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**Passed by the Student Parliament 08.09.18**

## **STUDENT POLITICAL PLATFORM**

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### **1. Fundamental Principles**

The University of Oslo shall be open for all. Equal right and access to higher education is essential to securing social mobility. It is important, therefore, that intake to higher education is based upon an admissions system that is fair and verifiable.

The University of Oslo shall be an international leader within education, research, research dissemination, and innovation. Education must be prioritized equally as high as research. There shall be a good relationship between academic employee and student, and teaching shall be research based.

All students will be challenged to think critically and reflectively throughout their education. Students shall be given the knowledge and skills to create a better future, developing insight into one's field, critical thought, and academic refinement.

Academic freedom, equality, diversity, solidarity, sustainability, and the free principle are central founding values for the Student Parliament at the University of Oslo.

The Student Parliament is principally opposed to the introduction of an enterprise model (foretaksmodellene) in higher education.

### **2. Education**

#### **2.1 Studies**

- Bachelor programs must be built in order to qualify for a wider range of master programs.
- All study programs will be set up so that 30 free study points are gathered in one semester, where students get the opportunity to go on exchange, take free study points, or have point-giving internships in the workforce.
- Courses or excursions that are mandatory, or that form natural parts of a program of study, are to be provided free of charge.
- Programmes of study that can document a particular need should be allowed to apply alternative admissions requirements, i.e. in health related fields such as medicine and psychology.
- The University of Oslo shall protect and prioritize student interests when forming Strategy 2030.

## 2.2 Instruction

- The education offered shall be based up-to-date and top quality research, and university lecturers shall be coursed frequently in pedagogy.
- Instruction competency must be weighted in hires where instruction will comprise a part of the position.
- Instruction forms must be varied and arranged so that students receive subject oriented and personal development.
- Lecturers are to be trained in the use of digital education tools and should make use of such tools in their teaching.
- Academic environments shall be merited for good instruction.
- Technical equipment and instruction rooms must keep a high standard and be updated.
  
- All lectures will be made available for all students at UiO, through podcast or screencast.
- Instruction at the bachelor's level shall be research oriented
- Teaching at the master's level will be bound to research such that all master's students at UiO engage in research in connection with their master's thesis.
- UiO will offer classroom instruction (seminars, labs, cases, etc.) in all subjects where it is expedient.
- Instruction material used in lectures shall be published at least 2 days before the lecture takes place.
- Teaching materials, such as podcasts and PowerPoint presentations, ought to be made accessible to the general public.
- University institutes shall ensure that the use of English as a teaching language does not inhibit students' ability to apply their acquired knowledge in Norwegian.
- UiO must ensure that course evaluations happen at least every other semester a course is held. A common set of questions used in the evaluation of all courses that comprise the same degree track must be introduced. That each subject evaluation has a high enough response rate that the answers can be used for further development of the course must be ensured.

## 2.3 Assessment and Feedback

- There must be several varied forms of evaluation throughout a semester in, such that there is a broad basis for setting grades.
- All students will automatically receive an individual assessment explanation that promotes learning. Automatic Feedback shall not happen at the expense of group sessions, lab or seminars.
- The Student Parliament does not want national sub-exams in studies that are not governed by national frameworks.
- Delayed grading will be reported and, in the case of breaches of the three weeks rule, be sanctioned at the institute level.
- UiO must establish its own register of delayed grading, so that all cases are registered.
- In the case of a complaint, a response shall come within 15 days.
- Exams shall not be held on Saturdays, May 2nd, or May 18th.

- UiO is to implement a digital system enabling students to track progress on their pending assessments.

## 2.4 New Students

- UiO must take responsibility for new students receiving the information and tools they need to get started at study start.
- All study programs with first year students at a lower degree level should have a professionally hired mentor that works specifically with the transition to the university.
- Subject environments should hire educational assistants as collective supervisors for first year students.
- Study programs will encourage organized learning to be added to the first year of studies in a greater degree.
- The buddy system must be strengthened locally.
- First year student must receive sufficient information about academic writing centers.
- UiOs future strategies must implement skill development as a key area.
- All faculties must ensure that the institutes are contributing sufficient funds for buddy weeks. The contributed sum per student shall be comparable regardless of study program and institute.
- Students that sign up for the buddy system shall receive better compensation through for example gift card from SiO.
- UiO must communicate that semesterstart events are not only for new students.
- UiO must work to foster a sense of belonging at the university for both new and old students.
- UiO shall offer means to follow up on freshmen all the way through their first year, not just the first two weeks.

