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# SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LIST POLITICAL PROGRAM 2023 - 2024

*The Social Democratic List is running for election to the Student Parliament at the University of Bergen in spring 2023. The list is made up of engaged students from various faculties who all want to make a difference for the students at the University of Bergen.*

*Our core values are freedom, equality, and solidarity. We believe these are important values to have in student politics. We will work for a university for everyone, regardless of their background. We want everyone to have the same real opportunity to realize their potential through education*

## OUR THREE KEY POLICIES:

This year, we are running to ensure better mental health services for all students at the University of Bergen. The 2022 Student Health and Wellbeing Survey (SHOT) shows a worrying trend in students' mental health, which cannot simply be dismissed by citing Covid-19 and the pandemic's social consequences. The SHOT surveys before and after Covid-19 provide a clear answer: it's going in the wrong direction. The Social Democratic List therefore believes that more low-threshold services should be provided for everyone, and that students with more serious mental health problems should get the help they need. Sammen must get the resources they need to continue, develop, and renew their services, and the University of Bergen must start taking students' mental health seriously.

Our second core issue is a more affordable canteen for all students at the University of Bergen. Students' finances are getting worse, while prices in Sammen's canteens are increasing. In comparison, one can read that prices are being lowered in the Parliament's (Stortinget) canteen. The Social Democratic List believes this is extremely unfair in today's situation. The Social Democratic List will work to ensure that Sammen introduces more affordable breakfast, lunch, and dinner options for all students at the University of Bergen.

Our third core issue is more affordable course materials for all students at the University of Bergen. The Social Democratic List believes that the current system for selling course materials is completely untenable and that a fundamental reform is required. The Social Democratic List believes that the current agreement with Akademika can no longer continue. We will therefore work for a trial scheme where the university itself takes over the bookstore, with more affordable and stable prices.



# EDUCATION

*Good study quality, interdisciplinary and solid academic communities should be the education mantra of UiB. We achieve this by focusing on educational competence and quality. The overall organization of education must ensure that the interests of the students are safeguarded.*

**CHEAPER SYLLABUS.** UiB shall take responsibility for the sale of textbooks by establishing its own bookstores on campus. By offering a democratically controlled price for course literature, the university can ensure that students have access to the necessary materials without having to spend large amounts of money on books.

**IMPROVEMENT OF DIGITAL COMPETENCE FOR LECTURERS.** Today, there are many lecturers who do not use or master the digital tools that are required and available. Requirements must be set for UiB lecturers to receive digital training. The university must also employ more students as IT staff to make more help available for lecturers who struggle with technology.

**A MORE DIVERSE SYLLABUS,** both gender diversity and non-Western syllabus should be represented. The syllabus should be necessary and relevant to the subject if students are required to purchase it.

**THE QUALITY OF SEMINAR TEACHING MUST BE RAISED.** To ensure that all students receive a quality education, seminar teaching must be improved at all faculties, especially in the first years of study. This will contribute to creating a better learning experience and give students the opportunity to immerse themselves in academic subjects. To ensure that seminar teaching maintains high quality, all seminars must be regularly evaluated. Evaluations shall be used to identify areas for improvement and increase the quality of teaching. This will ensure that students gain a comprehensive and thorough understanding of the subject matter and are better equipped to meet challenges in the workplace. Social democratic principles of equality and justice require that all students have equal access to high-quality education regardless of their background and economic situation.

**MORE CREDIT-BEARING INTERNSHIPS.** We will also work to make it economically feasible for all students to take internships. It is therefore important that all internships schemes are credit-bearing and provide a basis for support from the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund. In addition, we will work to increase the salary of student assistants involved in teaching and research at UiB. This will give students a better financial situation and ensure that they can focus on their studies without worrying about financial challenges. Social democratic principles of equal opportunities and justice require that all students have access to credit-bearing internships and a fair wage for assistant work.

## A CENTRAL ACADEMIC WRITING CENTRE

The Social Democratic List believes that a central academic writing centre should be established and available to all students at UiB. It will be staffed by both professors, and students who can work there as part of their internships. It is about high time that students have a suitable place to have the opportunity to gain the sufficient academic understanding that the university requires students to acquire to a large extent on their own.

## MATH CENTRE.

A math centre should be established at UiB, where students from all faculties are welcome to receive help with mathematical subjects.

**STRENGTHENED FOLLOW-UP OF ALL STUDENTS.** All students at UiB shall have access to an academic mentor. Supervisors in practice and at the master's level shall have formal supervisory competence. Students must receive thorough feedback and follow-up on submitted work.

**DIGITISATION OF UIB.** UiB must implement podcasts and filming in all lectures where possible, bearing in mind that some lectures contain confidential content. All courses must suggest digitally accessible resources that can be used in the course, such as textbooks and compendiums. Digitisation of teaching and assessment should be purposeful and provide equivalent or increased quality.

