



## Political platform 2022/2023

### **Our main points:**

**1. Better economy for students**

Broad measures are needed to improve students' finances. The syllabus must be free at UiB, for example through a book loan. The scholarship must be increased. Student housing must become cheaper.

**2. Climate and environment**

UiB has to keep its promise to be climate neutral within 2030. Needless waste during renovation must end. Sammen must label products with Co2 emissions, as well as offer better vegetarian and vegan food.

**3. Health**

Expand UiB and Sammen's health services, with special focus on cheaper dental health and a strengthened mental health service, as well as free contraception for students.

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## **Education::**

### **Work and learning environment:**

- UiB should strive to open up every module, so long as this doesn't affect the students who are admitted to the course, and the formal admissions requirements.
- The goal is to heighten the interdisciplinary focus on UiB.
- An academic employee or a student mentor with relevant knowledge and experience in the discipline should be allocated to everyone, but this cannot affect UiB's number of temporary employees.
- It's imperative for a democratic UiB that students can participate in the free elections of headmasters. The Student Parliament must be a strong advocate for this.
- The university library is an important resource for both students and employees. UiB must increase their budget to maintain, as well as expand its management and resources.
- The Academic Writing Centre must be re-established, and the university library should hold the main responsibility for this project.
- The budget cuts in various courses must stop. The universities cannot make cuts in their budgets at the expense of the academic resources available to the students.
- If a lecture is going to contain content that can trigger trauma for certain students, lecturers must be required to announce this beforehand on MittUiB at least a day in advance of the lecture.
- UiB should establish an arrangement to ensure that students who wish to publish academically will receive academic support to achieve this.
- We'll work to ensure that student workplaces (i. e. reading rooms and ateliers) are open 24/7, and that this can be done without video surveillance.
- All faculties must get access to all reading rooms.
- UiB must ensure that there are sufficient workspaces for students, and that these are universally designed and are placed on religiously neutral ground.
- UiB needs to ensure an even, high standard when building new workspaces for students.
- Already existing workspaces must be renovated to reach a satisfying standard.

- UiB must ensure all lecture rooms, auditoriums and group rooms have sufficient access to outlets for charging laptops and other necessary electronic devices.
- We will work to ensure that all master students are given the offer of a permanent seat in reading rooms.
- All master students should be offered information and tutoring on how to apply for a PhD-candidacy by an academic employee.
- UiB must ensure high air quality and a good indoor environment in all the university's work and lecture spaces.
- The faculties must provide access to stationary computers for students to use.
- The faculties must provide a service where students can borrow laptops for up to a month at a time.
- UiB must follow up on seminar leaders to ensure a more consistent marking process of tasks and hand-ins.

## **Digitalisation**

- UiB must at the very least provide recordings and publication of lectures as recordings as soon as possible. Every digitalisation that occurs must benefit the students.
- PowerPoints and lecture notes that are used in lectures must be published the day before the lecture.
- Software for all studies must be free.
- In the long term UiB should work towards a solution where phones or smartwatches can be used to gain access to campus.
- UiB have to make a new Mitt-UiB phone app as soon as possible. The app need to be user friendly and work well.
- Lecturers and professors must be required to have up-to-date knowledge on digital solutions.
- UiB must provide a plan for future crises, one that encapsulates online lectures, alternative exam solutions and the faculty's employment status.

- Online education replacing physical education must be adapted to ensure that the outcome is just as good.

### **Work experience**

- UiB must provide better information for students about possibilities for work placements and work experience during their studies.
- Work experience that does not provide credit cannot be marketed on UiB's premises.
- Every student who has work placement as an integral part of their progression must be secured an academically relevant placement.
- Examine the possibility of giving credit for engagement in higher, unpaid positions with responsibilities within student organisations.
- Expenses connected with work experience should be covered by UiB.
- Work placements during studies must give credits, to ensure that all students have equal access to work experience during the course of their studies, regardless of their economic situation.
- More positions for work placements must be made available both near the university and outside of the city, to ensure that all students are given the opportunity to earn relevant work experience through the course of their studies.
- It should be possible to take a full semester in work experience without taking other subjects on the side.

### **Curriculum**

- All the curriculum at UiB should be free to access. UiB must achieve this through working towards economic support from the government, as well as work to establish deals with curriculum providers.
- Free curriculum can be accomplished through a loan service akin to the one in Norwegian high school.
- UiB must guarantee that all curriculum is available from the beginning of every term.

