

University foundation for student life in Ås (SiÅs)

What is a university foundation for student life?

A University foundation for student life is an economic collaboration between the state (the Ministry and the learning institution) and the students.

This economic collaboration will ensure the basic needs of the students:

- A place to live
- Food
- Books
- Fitness facilities
- Health care / counseling
- Etc.

When collaborating to make welfare measures, all parts involved must put something "in the pot":

From the students;

1. The semester fee. This goes to the university foundation for student life in its entirety. Everyone pays, regardless of the extent to which they use the services.

2 Payment of rent, goods, and services

From the State (The Ministry);

1. Financial contribution to administration (marginal)
2. Financial contribution for the construction of student housing
3. Affordable loans from the Housing Bank
4. VAT exemption for purchases in canteens

From the State (Learning institution);

1. Free premises for all welfare production - (as an alternative to the students having to pay rent for the premises where there are canteens, bookstores, administration etc.

2. Free basic equipment for welfare production (for example equipment in the canteens)

3. Cash contribution; some educational institutions provide financial support for canteen operations, sports activities etc.

4. Here on Ås: free pieces of land for the construction of student housing.

In summary, a university foundation for student life is an economical collaboration between the state and generations of students where the parts involved invest finances according to ability and solve common tasks.

The board of SiÅs

- Board consisting of 7 people, of which the Student Parliament elects five: Four students and a «mentor».
- The students have a majority and elect a president of the board from among these five people
- Has regulations and instructions for the board and chief executive officer
- Has adopted Strategic Plan, which is discussed and updated regularly

Collaboration with the Student Parliament

- The board always sends all important welfare issues to the Student Parliament for consultation before the board makes a decision (example, construction of new student housing).
- The president of the board attends all Student Parliament meetings to "listen" to the student opinion

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The semester fee

- The Act on university foundation for student life states:

«All students must pay a semester fee to the university foundation for student life »

"Those who do not pay the semester fee will not be admitted to the exam at the educational institution"

«The board determines how large the semester fee should be. All resolutions that affect the determination and increase of the semester fee must be approved by the Ministry. "

The board distributes the use of semester fees. The semester fee is currently used for:

- Student post / planning of development / infrastructure (NOK 1 million)
- Student Parliament (covers welfare funds and contingent NSO) (NOK 1 million)
- EIKA Sportcenter (depreciation) (NOK 2.5 million)
- Student Health (NOK 1.5 million)

Rights and obligations are formalized in the legislation;

- Act on the university foundation for student life:

"All institutions covered by the universities and University Colleges Act must be affiliated with a student organization."

"A student organization has the task of taking care of the students' welfare needs at the individual educational institution."

«The educational institution has the overall responsibility for the students' learning environment. The management of the educational institution shall, in collaboration with the university foundation for student life, create the conditions for a good study environment and work to improve the overall learning environment at the educational institution ».

- The Companies Act:

«The management of the company is under responsibility of the board. The board shall ensure proper organization of the business.

The board shall, to the extent necessary, determine plans and budgets for the company's activities. The board can also decide guidelines for the business.

The board shall ensure that they are updated about the financial position of the company and is obliged to ensure that its activities, accounting, and asset management are managed in a way that ensure to satisfactory control ».

- Compensation Act:

"Board members who intentionally or negligently cause the university foundation for student life a loss, are responsible one for all and all for one, together with the general manager, for the loss."

- Also, the Accounting Act, the Auditors Act, the VAT legislation, regulations for university foundation for student life, etc