

Welfare policy document for the Student Parliament at NMBU

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The Student Welfare Political Document for the Student Parliament contains the demands and wishes of the students concerning welfare services, both at the university, at the Student Union, locally and nationally. The document is based on input obtained from the students from several meetings and will be valid for 5 years. The document will form the basis for our work on Student Welfare Politics until the document is revised again.

The responsibility of the Student Union

The Student Union is the students' largest and most important provider of welfare services. Throughout its work, the Union should focus on its purpose, which is to offer good welfare services to students.

Canteen and food

- Students have a financially pressured and unpredictable everyday life, and a good canteen service must therefore be in place to ensure the students' welfare in everyday student life. The offer must be varied, and at a price where students have both the opportunity and the desire to take advantage of the offer.
- NMBU will contribute financially to the canteen on campus, in order to push prices down.
- The Union must have an attractive and versatile food offer, which at all times offers good vegetarian and allergy-friendly offers in its canteens.
- The Union will work to increase the use of local food sources.
- Efforts will be made to cut food waste, and the Union will continuously work to find good solutions for the use of surplus food.
- The canteens will have coffee-offers, where you get cheaper coffee if you bring your own coffee cup.
- The food offerings must have a low or positive climate footprint. One must work for increased use of locally produced and short-traveled food with a focus on sustainable production.

Training

The Student Union's work-out and gym offer is important in the strive for students' physical and mental health. Eika is widely used by the student body and is important for both individual students and student sports groups.

- The training offer shall be available to all students at NMBU.
- Membership at Eika should be cheaper for those who do not want to participate in group sessions.
- The Union will work to ensure that EIKA has modern and usable equipment that meets the user base.
- Group lessons of varying activity and difficulty must be offered.
- In line with the growing student body, the Union will work to expand the training and work-out offer, including increased outdoor exercise and cooperation with Ås municipality on gym halls.

- The Union will work to offer a competitive offer measured against other actors in Ås, and have reasonable prices for students.
- The Union will collaborate with NMBUI to create an attractive and versatile training offer.
- Together with Ås municipality, the Union will work to ensure that students have access to a swimming pool.

Bookshop

To be able to study requires access to the syllabus literature, here Boksmia plays an important role as the only physical provider of syllabus literature in Ås.

- The bookstore shall strive to have the syllabus literature required in the various subjects if this is not possible to download from the internet. NMBU must ensure that SiÅs receives information about the necessary teaching materials/ syllabus well in advance of the start of the semester.
- The bookstore will work to keep a competitive price for syllabus literature and stationery.
- The bookstore will work to operate in the most sustainable way possible.
- The bookstore will also facilitate the sale of used books.

Housing

The students' main supplier of student housing will be the Student Union, but students are also dependent on the private leasers to be able to offer all NMBU-students who want housing in Ås. Students must live in safe housing, including ensuring students' living conditions in accordance with statutory standards and regulations. The housing offer should cover the needs of the entire student body, regardless of life situation.

- The Union must have enough housing to avoid housing queues.
- The Union's further development of student villages and student housing will take place in consultation with the Student Parliament.
- Students should be able to live in the Student Union's housing for a total of 6 years. If necessary, this should be expandable.
- Adequate security measures must be provided in the buildings that already exist and in new buildings.
- The housing offer must include adequate parking spaces for both cars and bicycles, as well as covered bicycle parking.
- On its website, the Union must have easily accessible information on what rights you have as a tenant and where you can get assistance in relation to tenancy. This should also be in English.
- Information about how the allocation of student housing takes place should be easily accessible to everyone, in both Norwegian and English.
- The Union shall have operations that have a long-term perspective. This means that pricing and operation must take into account future renovations, upgrades and new builds.
- The Union must have homes that facilitate the possibility of having pets.
- The Union will have family apartments where students with families with children will be prioritized.

Health

An important factor for student welfare is good access to high-quality health services. This includes the need for adequate and affordable health services to ensure a good quality of life for students.

- The Student Parliament requires that the health clinic for students and youth be prioritized from all three financial contributors, and that the service meets the needs of the students.
- NMBU and the Union will cooperate and work proactively to safeguard the students' physical and mental health.
- Efforts will be made to ensure that students at Ås have at least one offer of GPs, dentists, psychologists, physiotherapy and other health services that are either free or have a student discount. These should preferably be within walking distance of campus.
- Students will receive a student discount from an optician, as well as on glasses and lenses.
- There should be free sanitary products such as sanitary pads and tampons available at public institutions.
- The Student Parliament requires students to have access to free contraception.
- The Union and NMBU shall acknowledge that the exam period causes increased stress for the students, and assist with offers that help lower stress levels.

University

The university has the overall responsibility for student welfare. All students are entitled to a safe everyday student life. No one shall be subjected to harassment or other unwanted incidents, neither by fellow students nor employees.