**CLARITY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPULSORY TEACHING.** This will be ensured through guidelines on which teaching activities can be compulsory and which cannot. Clear information on compulsory attendance and coursework requirements must be provided for all courses. In addition, any flexible arrangements to compensate for absence from compulsory teaching must be explained.

**ENHANCED PEDAGOGICAL COMPETENCE AMONG TEACHERS.** Assessment of teaching competence should have a real impact on hiring decisions. Scientists hired should be tested in at least two different teaching methods. Teachers must continuously update and develop their pedagogical skills. Courses and teachers who repeatedly score poorly on evaluations should be included in a pedagogical development program to receive help in developing their teaching skills. This also applies to teachers' digital teaching competence, and efforts must be made to ensure a more pedagogical learning offer at Mitt UiB.

**CHANGES TO ADMISSION CRITERIA** for courses of study should be introduced on a trial basis, and research on the effects of these changes should be conducted simultaneously.

**OVERBOOKING OF COURSES** must not impact students' ability to complete the course.

**INTERDISCIPLINARITY IN EDUCATION** must be facilitated. UiB must make it easier for students to take courses across faculties. Interdisciplinarity should not only be established in elite courses with limited admission opportunities but should be available to most students.

**CLOSER COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS**, for example by considering the possibility of scientific staff having visiting hours for students a certain number of hours per week.

**INTRODUCTION OF FINES FOR DELAYED GRADING**, so that graders correct within the set time. Fines are an effective means of ensuring that students receive grading when they deserve it. The grading deadline of three weeks should be the standard on all faculties, for all students.

**COURSES WITH THE SAME COURSE CODES** must have at least 36 hours between exams.



# WELFARE

*To realize full-time student status, strengthening of study support is required. Student housing construction is an important measure to improve students' finances. Student culture must be ensured with sufficient financial resources so that students have a wide range of options. An active student culture must be facilitated in Bergen. Sammen shall provide welfare services to all students in the Western region. Sammen's services must reflect the needs of the student body, with particular attention to students' mental health. We will primarily work to promote this policy in the Welfare Council of Western Norway.*

SAMMEN'S DENTAL SERVICES MUST BE MORE AFFORDABLE. Sammen's dentists must make their services cheaper for students. This offer must also be more visible and accessible among students.

THERAPY ANIMALS PROGRAMME should continue. The student parliament must explore the possibility of offering therapy animals over a longer period and in multiple faculties. Therapy animals shall be organized and funded by UiB and/or Sammen.

SAMMENS PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE MUST BE A LOW-THRESHOLD OFFER for all students. Sammen shall continue to develop the psychology service and work to reduce waiting times during periods of high demand. This service must remain a free offer. The threshold for seeking help must also be lowered by simplifying, digitalizing, and automating the waiting list system. Sammen's psychological services must also be better promoted to increase visibility among students.

SAMMEN CAFETERIAS shall offer affordable, varied, and healthy food, including for allergy sufferers. Sammen must offer vegetarian options in all cafeterias and focus on animal welfare and environmental considerations in selecting suppliers. Half-price dinner during the exam period must be continued and adapted to the various exam periods. Fruit should be free in Sammen's cafeterias to facilitate a healthier diet for students. Breakfast in all Sammen's cafeterias for 10 kr should be continued and made permanent, and it should have allergy-friendly options.

SAMMEN MUST IMPROVE ITS COURSE OFFERINGS by strengthening their course portfolio and making their offers more visible, so that more students are aware of them. Together should reach out to relevant student organizations to offer specialized courses tailored to the members of the organization.

SAMMEN SPORTS must keep the sports hall open during the exam period so that students can maintain their training in the hall.

SAMMEN SPORTS shall reintroduce half-year memberships.

SAMMEN CAFETERIAS MUST INTRODUCE A BETTER COFFEE DEAL. The deal shall contribute to cheaper coffee for students. It shall also contribute to cheaper tea.

SAMMEN MUST PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ITS HEALTH FUND, where students can apply for support for either psychological services, dental damage, or transportation between the study location and home if there has been an injury or illness.

THE OMBUD FOR STUDENTS MUST BE A 100% JOB POSITION AT UIB. Sammen must expand its Ombud for students service to a full- time position at UIB. The current agreement that cover three different institutions has proved to be quite challenging. The rising number of cases show that there is a need for a full- time Ombud for students in order to give sufficient help to the many students at UIB.

EQUAL CONTRIBUTIONS. Educational institutions in Bergen must contribute equally to the Sammen community per student. All Sammen students shall pay the same amount for Sammen's services.

STUDY SUPPORT must be tied to the basic amount in the National Insurance Scheme, gradually increased to 2 G, and paid out over 12 months. We do not want turbo scholarships to be introduced.