- We will work to stop the uncritical support UiB gives to Akademika as their sole bookshop.
- All curriculum at UiB should be available online. Books must be available in physical copies as well.
- UiB cannot be controlled by private publishers. Updated curriculum without significant changes must be considered equal to earlier versions in modules where this is possible and/or appropriate.
- UiB should ensure E-book deals are compatible with textpilot or similar reading aids. This is an important help for students who have dyslexia and the like.

### **Exchange**

- We will strengthen the Students at Risk-programme to secure the academic freedom of students.
- UiB have to offer Norwegian courses to both international and exchange students. The capacity on these courses must be expanded.
- We will work to strengthen the Buddy-programme for exchange students, in addition to making the information about it more available.
- The limit on how many work hours an exchange student can have is in opposition to the Constitution §110 and must be removed. (“The authorities of the state shall create conditions under which every person capable of work is able to earn a living through their work or enterprise. Those who cannot themselves provide for their own subsistence have the right to support from the state.”)
- The price of student visas must be reduced. The demand for equity must be removed.
- UiB needs to work towards more and better exchange to UiB, both from within and outside of EU/EEA.
- UiB should ensure better information about their exchange programmes.
- UiB must have a better variety in their exchange programmes, and the programmes must cover all disciplines. Exchange programmes must give academically relevant experiences.
- In line with the principle of free education, exchange students must receive loan and scholarship from Lånekassen the same way Norwegian students do.

- Students should get information about student exchange effect on climate so that they can make an informed decision on where to go.
- UiB should support students who wants to travel to their exchange university in a climate friendly way.

### **Admissions**

- We will work towards developing a fair arrangement for admissions to higher education. UiB needs to start a trial project to ensure a fair admissions arrangement.
- Initiatives to ensure diversity of gender, socio-economic and multicultural backgrounds and representations from the entire country must be initiated in all courses.

### **Eksams**

- Exam types should give students the opportunity to show their knowledge. Therefore, we wish to increase the use of varied modes of evaluation like Take-home examination, oral exams and portfolio exams. External examiners can allow for alternative solutions for exam formats such as video and/or sound.
- UiB should work to offer oral exams (if it's possible) to students with reading and writing difficulties like dyslexia.
- UiB must ensure that automatic written justification for marks are given.
- UiB should improve the information on applying for additional time on exams, this information must contain how to apply and who can apply. The information can be published on MittUib in the form of a document. In this manner the information is sure to reach the people who need it.
- Institutions of education must give students the opportunity to choose to record oral exams, to make the possibility of complaint possible.
- A fee for late marking of at least 500kr for every day every individual exam passes the deadline of marking must be established and is to be paid by UiB. These funds must be returned to the learning environment of the students.
- UiB must evaluate the need for marks in certain modules.

- UiB must initiate an evaluation of the arrangement of marking and try other modes to ensure a more accurate marking. UiB should not go inn
- UiB should not support a two-sensor scheme unless it has a financing plan from the government.

## **Funding**

- Private funding in research entails ethical challenges that require thorough review. UiB must set the value of research as free and independent high, and adhere to research ethics guidelines stated by the national research ethics committees.
- Access to research must be free, and we'll work to increase the use of Open Access, Open Science and Open Learning. .
- We'll work for a model of funding with less focus on production of credits, and more focus on basic funds, meaning that the university receive money independently of how many students acquire credits.
- UiB sine budsjetter skal være transparente slik at man kan ettergå hva pengene blir brukt til.
- UiB's budgets should be openly available so that it is possible to control where funding is going.

## **Welfare:**

### **Student aid**

- To ensure the possibility of being a full-time student, student aid must be increased to 2.5 times the basic amount in the national insurance.
- We will fight for 12 months student aid with a scholarship share of 75 %.
- The scholarship share in the travel grants for foreign students should be raise to the pre 2017 level, from 35 % to 70 %.
- UiB should give information on the possibility to apply for extra scholarship for students with disabilities.



- • UiB must inform about the possibility of applying for money from Sammen Helsefond, in order to cover the deductible for psychologist services, dental injuries and transport in the event of health problems.
- A Fund should be established for giving economic support to student who are dependent on medication for chronic conditions.
- UiB must work to reverse cuts in the scholarship scheme for students who do not finish their degree.
- Students with children must be ensured pension rights, and they must be given more student aid than what they have today. We must work to keep and strengthen the offer in the student kindergartens, as well as keep Sammen´s existing, flexible intake arrangements throughout the whole year.
- UiB must pay attention to exchange rates when making payments to students on exchange and must stay updated throughout the stay.

