can influence students and other parties on several different topics and sustainability could be one. However, it must be recognized that in terms of the Kick Off the Student Union is not the sole organizer. The Student Associations and their sexmasteries do most of the planning, especially executing the event, and take the majority of decisions. The Student Union do not hold any formal decision power over the student association and their sexmasteries and only acts as a coordinator. Our strengths as a union are that we can influence and this is still of course true here.

This gives the result that the union can't ensure that some use of plastic cups or fireworks or similar won't be used. We can only strictly control our operations. Again, we can influence others and therefore we propose a counterclaim to rephrase the proposal to reflect this.

#### **Counterclaim**

The JSU Board claims to change the proposal into 2 goals to enter under chapter 6 *Sustainability* in the Plan of Operations.

In 2022/2023 the Student Union Shall:

- Create a plan for how the union can promote sustainability in the planning of the kick-off as well as during the kick off and execute this plan for next autumn kick off and kick off onwards.
- Map out the union activities during the kick-off and evaluate how they could become more sustainable to change these activities if possible and report back to the annual meeting with planned improvements.

#### **Motivation first goal:**

We believe the union could help the student associations and the sexmasteries with suggestions on how we can make the kick off more sustainable. However, the emphasis must be on helping and giving suggestions and not trying to force our collaborative partners to do anything as we believe this would severely damage our working

relationship. We also agree and believe that we can impact the students more directly. We need to investigate how we can do that on our own and together with the student association on the sexmasteries.

In conclusion, there should be possibilities to look over the waste management and trying to impact students and fadder behavior as well as helping the sexmasteries find more sustainable options in terms of decorating and so on. However, we would like to keep it open what it is that one change as we believe the groups affected should be a part of the decisions and that there also always is an economical perspective to consider with the limited resources, which was not taken into consideration in the written proposal.

**Motivation second goal:**

We believe the union should take action as soon as possible but first, we need to be clearer on what it is the union can directly change. Here we see the potential of inviting students to give their suggestions but we also see that we need to be more open and invite students to understand our operations so students can give viable suggestions. We also see that we need to look over the internal competencies if we are going to be able to make a correct analysis of the current situation and this could also be needed for the first goal as well.