## 2.5 Work Life Relevance

- The institutes must ensure that the work opportunities found within the subject field are clear.
- Institutes and faculties must establish cooperation agreements with the organized actors on both sides (employee and employer) of the labor market.
- Career consultation shall be an integrated part of the studies, be available for every student at UiO and must keep a high standard. Consultation shall be offered for a year after the end of the studies.
- UiO must ensure that study-advisers are given sufficient training, so that they are proficient in both psychosocial and academic guidance.
- Advisors must further improve their skills and shall reach out to international student that wish to work in Norway.
- UiO must inform of international or domestic internship possibilities for post-graduates.
- The national Union of students in Norway (NSO) must strive towards making unemployed graduates eligible for social security programs offered by NAV.

## 2.6 Learning Environment

- All new students at UiO will receive offers to meet with a supervisor in the course of the first semester. All students must have access to guidance services that encompass all aspects of student life. Access to guidance services must be easily available and understandable.
- Buddy program must be

- The physical learning environment must be proper, promote interaction, and promote learning.
- Services and opening hours during exam periods must be expanded, as far as it complies with the provisions in the working environment law.
- Reading halls shall not be used as exam locations
- The right to a good learning environment must be established in a new learning environment law for students. In anticipation of a new law, UiO will create its own guidelines that advance requirements for student learning environments
- An effort to Map out the amount of quiet areas, as well as areas for study groups must be undertaken. Coverage must increase substantially.
- Physical learningcentres, such as "Entropia" and "Bikuben", shall be established
- At least one study hall or learning hub must be open around the clock. The general availability of the services listed is to be expanded during finals week(s).
- Second semester shall include new program-related events consisting of study-relevant skill acquisition and study planning considering further studies as well as exchange programs. Ideally these are combined with social events.

## 2.7 Syllabus

- UiO must work to ensure that all instructional material that is originally digital, remains digital
- It is necessary to have comprehensive digital syllabus offerings. E-books and e-compendiums should be available for all subjects and they should be more reasonably priced than paper books.
- Where digital syllabi are not available, the physical syllabus must be easily available at UiO's library
- Today's offerings of digital syllabus literature, newspapers, and journals must be made more visible.
- UiO will, as a starting point, offer its students e-compendiums unless they wish to get the compendium printed out.
- All courses should strive for a syllabus with a broad representation of several genders and ethnicities.
- Whenever Open Source alternatives of similar or higher quality than licensed software are available, they are to be used in place of the licensed option.
- Curriculum pertaining to studies outside Europe shall never be exclusively of the Eurocentric perspective.
- Curriculum shall be up to date and ideally contain the newest available research.

## 2.8 Facilitation

- The system with following-letters from high school and such shall be reinstated in order for those grading work to automatically be aware of any writing disabilities
- UiO must establish a mentor-program for students with extraordinary needs causing difficulties finishing their courses. The offer shall be made common knowledge for all freshmen. The mentor in question should belong to the corresponding faculty as the students.
- UiO shall be universally accessible.
- UiO must facilitate for students both with non-visible and visible disabilities in order to secure an easier campus life.

- Formerly made applications for facilitation shall follow the student regardless of faculty and course.
- UiO shall make it possible to apply for change of examination method, in addition to the current offer of additional time. Practical examinations will not be affected.

### **3. Research, Innovation and Dissemination**

#### 3.1 Research

- Student active research in lower degrees must be arranged and courses or projects that aim to give insight into research must be established.
- Including students in research environments must be made simpler.
- All cooperative agreements between UiO and different businesses, industries, and organizations must be public. Before entering into a cooperative agreement, a hearing and ethics evaluation should be conducted. The national ethical guidelines for research must be taken into account.
- Research financed by the public will, as a starting point, remain public, unless it breaks general research ethics guidelines.
- Research must follow international ethics guidelines and shall never contribute to the destruction of the climate, others' livelihoods, or the violation of human rights.
- Animal research must be avoided where it is possible to replace the use of living animals with other options.

