

The Student Union Board's operational plan 26/27

The Student Union exists and is built on three core pillars, student-social activities, labour market connections, and quality assurance and advocacy of the education at the university. The operational plan is intended to lead the next operation year, with guidance from the previous year on focus areas to aid the Student Union's growth and goals.

Background

The Student Union in Skövde must always exist for the three core pillars, without them the Student Union falters in its goal, and its status as a student union for Skövde can be put into question. Without them, it cannot be assured the union is acting in the intention of the students studying at university of Skövde. The Student Union Board focuses on projects related to these pillars, while the institution's sections, associations, and the university focus on working at an institutional level.

Educational Advocacy

The Student Union represents students' views, interests, and opinions through different councils across the university to guarantee student representation and input. The Student Union acts for all students, regardless of them being within the union or not. The union's presence ranks from course syllabus influence to representation within the University Board, allowing student insights at all levels in-between. This allows direct student influence in strategic decisions, and student input into examination and course layouts.

Student Social Activities

To begin studying at a university takes several big steps in many people's lives; a new place, new people and, for many, a new city. Study-social activities are vital to allowing students a safe space to engage with other students outside of their studies, and for their well-being. These activities can range from movie nights, grillings, theatre, sports, dancing, sittings, and board games, to mention a few. Kårhuset Boulogner and Skövde Sexmästeri are a key part to ensure student social activities, and provide a central hub for students to gather.

Labour Market Connections

The Student Union serves to aid students in three ways, during studies, after studying, and to aid in labour market connections. The Student Union works actively to ensure contact areas between potential employers and students, in terms of part-time jobs, or summer jobs, and labour connections following graduation. Karriärmässan Framtid serves as a center point for these

connections, as well as additional collaboration with individual companies, sponsors, the Skövde municipality, and the region of Skaraborg.

Focus Areas

Every year, the Student Union Board chooses focus areas for the coming operational year. These are intended to shift focus to specific issues, or areas of interest for the student union. The focus areas serve as goals for the coming year to solidify the Student Union's priorities.

Organisational Focus

The Student Union sees a need for change within the Student Union for transparency, and visibility within and outside of the university. There is a need for restructuring and new frameworks to aid the Student Union's involvement, engagement, and expansion.

Operational Presence from SiS

Goal: The Student Union should be more unified as a centre piece of student culture, and aid for students to navigate various parts of SiS.

Plan: The Student Union needs to work towards a unified organisation and image, and should work towards marketing information as SiS as a whole.

Transparency

Goal: The Student Union shall strive to be as transparent as possible for members, both for students within the student union and outside of it.

Plan: Be clearer and more open about how certain things have been handled, and make information more easily accessible for all students. This is to ensure continuous transparency from the Student Union.

Visibility

Goal: The Student Union presence on the campus should increase so that both the Student Union Board, and SiS as a whole becomes more visible for both new and old students.

Plan: The Student Union should market themselves more around campus, both in person and through marketing materials, such as ovve-wednesday and through the TV-screens on campus.

Membership Benefits

Goal: The Student Union does not have a list of active member discounts, and the list of membership benefits has been vague for years. There are needs to better our documentations of

active membership benefits and to better our marketing towards new and old students, as well for the people involved in the Student Union.

Plan: The Student Union needs to investigate, and create active lists of membership benefits, such as discounts across Skövde, so that students can utilise their membership, and market to non-members to the full extent. New opportunities for membership benefits should be pursued.

Labour Market and External Relations

Ever since the labour market chairman was no longer a paid role in 2014 it has led to the union's labour market branch, and external company relationships to be limited. Its instability is hurting the student possibilities, and the representation of the Student Union in the greater Skövde area.

Additionally, the Student Union has for a long time had a “no-politics at all” standpoint. This has led to the Student Union having a delayed reaction to changes within both local, and national governmental decisions which impact students instead of proactive. Things this could entail could be CSN decisions, governmental grants, public transport for students, and limitations to push student interests in Skövde, such as student housing.