### **Student housing**

- We will continue the fight for more student housing in Bergen, which must be built in and around the city centre. Student housing is an important and simple social housing construction that benefits all tenants in Bergen, not just the students. Student housing should be close to the institutions and faculties.
- Old student accommodation should be renovated. All apartments with mould must immediately be renovated. This should be done without usage of unnecessary chemicals, and with a focus on sustainability and reuse of materials. Renovation of the student housing should not be paid for by the students.
- The rent in for the student housing must be reduced.
- Jussformidlingen (free legal aid from law students) must be continued and must be granted support to be able to help students in renting problems. UiB must contribute to prepare advice for tenants, to be conveyed to students when they receive acceptance letters and during the first week in the course.

- We will work towards establishing a legal aid service for students that can bring cases regarding renting problems to court.
- Buildings that are no longer in use by UiB, must be converted to student housing, reading rooms and other arenas that benefits the students.
- International students must be housed with other UiB-students in and around the city centre, to strengthen inclusion.
- Good, varied common rooms, such as reading rooms and multi-media rooms, must be ensured in the student housing.
- During renovation and construction of student accommodation, the tenants must be involved in determining the design of these, especially in regard to social meeting places. The students wish must weigh heavily in this process.

## **Culture**

- We will work towards a raise in the funding for «Kulturstyret» (the cultural board).
- We will work towards a fairer redistribution of the semester fee.
- We will work towards clearer framework conditions for distribution of funds to the student organisations.
- We will work towards a fair and proportional distribution of funds between the student media.
- We will work towards a collaboration between KODE and UiB, so that free access for students on Thursdays is reinstated.
- We will work towards a close collaboration with cultural actors to introduce a student discount on all cultural events. There should be an attempt in launching a culture card for students.
- We will work to develop and expand the building mass owned by «Det Akademiske Kvarter», so that the area around «Kvarteret» becomes an active and lively student area.
- If «Kvarteret» wishes, the overflow from the student parliament should be donated to a fund for expanding «Det Akademiske Kvarter».

- We will work towards getting recognition from the municipality of Bergen, on the important work the student culture does for Bergen as a cultural city, by giving financial support to the cultural activities for and by students. The municipality should establish a separate fund for the student culture.
- We will work for clearer guidelines and information revolving how students can establish student unions in their areas of interest.
- We will work for UiB and the municipality of Bergen to make showrooms and rehearsal rooms available for students and organisations in need of these.
- We will work towards better internet coverage and capacity in the areas where the student organisations are housed.

### **Studies and work**

- We will work for pension points as a reward for study progression.
- UiB must work towards a higher degree of unionizing amongst students, through counselling and promoting.
- UiB must cooperate with the municipality and the county to reduce unemployment amongst graduates. These policies needs to be implemented on several levels, both at the University, locally and nationally.
- UiB must ensure early counselling concerning post study rights.
- Sammen must provide changing tables on the faculties, health stations and the Student Centre («Studentsenteret»).
- Unskilled positions at the University should be prioritised to the students.

## **Environment:**

### **An Oil Free and Climate Neutral Academia**

- UiB's greatest contribution to the environment is through research and dissemination. Therefore, environmental and climate research must be prioritised.
- Sammen should implement CO<sub>2</sub> labelling of all food in the cafeteria.
- Experiments on animals should be avoided when it is possible to replace the usage of live animals with other alternatives.
- UiB must resign from the deal with Equinor to ensure an oil free academia.
- The Student Parliament should support the work of «Naturvernstudentene».
- UiB must be a pioneering university on environmental studies, for instance by offering interdisciplinary environmental subjects.
- UiB should ensure that employees order train tickets rather than plane tickets for business trips.
- UiB will have carbon pricing for employees who order environmentally unfriendly means of transport when they go on business trips. The tax is deducted from the employee's salary payment.
- UiB should consequently use unbleached paper for printing.
- Sammen should phase out the usage of disposable materials.
- Sammen's cafeterias should have a much bigger focus on vegetarian and vegan selections. The Sammen cafeterias should also have a bigger focus in allergy friendly, green and environmentally friendly food, as well as labelling food based on religious considerations (Kosher, Halal etc.).
- NSO should emphasize environmental considerations to a greater extent than EuroBonus when ordering travels.
- When student housing is renovated or built, there should be high environmental standards, and the state must ensure that the price for this is not played by the students through higher rents.

- Introduce more digital conferences/meetings and minimize the need for travelling.
- Where food is served at events and meetings hosted by UiB, vegetarian food should be the general rule, so that participants actively must choose meat if they wish to.
- More recycling stations must be established where students live, this concerns both student housing and other student dense areas.

