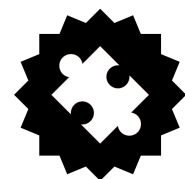


# Political Action Plan

2021/2022



SOCIAL SCIENCES  
STUDENT UNION

## Introduction

One main goal of the Social Sciences Student Union is to monitor and take part in the development of the education organized at the Faculty of Social Sciences. This work is carried out by the elected presiding committee and student representatives of the student union.

The student union is a democratic organisation run by students and we are obligated to work for the students' best interest. This document is established by the Representative Assembly, which has been democratically elected by the members of the student union. After the opinion programme, this political action plan is the primary steering document for the student union's political work.

## Conditions for student representation

One of the most important tasks of the Student Union is appointing student representatives. It is through the student representatives that the Student Union can fulfill the legal obligation to surveil education. The student representatives are also instrumental in ensuring a high quality of the education at the faculty of Social Sciences. This happens through formalised groups at the departments, and at the faculty, where the students are a part of the group.

In order to ensure that the students can influence their education, and everything around it, it is important that there are student representation in the formalised groups that affect the students' educations and that the students have the prerequisites needed to be able to do the work as a student representative. Today, there are groups that international students have a harder time being fully a part of. This is because most of the work is conducted in Swedish and because there sometimes is resistance against providing the material in English as well and holding the discussions in Swedish. It is of high importance that students get the opportunity to be represented in groups and that the university actively works with including this group.

### Because of this, the student union shall:

- advocate that all student representative positions should be remunerated by the university.
- strive for the university to use the translation services and to produce more meeting documents in English.
- play an active part in advocating for the Swedish National Union of Students (SFS) to improve conditions for student representation for international students within their organization.
- be an active part in making the university and faculty give international students better preconditions for going through with their roles as student representatives.

# Students' mental health

Mental illness amongst young people is increasing and every other student experiences anxiety, worry or concern<sup>1</sup>. Students worry about things such as insecure housing situations, insecure financial situations and how to pass the next exam. At the same time many students encounter a long waiting time before getting help from the university's support functions, and this is just among the students that know how to find and use these support functions. Studentbarometern shows that there is a much higher number of students that need help from the university's support functions than there are students who actually use them<sup>2</sup>. Efforts to promote students' mental health needs to be made and the university can contribute by, for example, creating and evaluating supportive physical, social and academic environments. However, even though the Studentbarometer is still used during this work there is a need for a new Studentbarometer to get a better understanding of how the students are doing and what needs to be done in the ongoing work.

The ongoing global pandemic has increased the number of students at Lund university by 17%. It has further aggravated the students' mental health. During the spring semester of 2020 the Social Sciences Student Union conducted a survey of how students handled the transition from physical to digital education. The results showed that the students mental health is an increasing issue that urgently needs to be prioritized.

## Because of this, the student union shall:

- advocate that the Faculty of Social Sciences hires a counselor (kurator) for social sciences students.
- push for the university through the umbrella organization Lunds universitets studentkårer (LUS) to send out a new Studentbarometer in 2022.
- strive for the university and the Faculty of Social Sciences to better their communication about the Student Health Center and other supporting functions.
- advocate for increased funding to the Student Health Center.
- strive to implement a national quality surveillance of the Student Health Center through our umbrella organisation the Swedish National Union of Students (SFS).
- strive for the mission of the Student Health Center to be clarified on a national level.

## Integration of LU campuses

Lund university has three campuses, one in Lund, one in Malmö and one in Helsingborg. The Faculty of Social Sciences is well established in Lund and Helsingborg. It is of great importance

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<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/publicerat-material/publikationsarkiv/p/psykisk-ohalsa-bland-hogskole--och-universitetsstudenter-kan-forebyggas/?pub=53659>

<sup>2</sup> Lunds universitets Studentbarometern 2017

that the brand of Lund University is represented at all three campuses and that both the indoor and outdoor environments are of equal quality on the different campuses.

Despite the university's presence at several geographic locations, large parts of student life are still concentrated in Lund. Some of the courses and study programmes in social sciences that are conducted at Campus Helsingborg have semesters where the place of study is temporarily moved to Lund. There are also social science educations in Lund where certain elective courses are given in Helsingborg. Both the attraction of student social life and the need to commute to where courses and study programmes are located create travel costs that can be a strain for individual students to pay for. To promote a unified university and to support students financially the university should offer free campus buses between Helsingborg and Lund.