#### 3.2 Innovation

- Students must have a central role in the focus on innovation at UiO.
- The number of courses within innovation must be increased.
- Guidance services for students who wish to become entrepreneurs must be made more available. Students should be guided on how one can safely cooperate with the business world.
- UiO must strengthen its focus on student driven innovation environments and connect with organized actors in the workforce in order to ensure good working conditions for students and employees who take part in these environments.
- More centers for research driven innovation shall be established.

#### 3.3 Dissemination

- The museums will be a focus area for dissemination.
- Student oriented dissemination must be given disbursement in the financing system for researchers and academic staff
- Dissemination have to play an key role in the education of students, and there should be subject aimed specifically at dissemination at every faculty, such as MNKOM3000
- Students shall be included in the dissemination, and has to be receive support and guidance in this proses

### **4. Sustainability, the Climate and the Environment**

#### 4.1 Sustainable and ethical operations

- All vehicles owned by UiO must stop using fossil fuels by 2020.
- UiO must be environmentally certified.
- Sustainability and environmental issues must have a central position in Strategy 2030.
- UiO must be a zero-emission institution by 2030.
- UiO must work actively to reduce its energy consumption.
- BREEAM excellent must be the minimum standard for all buildings at UiO, plusshus (a building that generates more energy than it consumes in its lifetime) should be sought after.
- UiO must produce environmental reports for all its faculties.
- All materials used and distributed by UiO should be of the highest environmental standard. The University must also give weight to environmental considerations in all its purchases.
- UiO must ensure that all its purchases are ethically justifiable.
- UiO must reduce the number of university related flights considerably. Information about flights must be reported annually.
- To reduce the number of flights, every institute must have proper equipment to execute video conferences.
- Until UiO meet the goal of reducing the number of flights, the university must implement climate compensating measures.
- UiO must, through UNIFOR, invest in a way that stimulates green growth and social equality.
- The Student Parliament shall promote climate and environmental measures at and around UiO, in connection with Oslo being the European Green Capital 2019.
- The university must reduce the number of parking spaces, with the exception of accessible parking spaces. The remaining parking spaces should be changed to charging stations for electric and hybrid cars.
- Recycling and upcycling should be encouraged amongst the students and the staff, through thrift stores and recycling stations at the student towns.
- The University shall establish an environmental fund, from which students and staff can apply for funding for environmental projects.
- The area outside Villa Eika that today is a parking lot has to be converted into a green area.
- The University campus must have theft-proof charging stations for electric bicycles.
- The cafeterias at UiO must drastically reduce food waste.
- The amount of plastic packaging in the cafeterias must be reduced, and the use of disposable plastics must be phased out.
- All of UiO's cafeterias must offer a full vegetarian and vegan option. Measures to make the vegan and vegetarian option cheaper than meat should be considered.

#### 4.2 Research and education

- UiO shall have world leading research environments in renewable energy and sustainability.
- UiO shall have an interdisciplinary focus on restructuring to a sustainable society.
- The Akademia agreement shall not constrict researchers and students in UiO's review of projects that are being supported by this agreement. When the agreement is be renegotiated it should be turned into support for renewable projects.
- Institutes shall be encouraged to have sustainability as a part of all study programs, with focus on the subject field's role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- A system for labeling all subjects with regards to the sustainable development goals (SDGs) must

be introduced.

## 5. Equality

### 5.1 Likestilling og diversity

- No student will be exposed to unjust discrimination based on personal choices around clothing and expression.
- All students must have the same accessibility to UiO, SiO and the student parliament, regardless of ethnicity, religion, religious clothing, world view, political belief, gender, sexual preference, disability or cultural background
- Gender balance must be sought in all forums, in addition to the implementation of measures that make academia an attractive career path for women.
- UiO must reduce the use of temporary hires considerably, permanent employment shall be the main rule.
- UiO shall aim to reduce the number of employees that involuntarily work part time.
- Gender points or quotas shall be implemented in studies with a representation of one sex under 30% over time.
- Gender neutral toilets will be available on UiO premises
- UiO must implement a gender-neutral option with all registration.
- UiO must implement initiatives that reduce pay differences between women and men
- Information around birth leave and parental leave for students must be made more easily available.
- UiO must prepare an action plan with initiatives to better safeguard LGBTQI+ people in the student population and amongst employees.
- UiO shall sought after 50% gender representation in all its boards and committees
- Both students and employees should feel welcome and safe at UiO, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Courses by "Rosa kompetanse" should be offered to every educator.
- UiO must acknowledge gender-neutral pronouns.