### **Public transport**

- NSO should ensure the option for members to order train travels through their travel operator.
- A city bike scheme in Bergen must be well facilitated for students with a bike station close to all the faculties and student institutions. The capacity in the scheme must be raised.
- We want to work towards more parking spots for bikes. Bike pumps with compressed air should be installed on the bike stations. We also want to explore the option of a loan scheme for bikes, organized by Sammen.
- UiB and Sammen must work towards student discount on single tickets at «Skyss». We will work towards a 50 % student discount on public transport in Bergen and the rest of the county. The student discount must apply regardless of age.
- We will work towards a collaboration between UiB and «BySykkel», so that students can use the bikes for free.
- UiB should work towards establishing a student discount with Vy and other public transport companies.
- We wish to work towards the establishment of a national student card.

### **Health:**

- The University must work towards equalisation of physical and mental health. The education must be adapted for students who cannot meet physically in the lectures.

- We wish to work for free birth control to all students, for instance by having «Sammen» refund all expenses from birth control. Sammen must work to ensure that students choose the safest options available.
- A health house must be established in the city centre to ensure comprehensive health services for the students. A health house will help strengthen both mental and physical health. Upon registration, a third gender category should be available.
- We will work for stress reducing measures for students at the faculties for instance though supporting a higher usage of therapy animals throughout the whole year. Sammen must be better at promoting their own services, especially at the start of the semester, as well as during the exam period.
- We will work towards a significantly stronger mental health service for students. Students should never have to wait for more than two weeks for treatment.
- Sammen must promote their courses better. Their courses must be improved and expanded, and they must work towards offering several approaches to problem solving in all areas.
- UiB should improve their information on the rights of students with disabilities.
- We will work to improve Sammen´s dental health services, and to reduce the price for students.
- UiB should offer all students free flu shots.

### **Equality and Diversity:**

- UiB should have a targeted strategy to ensure a higher proportion of women amongst the scientific staff. Gender quotas is an important tool.
- UiB needs a targeted strategy to recruit students and employees with varying sociocultural background.
- The proportion of female authors on the curriculum must be higher. There should be special reasons to not achieve gender balance.
- It should be facilitated for more female scientific staffers to be able to write textbooks.

- We will work up against the board for UiB to recognise gender variation.
- We will work towards gender balance amongst students in different subjects. Gender points can be an important tool for gender balance. This applies to all genders.
- The main rule at UiB should be permanent positions, temporality should be an exception.
- We shall work to implement more gender-neutral toilets, on all of UiB and Sammen's buildings and facilities. There should also be free sanitary products available.
- There should also be free sanitary products available in all bathrooms at UiB.
- UiB must work towards bettering the Universal Design on all of UiB's buildings.
- We will work for adaptable forms of assessment for students with a need for facilitation.
- UiB must ensure a more diverse curriculum, based on socio-economic, cultural and ethnic background.

### **Solidarity:**

- UiB must take an active role in integration, for instance by ensuring increased approval of higher education, as well as cutting down the waiting time for this.
- The Student Parliament and UiB should be a clear voice in defence of the principle of free education, both nationally and internationally.
- UiB must work to strengthen academic freedom, for instance by accepting more professors through the Scholars at Risk scheme.
- We will work to ensure that UiB's collaborators complies and respects human rights. UiB should implement strict restrictions to achieve this.
- Academic boycott of Israel until the blockade of Gaza is over.
- Academic boycott of Morocco until the occupation of Western Sahara is over.

- The Left Alliance encourages solidarity amongst permanent employees with the temporary employees, and will work for enlightenment in how better working conditions can be ensured for all.
- UiB should not use temp agencies.
- UiB must become an apartheid free zone.

## **Well-being:**

### **Freshers' week:**

- The Freshers week boards must have guidelines and policies to prevent sexual harassment during fresher's week. This should be part of contracts for those responsible and in coursing.
- We will ensure that all students come home safely at night during Freshers week by maintaining Fresher's week guards and ensure an extended offer of night busses.
- «Studenttorget» (the student fair) shall be put into the Freshers week program in all studies. Students should get enough time to familiarise themselves with the organisations.
- Freshers' week should contain more activities without alcohol, with a focus on better inclusion.

### **Additional:**

- There should be water dispensers by every Sammen cafeteria, so that the students do not have to use the toilets to fill their bottles.
- Coffee and hot water machines should be made available also outside of the cafeterias regular opening hours.
- Vending machines for snacks and similar should be available on all faculties.
- UiB and Sammen must upon renovation of their premises have a bigger focus on reuse of furniture of good quality.