SAMMEN HOUSING. We want an increased proportion of student housing in Bergen. Bergen municipality must release centrally located plots for student housing. The goal is a coverage rate of 30% by 2030.

BETTER COLLABORATION between student organizations and Bergen municipality, especially to ensure that student culture and students' mental health services are strengthened.

STUDENT DISCOUNTS for cultural events shall be equal for all students in the Western region.

BPA SCHEME (user-controlled personal assistant) shall also apply during the study period.

SAMMEN NEEDS TO WORK TO PROMOTE THEIR SERVICES better so that all students on the west coast are aware of sammen's offerings.

THE UNIVERSITY SHALL INTRODUCE FUNDING FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS that contribute to increased social interaction, competence building, and improved mental health for students. Student organizations play a crucial role in taking care of students' welfare and skill development.

THE UNIVERSITY SHALL CREATE AN ORGANIZATION FUND to contribute financial support for larger and more projects and events for the student body at uib.

STUDENTS SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO FREE ONLINE newspapers through agreements between UIB and suppliers.



# DIVERSITY & EQUALITY

*All people are different, all students should be heard. Everyone, regardless of background and economic situation, should have equal access to higher education. UiB must take extra responsibility to ensure equality, diversity, and universal accessibility of facilities for students and workplaces for staff.*

A UiB WHERE EVERYONE FEELS WELCOME. Efforts must actively be made against racism, bullying, and other forms of discrimination. Persons with non-binary gender identities must be taken care of. UiB should be universally designed.

THE STUDENT PARLIAMENT AND UiB shall each year commemorate International Women's Day. An event shall be held and UiB shall be visible in the local celebration in Bergen.

A THIRD GENDER. UiB shall introduce a third gender internally at the university.

BETTER FACILITATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, both in study, teaching, and assessment situations. UiB shall facilitate exchange opportunities for students with disabilities. UiB shall be at the forefront of meeting the needs that are unique to each individual, including counseling, information, and support. Students with disabilities shall be offered a meeting with the administration prior to each semester to ensure adequate facilitation in each course.

RELIGIOUS CLOTHING AND SYMBOLS shall be able to be worn freely, as long as it does not hinder the implementation of teaching and practice. If there are any prohibitions, it should be clarified which studies it applies to.

GENDER BALANCE. Active recruitment must be initiated to achieve gender balance when one gender is represented below 40% in a study program. Active recruitment can include various types of campaigns, girl and boy days, or the like.

ACCESSIBLE CONVERSATION PARTNER FROM SAMMEN. UiB must offer a general conversation partner who does not judge based on religion. Today's student chaplain is not sufficient in terms of how many different religions are actually at the university, and the current arrangement creates greater differences among students.



# LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

*One of the most important aspects of a university is the experience that students have during their studies. In order to create the best possible learning environment, it is important for UiB to strengthen its support for students and ensure that student democracies have the necessary framework to carry out their work.*

**ORGANIZED STUDY GROUPS.** Organized study groups led by students who have previously taken the course should be facilitated on all faculties at the University of Bergen. Organized study groups can be established through mentorship programs or faculty committees.

**GOOD SOCIAL CONDITIONS** for all students. All faculties must have dedicated social spaces for students. We also want to strengthen the cooperation between student organizations at UiB and other educational institutions in Western Norway.

**GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS** for all students. More group study rooms, reading spaces, and lecture halls should be made available as reading rooms during exam periods. All master's students should have access to reading rooms. Power outlets should be available in all UiB premises where students work, including lecture halls.

**CHEAP PCs FOR STUDENTS.** UiB should offer certain PC models at a reduced price to its students. The IT department should be available to provide assistance in case of any problems with the computer.

**LEADERSHIP COURSES FOR STUDENTS ENGAGED IN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND POLITICS THAT COUNTS TOWARDS CREDITS.** UiB should facilitate participation in student democratic or political roles, including by paying for such work and by providing compensated absences from mandatory lectures.

**PAID POSITIONS.** Student organizations should be funded enough to have paid positions where it is crucial for sustainable and efficient operation.

**STUDENT-RUN WELCOME WEEK** with minimal teaching. Night-time public transport and buddy systems should be secured and improved.

**A LESS ALCOHOL-FOCUSED WELCOME WEEK.** Better non-alcoholic events and alternatives should be provided during welcome weeks. There should be more events during welcome week that are not alcohol focused.

**LITTER DURING WELCOME WEEK.** More litter bins and containers should be set up in outdoor areas with a high concentration of students during welcome week.

**STRENGTHENED STUDENT DEMOCRACY.** The work of the student parliament must be rooted in the student committees, and student committee representatives' positions in the student parliament must be maintained. All faculties should have offices for student committees to ensure their working conditions are secured. In addition, student committees should have secure financial frameworks.