### 5.2 Diversity

- UiO must hire a diversity coordinator.
- There should be established a program to spread knowledge about diversity and models of diversity
- UiO shall make sure there are higher recruitment of students of minority backgrounds, diverse social backgrounds and ability.
- Sami society, their history and their relation to the Norwegian government should have a place within Norwegian society and Norwegian history, pertaining to relevant courses.

### 5.3 Harassment and Discrimination

- There must be a maximum processing time of six months in racism, harassment, and discrimination cases.
- UiO must enforce a zero tolerance policy on harassment.
- UiO must give employees and students good training in what harassment and discrimination are. Students must also receive training in which avenues one has for reporting incidents and

processing through, for example, informing students about UiO's reporting system at the start of each introductory lecture.

- UiO must fulfill its duty to investigate suspicions of harassment and discrimination, regardless of the circumstances.
- There must be quick case processing in discrimination and harassment cases, regardless of the kind of incident uncovered.
- Students will be informed about UiO's reporting system for learning environment early in the first semester of all study programs.
- UiO will not subsidize more than two units of alcohol per attendee during internal gatherings.
- Courses on preventative measures for and the handling of harassment uneven power dynamics, alcohol consumption, and other similar issues will be offered to student associations, Student Parliament, and other relevant actors.

## 6. International

### 6.1 Social Responsibility and Solidarity

- A goal of internationalization of education and research will be to support developing countries, especially countries in the Global South.
- The ability of refugees, who come to Norway, to continue their higher education and be included in the academic environment, must be facilitated. It shall be possible for asylum seekers to continue their education in Norway while they wait for their asylum application to be processed.
- UiO will contribute to the validation of the higher education of refugees and immigrants, so that this work goes faster.
- UiO will not work with actors who contribute to or commit war crimes. Furthermore, UiO will not contribute to committing breaches of international law.
- The Student Parliament will engage itself in projects that promote student solidarity.
- «Students at Risk» must be made permanent and should be implemented in the rest of the Nordics.
- "Students at Risk" must be expanded and made permanent and should be
- Good stipend arrangements must exist in order for students from countries in the Global South to take a whole degree in Norway.
- International students will not pay tuition fees.
- UiO will strengthen its work on capacity building for institutions of higher learning in the Global South, through, for example, joint projects such as NORHED.
- UiO will be cautious in working with regimes that break the principle of academic freedom.

### 6.2 Inclusion and Facilitation

- The University of Oslo must facilitate the ability of all international students and researchers to participate in boards and councils.
- The most central strategic documents must be translated to English so that they are available for international students and employees
- Free, level adjusted Norwegian courses for all international students and employees must be offered.
- The buddy system for international and exchange students must be improved, and buddy groups must be better integrated with Norwegian students during semester start.



- SiO must offer a course on the Norwegian Working Environment Act in English.
- UiO must ensure that students receive information about their language rights.
- A physical meeting place between local and international students must be established – in the form of, for example, a language café.

### 6.3 Education

- The university must establish at least one bachelor's program in English.
- More subjects should be instructed in English.
- UiO must facilitate shorter, academically related stays abroad, such as fieldwork, summer schools, and language courses etc.
- A completely digital system for preapproval and post-approval of courses must be prepared. The system must make it simple for students to see the progression of their prior approval cases.
- UiO, as an agreement owner, must, in cooperation with institutions that UiO has exchange agreements with, ensure that preapproved semester and yearlong study courses exist at the host institutions for study programs where it is possible to do this.
- UiO must update admissions routines such that exchange stays taken in late in the course of a degree do not prevent students from seeking admission to or being admitted to further studies.
- UiO must improve the supervising service offered to students going on exchange. All supervisors must be trained.
- Students going on exchange or conducting fieldwork or internships abroad, especially in developing countries, should have relevant preparation, with guidelines and tools for use of social media, tied especially to promoting the dignity, respect, and nuanced portrayal of local populations and surroundings.

## 7. Welfare

- The Student Parliament at the University of Oslo shall work with the City of Oslo in order for Oslo to become Norway's best student city.
- UiO and SiO must take special responsibility for safeguarding the psychological health of students, with the goal of a maximum one week wait time for counseling and a maximum two week wait time for an appointment with a specialist.
- The authorities, to a greater degree, must take economic responsibility for ensuring good student health.
- An easy access counseling service should be established on campus. A place with consistent hours of operation where students can drop in if they need someone to talk with.
- Semester fees shall go directly back to students.
- SiO must give students access to cases and central documents, so that they have a better foundation for influencing the organization.
- The local government must arrange for empty plots of land near the education institute to be used for student purposes.
- The housing guarantee for international students must be upheld.
- The Student Parliament at UiO supports the national requirement for 3000 new student housing units per year until the need is covered.
- The financial support for students must be raised so that students are above the poverty line.