### **Because of this, the student union shall:**

- work towards equal campus environments on all campuses both indoors and outdoors.
- advocate that the university should subsidize the costs for travels for students that commute between campuses.
- advocate for the implementation of campus buses that drive between the different LU campuses free of charge for students.

## **Pedagogy and digital learning environments**

The education at the Faculty of Social Sciences has been characterized by low amount of teacher led hours, inadequate pedagogic standards and structural underfunding for a long time. The students actively need more contact hours with teaching personnel and improved pedagogic measures in order to increase their experience of the quality in education.

The COVID-19-pandemic introduces new challenges for students that have previously not been as prevalent. During the pandemic digitalization has become an area of increased relevance. As digital platforms now in many ways have replaced most aspects of the learning environment and learning experience of students it is of utmost importance that teachers have a full understanding on how to use the platforms in their classrooms in a way that is both pedagogical and secure. Furthermore, it is also important that the university and the faculty make sure that all students have access to the digital tools and resources required to conduct their education.

### **Because of this, the student union shall:**

- advocate for more teacher led hours.
- advocate for an increased number of contact hours within education at the Faculty of Social Sciences.
- map out how many teacher led hours students at the Faculty of Social Sciences has and write a finishing report.
- strive to increase the hours of the pedagogical training of teaching staff.

- play an active part in making the faculty and university provide technical support for teaching personnel.
- play an active role in making the faculty and university provide training in pedagogy in digital tools and digital learning environments for teaching staff.
- advocate for an increase in technical equipment and teaching tools in classrooms and other learning environments.
- ensure that digital examinations happen in a fair (rättssäkert) way.
- advocate that the library services should provide loans of computers, web cameras and other necessary technical equipment for students to borrow and bring home.
- advocate that students should have the opportunity to conduct digital examinations on campus.

## Course evaluations

During the year of 20/21 the university has provided new routines for course evaluations that apply to the entire university. The purpose of these new routines has been to better the university's general work with course evaluations and to establish clear guidelines for how to work with course evaluations. In the upcoming year these routines will begin to be implemented which the student union should play an active part in the surveillance of the process.

The course evaluations are an important part in the development of courses at the university. It is often through the course evaluations that the students' experiences of the individual courses are captured and the answers from the course evaluations are then used to identify what needs to be improved in the education. It is therefore important that students are aware of how the course evaluations are conducted and used, and are aware of the importance of answering the course evaluation.

### Because of this, the student union shall:

- ensure that the new routines for course evaluations are implemented and followed at the Faculty of Social Sciences.
- hold an informational campaign on the importance of answering course evaluations.

## Anchoring of the Opinion Program

During the Representative Assembly spring 2020 the Presiding Committee of 20/21 was put in charge of creating a working group for revising the student union's Opinion Program. The Presiding Committee of 20/21 created the working group under the Education Committee during the fall and started the process of the program's revision. During the spring semester, the working group examined the current Opinion Program, revised and updated the different chapters as well as adding new chapters and areas of opinion. The revised texts have been sent out to the study councils and the Education Committee for input together with more general questions about what the Opinion Program should and should not include. In addition to this,

the working group has shared a survey asking for general input aimed at all students at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The working group realized that there was not enough time to conclude the process before the Representative Assembly without negatively affecting the possibilities for input from the study councils. As the Opinion Program is the most important document for the student union's political opinions, it is very important that the anchoring process is not done hastily. After consultation with the working group, the Presiding Committee of 20/21 therefore proposed to prolong the process to make sure that the anchoring process is satisfactory.

The work that is left with the Opinion Program is to further anchor the draft so that the opinions of the members of the Social Sciences Student Union are channeled through the document. Further, the complete revision of the Opinion Program needs to be presented to the Representative Assembly.

### **Because of this, the student union shall:**

- enable possibilities for proper anchoring of the Opinion Program revision.
- complete the revision of the Opinion Program and present it to one of the Representative Assembly meetings of 21/22.