Labour Market

Goal: There needs to be a focus area of the Student Union to develop the labour market position for sustainability, and to create a wider network towards companies.

Plan: The Student Union Board needs to rework the labour market role and its work description. To create a sustainable work for full-time students, to create frameworks for easier communication and access to companies.

External Relations

Goal: It is important to make the Student Union a part of society, and be proactive to help students influence navigation towards local, regional and national political changes.

Plan: The Student Union needs to work on engagement with the municipality for meetings with politicians, to create interactions with the union to better our stance, and increase student influence impact.

Engagement Focus

Integration and Internalization of International Students

Goal: The Student Union's focus is all students at the university of Skövde. There is a strong need to create opportunities for integration of international students to match-up with national students.

Plan: To integrate international students more with opportunities within the Student Union and with Swedish students to improve their process into Swedish life, and make the Student Union a center point for them to get aid during their time as students.

Onboarding and Easier Engagement

Goal: The Student Union is aiming to provide more short-term opportunities for students to get involved with, to increase overall engagement within the Student Union. This will also allow for more projects to exist that can cater for more specific interests of students. This is so more students get their voices heard and interests represented.

Plan: The Student Union should work on including more students into the evolution of the Student Union's activities, focusing on project groups to prevent reusing volunteers already in the Student Union, and increase engagement through short-term opportunities for new students.

Advocacy

Goal: The communication and advocacy for master and doctorate students has not been a priority. The Student Union sees a need to expand our advocacy to include, and better our communication with postgraduate student groups.

Plan: To establish a continuous dialogue with the student groups in need of deeper advocacy than the bachelor students, such as master students and phd students. The doctorate students have their own subsection, in which a frequent dialogue should be established.

Traditional Events

Every year the Student Union plans, organises and hosts events. These events carry important weight for the student life, and the core pillars of the Student Union.

Introduction

Goal: Every year there is an influx of new students at the start of the autumn and the spring semester. During the introductions the students meet fellow students, classmates, and experience the campus for the first time. The introduction welcomes and introduces new students to the

student life, and aims to create a social life while being a student. The introduction should give a clear picture of the student union organisation, create an interest for involvement in student influence, and engagement.

Plan: The introgeneral leads the intro committee, and communicates with the university's intro responsables to plan the introduction. The introgeneral is a member of the university's intro group and serves as the main contact with the university for the introduction from the student union side. The introduction should be planned to welcome all students, help their access to information about the student union, and its goals.

Graduation ball

Goal: The graduation ball is a coordinated event hosted in collaboration with the university's graduation ceremony. This is a celebration for those who are graduating. It takes place in close proximity with the university's graduation ceremony, as according to the agreement with the university.

Plan: The event will be planned by the project group, with the Student Union's Event Chairman as project leader. The project manager will work with the university's planning of the graduation ceremony to create the ball.

Golden Apple

Goal: The Golden Apple is an award provided by the Student Union to one teacher at each institution of the university. It is an award granted annually for exceptional educational achievement, both to show appreciation to their work, and highlight a goal for the university's teacher to strive for.

Plan: The vice-president of the Student Union serves as the project manager for the golden apple, alongside the education responsables from the education forum. They are in charge of advertising and receiving nominations. The selected teachers are selected based on the nominations given to the education forum. The prize is given out during the graduation ceremony planned, and hosted by the university.

Valborg

Goal: The event forum, consisting of event responsables from each section help plan the Valborg celebration. Valborg is an important student tradition, and one of the student union's largest student social events.

Plan: The Valborg project group is led by the Event Chairman as project manager from the Student Union Board. As well involving other important stakeholders, such as Skövde Sexmästeri, and associations in the student union.

Karriärmässan Framtid

Goal: The Karriärmässa Framtid is the Student Union's biggest labour market event, coordinating contacts between students and companies. The event is intended to give students a chance to network, and meet potential future employers, or thesis project collaborations.

Plan: The Student Union hires a project manager who plans, hosts, is in charge of the fair and for recruitment of companies to the fair. The project manager utilises and works together with interested shareholders, such as the municipality, Näringslivforum, and the university.