

POLITICAL PLATFORM FOR THE STUDENT ELECTION 2024

Dear fellow students!

We want to become your representatives to The University Board. It is the most authoritative body of The University of Bergen, and two students have a seat there at all times. Both of us have previous experience from the University Board, as well as from several student organizations. Our two main objectives are creating a stronger and more resolute student community, and ensuring a greener university that properly cuts its emissions.

UiB is a fantastic university in a fantastic city. However, a university is not much without its students. Therefore, our first objective is ensuring that your local student representatives have the resources they need. Our thinking is that when your local representatives have the resources they need, issues you encounter regarding your studies and your stay at the university can be solved locally. That, however, presupposes that your representatives are adequately paid and have received sufficient training on how to do their job. Today, this is not the case and we want to change that.

Furthermore, we want to ensure that the university keeps good on its promises to lower emissions. Within the year 2030, UiB has promised to become carbon neutral. Given today's slow progress, this will not be achieved. Therefore, we want to intensify the university's work on cutting emissions. This includes work to ensure better data on emission sources, more specific measures solving local climate issues, such as recycling and waste management, and less domestic air travel.

We have several other points you can read about further down in the document. We hope you'll vote for us, but most important is that you actually use your right to vote.

Happy elections!

Sigrid and Victor



(Photo: Katarina Pettersen)

Sigrid Vorland

Sigrid (22) is from Tromsø, the Paris of the North. She's majoring in physics and attends The Faculty of Natural Science. Sigrid has done one year as substitute representative in the University Board, and previously worked as leader for the student body at her faculty.



(Photo: Katarina Pettersen)

Victor Rovira Botnevik

Victor (22), born and raised in Bergen, attends his third year at The Faculty of Law. He's already done one term as student representative in the University Board, as well as leader for the student body and member of the Faculty Board. He's also been a member of the Student Radio and has a modest role in the Student's Society of Bergen.

Core objectives

- A stronger and more resolute student community
- A greener university

Other objectives

- Visibility
- Universal design in academia
- An open campus and a transparent university

A stronger and more resolute student community

At UiB there are hundreds of student representatives at different programs, institutes, and faculties. Today, most of them don't receive the proper resources they need to do their work and consequently improve their fellow students' everyday life. As examples, some lack proper training in doing their jobs, some adequate pay, and others generally lack information about which student representative to contact if they have questions.

We are convinced that when your local representatives have the proper tools for the job, your experience at the university will improve. When local issues regarding everything from curriculums, toilet facilities, or administrative practices can be solved by your local student representative, it ensures more efficient and apt solutions.

Therefore, we will:

- Be a unifying and advisory resource to student representatives, especially those who are representatives to boards at institutes and faculties.
- Closing the resource gap between employee representatives and student representatives, by reducing the structural differences inherent at the university.
- Ensure that the university gives adequate training for its student representatives working on behalf of the university.
- Working towards more standardized pay for student representatives across the university.

A greener university

Within the year 2030, UiB has promised to become carbon neutral. Given today's slow progress, this will not be achieved. Therefore, we want to intensify the university's work on cutting emissions. This includes work to ensure better data on emission sources, more specific measures solving local climate issues, such as recycling and waste management, and less domestic air travel.

The University Board has exhibited a reluctance in reaching its own climate goals. Not only does this mean that UiB fails to take responsibility for its emissions, but in turn also sends a signal further down the organization that combating climate change is something not prioritized at the top. Next fall, the Board will decide if it wants to keep in line with its climate ambitions of 2030. Rather than toss our existing ambitions six years before the deadline, we want to intensify the work already being done.

Therefore, we will:

- Guarantee that the students on the University Board are the most leading and vocal members in combating climate change and cutting the university's emissions.
- Do what we can to ensure that the university keeps its existing climate ambitions for 2030.
- Ensure that measures made to cutting emissions are concrete, especially regarding waste management, recycling, less domestic air travel, and more specific data regarding the university's climate accounting

Visibility

It's no secret that too few students at UiB know of their foremost representatives. There is undoubtedly a distance between ordinary students and the students entrusted to represent their cause. Especially important is that your local student representatives at programs, institutes, and faculties, know of higher ups student representatives regarding questions and issues they face concerning their own job.

Therefore, we will:

- Work to ensure that the students of the University Board are more visible to all students and their local representatives.
- Be more visible in the media to inform and explain students relevant topics being processed by the University board.

Universal design in academia

The University of Bergen is supposed to be a university for everyone, regardless if you require special considerations while attending studies or not. A lot of students face challenges that involve them needing special facilitation for participating in the student life. For example, in meeting with mandatory classes or other obligatory requirements, students may face difficulties. Not for the lack of trying but because the system and rules are too rigid.

Neither the students themselves or the university gain anything by students failing to complete classes due to not receiving the facilitation they require. UiB can and should do more to prevent this from happening.

Therefore, we will:

- Work for the rights for students in need of special facilitation, in accordance with relevant actors such as Jussformidlingen (Student organization for free judicial aid) and the university's own coordinators for integration and diversity.
- Ensuring that existing digital infrastructure may be used in a manner that further helps students with special needs for facilitation.

An open campus and a transparent university

According to the university's own plan for property management, UiB's own campus is supposed to be free and open for use by its students. However, we still see that certain buildings are closed for students not attending a specific faculty. This should be changed. Also, the system of expanding the opening hours of the university's libraries during exam periods, has been a success.

The last year we've seen that the university has not kept true to its ideals of an open and transparent university. UiB's administrative processes, no matter the size, should be transparent and open to the public, if need be. Our employees and students must have confidence that the university's most authoritative body works towards ensuring those ideals, especially when it comes to fiscal matters. Students should also be included in the management of the university, at all levels.

Therefore, we will:

- The next time the university's property management plan is up for discussion, ensure that each student is entrusted with access to the university's buildings, regardless of what institute of faculty they belong.
- Ensure that the university is a forerunner when it comes to openness and transparency in administrative and fiscal processes.
- Ensure that students are included at every relevant level when important decisions regarding the future of the university are being made.