

Annual Report
2021/2022



Dear members,

The operational year of 20/21 was mainly impacted from recovering from Covid19. Resources in terms of time, staff and finances were focused on getting back the student culture from pre-covid times and adjusting it to the new permanent changes that the pandemic brought. Furthermore, there was a large focus on the internal organisation following the work from the previous year and focus on reopening our service venues.

At the start of the operational year, there were existing corona restrictions which created challenges for the kick-off, Akademien and the student life at large. Throughout the first semester, restrictions were constantly changing, which showed problems for opening Akademien in a consistent manner. The employees and volunteers involved in both Akademien and the social life in general however adapted well to the changing environment and made a huge effort to deliver a good experience to our students visiting our venues. There has been a strong focus this year on recovering the service operations, and assisting different interest associations with getting their physical events in order while also seeing employees back in the office and students on campus again.

At the end of this operational year, it seems things have returned back to pre-covid conditions for the most part, with students back on campus and restrictions finally lifted and we look forward to having more room in the organisation to focus on developing the student life again, as opposed to just upholding and adapting to changing restrictions.

JSU Board of 20/21

Core Operations: Internal Organisation

The Board

This year the board took a step closer to the day-to-day operations and have been more involved in understanding the operations of the different parts by both following up on organisational matters but also having more frequent economic follow ups.

The Board, as many years before, did struggle with missing representatives in the board even after byelections were held, but in October of the organisational year, 2 new student representatives joined.

The major financial decisions included a purchase of a new car to replace the grey car after it broke down, funding part of a gaming venue for the association Justice and letting go of Sydney (read more at Service Operations).

The Annual Meeting preparations included workshops with the aim of clearer defining our purpose as an organisation and then building the plan of operations and budget decision on that, as well as other decisions in the organisation. The purpose statement was approved at the annual meeting and the hope is that it is a first step to even more well-grounded and student focused decisions.

The Board also focused on improving the visibility for the board as an entity and the Union as a whole by strategically attending more events. The decision was also taken to change the overall colour for the Union as well as taking the decision that the whole board should wear the overalls.

The Board has also been more involved in the development of a project aiming at developing the internal structure in relation to well-being and effectiveness of the staff.

The Presidium

The Presidium's focus has heavily been on the project of developing the internal structure in relation to well-being and effectiveness of the staff. In relation to this the President took part of a leadership program to have support in the organisational questions and tasks related to this. A salary policy has been developed and implemented for example and other decision structures have been implemented and adjusted.

However, the Vice President chose to resign in January which had a heavy effect on the project, the annual meeting preparations as especially on the student question Education (read more about the impact on the Education under Core Operation: Student Influence and Education). The board took the decision to not call an extra Annual meeting as they believed it would not be more beneficial than that of distributing the task internally, however it has limited the ability to develop projects and other areas of the organisation and resulted in that the President and Board had to focus more on only managing the operations. Yet, the President was able to host workshops with all the Student Association Boards to get their input on the purpose statement as well as get more input on what they think the union should work for and thereby have a more direct impact in an earlier stage on the Plan of Operations.

Throughout the year, the Presidium was involved in the Kick-off with multiple presentations as well as being at different events raising awareness. There was a decision taken by the board in the beginning of the semester as well for the Union to assist in paying for a leadership education for the President. There were multiple organisational questions throughout the year, such as the use of existing policies as well as creating new ones, which were important in helping produce an atmosphere at the Union similar to pre-covid times. The Presidium also met with all the boards of the different existing student associations at JU to further develop the purpose statement.

In January, the Vice President also left her position, which posed some challenges for the existing staff, and areas had to be redistributed. The Generals at the Union put in a great effort and stepped in to further assist with taking some of the Vice's responsibilities, which the Student Union is extremely grateful for.

Core Operation: Student Influence Education

Education is the main Student Question for the Student Union; it is the Vice President that has the responsibility for this area, and they essentially work full-time within this area.

During the operational year, one of the Generals (one of the presidents of the student associations that works part-time for the union) has worked with this area as well.

Unfortunately, the vice-president left the Union in January, and it was decided to leave the position vacant as there were only a few months until the annual meeting and for the general working on the position to take higher load on the matter. It is not expected of a General to take on that extra responsibility and therefore the Union board is very grateful for the help offered and the excellent result of the General's work. Thanks to the help students rights have been upheld and developed even with the Union missing a Vice President.

To read more about recurring activities for the Vice President see the plan of operations 22/23 and the Vice Presidents' role description. The mapping of the course development system done during the prior year by the General (the HI TECH President) was concluded and presented to all faculties. The Union has as far as the organisational memory stretched never done this kind of report or initiative before and it has been an excellent way to get an overview of the issues and an easy way to communicate what we and students think can be improved, which increases the chance those changes will be made. The work on participating in the development of JU:s cyclical quality assurance system was on hold during the year but we were able to make old exams easily accessible for all students.