- NMBU shall have good whistleblowing routines and have resource persons who can assist in whistleblowing cases.
- NMBU will, in cooperation with SiÅs and Ås municipality, work actively to ensure safety on campus. This includes adequate lighting on campus, and resource persons to talk to.
- NMBU shall contribute financially to the financing of student welfare.
- NMBU will facilitate student activity on campus, also in the evenings.
- NMBU shall have good communication and good cooperation with student volunteers and the Union.

Social life and student volunteerism

Volunteering is the cornerstone of student life at Ås. The student society, "Samfunnet", in Ås is the primary provider of cultural activities, and together with cultural associations and the Student Democracy, they provide significant leisure activities for the students in Ås.

- Samfunnet will, together with other relevant actors, work for a diverse cultural offer to all students in Ås.
- Samfunnet will work to increase the capacity for use of the premises for activities such as rehearsals and meet-ups.
- Efforts will be made to expand Samfunnet, so that the capacity corresponds to a greater extent with the student body.
- It will be facilitated for students who engage in larger student volunteer positions in the Student Democracy, NMBU, SiÅs and Samfunnet.
- It is necessary that all students have the opportunity to become members of an association.

- The Student Board will, together with the Student Union, work to maintain and further develop the concept of “Open Association”.
- Efforts will be made to ensure that there is a platform that shows and informs students about all open events from NMBU, the Student Society (Samfunnet), associations and other actors.
- The Student Union and Samfunnet shall contribute to making open associations visible.
- Efforts will be made to promote a safe and inclusive culture in the student community at Ås and at the same time encourage more associations to be open.

Transport

Students make up a diverse group. Some come from far away and are dependent on public transport, while others use private cars. There is therefore a need for good solutions that meet the students' different needs, both in terms of public transport and facilitation of the use of private cars.

- All students, regardless of age, should have a student discount of at least 50% on public transport.
- There must be at least 4 train departures per hour from Ås station in both directions, with later departures at the weekend.
- Ås municipality, NMBU and SiÅs will together ensure that there is a loan offer for bicycles in Ås, including bicycles with boxes.
- Carpooling should be encouraged for both students and staff.
- fees should, as far as possible, avoid affecting students who use the car parks, as long as they live outside a certain distance from the university, where there is no satisfactory public transport service Income from parking fees should come from the employees at NMBU, since the employees are better financially disposed for a parking fee.
- NMBU will provide benefits to employees and students who choose to commute by public transport.

Economy

In order to be full-time students and contribute to the cultural and social life of students, one is dependent on adequate student's financial support. For those students who go into work placement, many lose the opportunity for income over time, especially if they have to go away for work placement.

- Students will receive 1.5G in student aid which will reduce the need for extra part-time work to cover living costs. The student aid must be paid out over 12 months.
- The student welfare association, together with the rest of the country's associations, will work actively to increase the student aid to 1.5G."
- Compulsory study-related activities and any travel to and from these shall be free of charge.
- Efforts will be made to ensure that students receive payment for work experience.
- Students in compulsory work placement/practical training shall not have any expenses related to their residence or travel for practical training.

Ås Municipality

As the host municipality, Ås municipality has a responsibility to look after the students on an equal footing with those who are permanently resident in the municipality. The municipality is responsible for providing services that students can also use, for example in health. This also involves marketing this offer to the students.

- The municipality must have sufficient kindergarten places for students who need it, with flexible admissions not limited to specific parts of the year.
- The municipality must ensure that students are able to get a GP in the municipality.
- The municipality shall acknowledge and support the work that is done in the Student Society (Samfunnet) in Ås and the importance of the cultural offer it provides to the students.
- The municipality shall make maximum provision for the activity at and around the Student Society (Samfunnet) in Ås.
- The municipality will support the student sports offers by, among other things, looking at the possibilities of giving students access to the municipality's own training facilities.
- The Municipality should make sure that forests and outdoor life offers are well maintained.
- The Student Board, represented by the chairman, shall provide information on relevant student issues at at least one municipal council meeting per year. If necessary, other relevant actors within student volunteerism can and should be involved.
- Students will be both informed and have the opportunity to contribute their views on issues in the municipality that affect them.
- The grant from the state to the student welfare associations' long-term welfare offer is to be increased to 83 million kroner.
- - The Directorate of Health's grant scheme for measures for students' mental health and substance abuse to be increased to NOK 45 million.
- - The subsidy rate for student housing construction at the student cooperatives shall be set at 40 per cent of the cost frame.
- - The cost framework for student housing construction must be adjusted annually according to the construction cost index.
- - Regulation on grants for student accommodation Section 3 is amended so that grants are opened up for upgrading student accommodation.
- - Arrangements must be established that contribute to increased sustainability in the student welfare associations' student housing.