**A NATIONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT LAW** should protect students' rights.

**THERE SHOULD BE A "MITT UIB" APP.** The university should also consider improving the "Mitt UIB" website.

**GRIEG ACADEMY'S PREMISES** should be renovated and prioritized.

**CLEAR FRAMEWORK FOR THE USE OF EXTERNALLY BUILT PROPERTIES.** UiB should have a clear framework to avoid conflicts between the owner and user of properties that are made available to UiB.

**EXPAND THE SYSTEM OF 24/7 READING ROOMS AND LIBRARIES.** The pilot project for a 24/7 library at the Library for Social Sciences and Music has been very popular, and therefore, the Social Democratic List wants to expand the scheme.



# CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

*As a knowledge institution, UiB has an ethical responsibility to contribute to a more environmentally friendly society. UiB must actively work towards the goal of being climate-neutral by 2030. The institution must be a role model for environmentally friendly operations and reduce its emissions.*

IT SHOULD BE EASY TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY for all students and staff at UiB. Waste sorting must be done on all floors of all UiB buildings.

REDUCE PLASTIC USAGE AND AVOID MICROPLASTICS. UiB shall reduce its use of plastic as much as possible and actively avoid products that contain microplastics.

PRIORITY FOR CYCLING TO AND FROM UIB. Lockable bicycle parking spaces should be prioritized at all faculties, along with available tools for simple bike repairs. Efforts should also be made to have more city bikes stationed at Høyden.

INVESTIGATE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION ON UIB PROPERTY. UiB shall investigate the possibilities of using its existing property for the production of renewable energy. This can be done through solar panels, water heating, or other renewable resources.

THE STUDENT PARLIAMENT SHALL CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SDG CONFERENCE and day zero conference. The parliament shall be clear in planning and carrying out the conference.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN SHALL USE TRAINS INSTEAD OF PLANES where possible. It shall be natural for everyone travelling on behalf of the university to use trains and other environmentally friendly means of transportation.

THE UNIVERSITY SHALL TAKE SUSTAINABILITY SERIOUSLY. UiB shall stop investing in fossil funds and actively support sustainable businesses. The university shall actively work towards achieving the UN's sustainability goals.

HØYDEN SHALL BECOME CAR-FREE

A car-free Høyden will have a positive effect on the climate and local environment. Exceptions shall be made for goods delivery and other absolutely necessary circumstances.



# INTERNATIONAL

*Internationalisation improves the quality of higher education. It should be easy and attractive to go on exchange, and students who come to UiB should be welcomed and included in the study environment. UiB shall promote democracy, human rights, and academic freedom in collaboration with other educational institutions.*

UIB SHALL BE THE BEST IN EXCHANGE. UiB must work to be the university that is best in internationalisation in Norway. There must be more international study programmes and attractive exchange agreements. The agreements must have good quality assurance. UiB must make it easy to exchange, and there must be predictable approval procedures for exchange stays.

OPTIMAL GAIN FROM EXCHANGE. Students must be prepared in advance of their exchange so that their learning about different cultures is as great as possible. UiB shall identify how they can work to raise competence locally with those they have exchange agreements with when relevant. In addition, the inclusion of international students must be improved. To ensure good integration, there must be better capacity for language courses offered at UiB.

BETTER WELCOME FOR REFUGEES. UiB must take an active role in giving refugees a good welcome to Norway. They can do this by offering training courses to refugees, among other things. Rapid assessment of refugees' educational competence from their home country is important.

SCHOLARS- AND STUDENTS AT RISK must be maintained and continued.

FREE HIGHER EDUCATION, also for international students.

UIB SHALL CONTINUE TO BE PART OF A EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE. UiB shall be visible in European university cooperation by being part of a European university alliance.



# ACADEMICS & RESEARCH

*UiB is a research university and shall conduct independent, free, and independent basic research. Students must also feel that they are part of this in their study everyday life. By giving students the opportunity to participate in research, one links students closer to academic communities while strengthening the ties between research and education.*

THE RESEARCH FOCUS OF UIB shall reflect future challenges. Sustainable development and renewable energy shall be one of UiB's prioritised research areas. In addition, UiB's independent and free basic research must be preserved.

STUDENT-ACTIVE RESEARCH. All students must be more included in research at UiB. We will ensure that all bachelor and master students who research will be included in a research group. Students who research must have insurance when relevant.

OPEN ACCESS. UiB shall work to publish all publicly funded research openly (Open Access) and accessible. Exceptionally sensitive research, such as defense and security related reasons.

UIB SHALL BE AN OPEN ORGANIZATION. UiB must be as open as possible in processes leading to the establishment and continuation of internally and externally formalized collaborations. UiB must be particularly open in processes that concern students. UiB's websites must have information about cooperation agreements and the guidelines they lay down.