Work Environment

It has been one General who has been mainly responsible for this area during this operational year.

Together with the work group WORC it was clarified that all faculties had representatives in the safety rounds, except for HLK. This was investigated and worked on, so that all faculties were covered in this goal. All safety representatives were offered the chance to be educated in the area in fall 2021. But a structure was not made since the safety representatives perceived their responsibility differently. Through the spring semester, a survey was developed with the help of WORC, since the last survey was conducted during covid-19 and the work environment for the students has changed drastically since then. Unfortunately, this survey was never sent out, since student health care had a survey coming out during the same period about similar questions. Questions from the students were raised in all forums that the general took part of, and the following plan of operations was updated with the goals of solving some of these questions.

Equal Opportunities

It has been two generals who have been responsible for this during the operation year. The focus of this area can be divided into two terms: The first semester the focus was to try and lobby for that JU shall develop the system to which you as a student are supposed to report if you have been discriminated against or harassed. This work has been slow as there is only one forum for these questions and it has no decision power or clear mission from JU's side, which means that it is unclear who to turn to and lobby for a change. The second semester the focus was on the outcomes of a national survey that pointed out we had many more cases that were reported. This information made us conduct our own survey and gave us strength in our lobby for faster changes and implementations at JU and led to the start of the creation of a code of conduct at JU. Additionally, during the entire year we worked on investigating and trying to make the kickoff more inclusive.

Core Operations: Study Social

Kick-Off:

The Kick-Off was a challenge to plan as there were so many different possibilities in terms of restrictions and regulations. The Board would like to extend an extra thank you to the Project Leader and the Sexmasteries for the excellent work in planning a different version and executing a great kick-off which did amazingly did not result in an increase in the numbers of people infected by covid.

During the Autumn it was unclear where the restrictions were going, however the Project Leader was able to plan an event in collaboration with RadioK which resulted in a great event in the middle of the campus.

A new Project Leader was elected in November and during the spring we have been able to plan for a Kick-Off Festival again and a normal kick-off. A challenge that we have encountered is that many students have not experienced what many previous generations would call a "normal" kick-off which meant there is a slight knowledge gap in terms of the logistics and execution of the event. However, we are confident it will be a great kick-off for the coming students despite that challenge.

Trips:

The number of participants on trips have increased during 2022. In the Fall we send approximately 500 students to various destinations provided by Timetravels. Trips to Copenhagen were arranged as well.

Associations:

We facilitated the associations and revised the agreement of sub-organisations to enhance the democratic ease of starting new sub-organisations. Furthermore, the car policy for the organisation was revised. It's important to ensure that our policies align with the changing needs and priorities of our members and sub-organisations. The revision of the policies was necessary to reflect updated standards and regulations, as well as to address concerns regarding the democratic processes.

In addition, we also provided assistance to sub-organisations in various administrative tasks, including but not limited to managing bookings, refining their democratic structures, developing activities and policies, processing grants, running errands and managing orders.

Core Operations: Support Functions

Administration:

Administration includes the Administrative Chief and the operation in Student Service. The Administrative Chief has supported the whole association on the way back to normal while the Covid 19-restrictions were lifted. Time has also been used to implement processes that were introduced following the organisational investigation carried out the previous year. A new budget structure was introduced during the year. The aim is to increase transparency and understanding of the budget and financial reporting.

In Student Service, members are offered service in member matters. Furthermore, office supplies are sold, and students can sign up for various activities. During the year, operations have gradually returned to normal.

Service operations

As described in the introduction, restrictions were a big issue during the autumn for both Akademin and Rio. The Akademin Manager essentially had to start from scratch with educating new volunteers working at Akademin and it was not sure when new restrictions could come. The students were not back on campus to any large extent which created financial issues for Rio.

Throughout the second semester, Akademien did well with a high attendance, however Rio did not show the same positive result as the attendance on campus was still not back to normal levels and the spring is always a weaker period for Rio.

The board took a decision in September to let go of Sydney instead of reopening it. This was due to the issues with recovering from the pandemic, and the board felt it posed too big a financial risk to reopen Sydney given it's past poor performance and the financial state of the Union.

Collaboration

The board hosted a workshop in the first semester as a taco night with all the boards and generals. This was a fun team building exercise where the boards got the chance to meet each other and socialise.

There have not been enough resources due to focusing on recovering from the pandemic to thoroughly develop our work with external sponsors and other organisations.