- A «big city» addition to student support must be considered, in order to compensate for high housing costs in the largest cities.
- The authorities shall ensure that degree of coverage for student housing is at least 25%.
- A clinic for sexual health must be established at Blindern.
- UiO shall make locations available for use to associations and student groups who undertake student orientated activity.
- Where UiO has leasing agreements with student associations, the negotiation of these agreements will happen on both actors' premises.
- The Student Parliament should work for closer cooperation with DNS and stimulate increased use of Chateau Neuf as a central point for student culture.
- Student Parliament will, in cooperation with the Welfare Council and other relevant actors, work in order to increase the upper age limit on student discounts for public transit in Oslo and Akershus.
- Offerings for relaxation rooms should be improved and further advertised. They must simultaneously be arranged in such a way that just resting is permitted in these rooms.
- Having bike racks in the area of all student related buildings on campus, including student housing areas, will be sought after.
- Students shall have the same discounts as senior for public transit offerings.
- Public transit offerings to neighborhoods with lower housing costs must be improved in order to make them more attractive for students.
- The possibility of establishing a monitoring system during the buddy week, inspired by the systems from Bergen, Agder, and Trondheim, must be explored.
- Nighttime public transit offerings from campus must be expanded, especially on Fridays and during Semester Start.
- UiO shall contribute funds to renovating Chateau Neuf.
- Oslo city cycles must offer discounted prices to students.
- Student Parliament will work for students to receive free dental services.
- UiO will look for partners that can contribute to funding, such as the City of Oslo, SiO, the Norwegian Parliament, and private donors.

## 8. Student Democracy and Student Culture

- UiO must not implement election committee models that lead to students not being able to run for election.
- The Student Parliament will work to make information on student democracy at UiO more easily available for new students and available in English.
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- The Student Parliament's Executive Committee will offer training to the local democracy at the faculties.
- Student political parties will be able to conduct activity and activism at Blindern year-round.
- The Student Parliament shall have its principle documents available in English.
- Student Parliament will work for better cooperation with student culture and support student associations in relevant cases.
- Student Parliament must actively work to strengthen connections to both student culture and the student body.
- UiO must take responsibility for the training and **follow-up** of elected student officials.

- Student Parliament will play an active role in arranging student association activity, by securing good conditions for the student associations, among other measures.
- Student Parliament must make its work more visible for the student and program councils at the different faculties.
- Student votes shall count the same as those of the faculty in rector elections.

## 9. Campus

- The quality of chairs, desks, and power outlets in study areas must be improved.
- The area around Frederikkeplassen must be developed into a living student center, with several student offerings, both during the day and at night, such as food trucks.
- The absence of an educational environment law for students shall not lead to the deprioritizing of student areas in terms of the upgrading of buildings.
- The faculties have a responsibility to make their premises available for use by councils and associations connected to the faculty.
- Student driven initiatives will have a competitive advantage at UiO
- Lower Blindern will be used as a pilot area for multi-disciplinary and social initiatives.
- No student areas will have a significantly lower standard than UiO's adopted average condition grade of 1.2. All areas with condition grades of 1.5 or higher will have a concrete plan for improvements.
- UiO will use roof areas on campus better. These areas, for example, can be used for green roofs, solar cell panels, or roof top terraces with gardens and sky bars.
- UiO will not operate buildings that are not directly connected to its core business, hereunder owning professor housing in preference to leasing. Properties that are used for student engagement do not fall within this
- Safe travel on campus, through student housing areas and the road to Chateau Neuf, must be facilitated through, among other measures, sufficient lighting.
- UiO should arrange for Kristian Ottesens Hus to become a student house, reserved for student activity and offerings to students, including SiO Health. Commercial retailers should be offered locations other places on campus at the renewal of their leasing agreements etc.
- UiO should make a physical meeting point on campus for Norwegian and international students.
- UiO must create more biological diversity on campus, by letting 50% of the grass grow, for example.