WHAT HAVE WE DONE FOR YOU?

Summary of the Student Union impact work 2016/2017
Ours and your impact during the year

As students at Chalmers and as members of the student union management team, we want to sum up all the things we have worked for the past year to improve your student life.

The management team is elected annually by the student council. Our task is to lead the daily work and make sure we work towards our goals and visions.

This summary is provided to give an overview of what we have actually done and what still needs attention, from accommodation and services to improvement work for a better education.

If you want more, download the full summary here: www.chalmersstudentkar.se/documents (in Swedish only).

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions: info@chalmersstudentkar.se

/Student Union Management Team of 2016/2017
“All members should thrive and develop during their time at Chalmers”

The vision of Chalmers Student Union
Introduction

Chalmers student unions is an independent association existing to represent, support and provide opportunities for students studying at Chalmers.

Every student is a mandatory member of the union and therefore entitled to get involved through volunteering, standing for elected positions, extra work offers, being a student rep or just having a fun night out at any of our events.

The 11 missions

All the improvement work we do strive to reach our vision: All member shall thrive and develop during their time at Chalmers. We have broken this vision down to 11 missions that we work with every year.
Our organisation

The union is governed by a council making all the strategic decisions and its daily operations are led by a management team of nine trustees on a sabbatical year.

- **Council**: Strategic, longterm decisions such as budget, operational plan and elected officers. Also conducts the annual union election.
- **Corporation**: student owned and offers services, discounts and extra jobs.
- **Student division members meeting**: highest decision making body within the division, all members can attend and vote.
- **Board**: committee elections and daily operations, preparing matters for the council.

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Entrepreneurship and ethics in undergraduate studies
At least 50% of all Chalmers students should have entrepreneurial experience from their education. These experiences will give skills to manage risk and be part of the chain of developing ideas.

Chalmers students should be qualified to make ethical decisions in their future lives. In this matter the union has been working to learn what would work best for students and feel self-evident in the studies.

Moving operations to Lindholmen
Representatives from the union have been part of all central discussions within the university regarding moving operations to Lindholmen. Student division presidents and the council have also been briefed during the process and had the chance to get involved through the union president, who have been most involved.

Improving health
The union has worked with psychosocial health at different programmes. Through surveys we have found that many students are suffering due to stress. Therefore the union and university have started a process to improve health issues at these programmes to evaluate the education and support system.

You made it easier to go abroad
The student voice, Studentrösten, is an annual event where students can truly affect their studies and the union work.

Each year have different topics. This year the union asked where students wanted to go for an exchange and which obstacles prevented them from going. The results have been used to assess the exchange agreements and make it easier for students to go abroad during their time at Chalmers.

To which extent do you feel that the opinions of the members are represented?
- To a low extent: 24%
- Not at all: 4%
- Do not know: 42%
- To a high extent: 30%

*annual member survey 2016

Average grade of all Chalmers courses
3.8

Number of student representatives in decision making or processing bodies within the university, appointed by the council.
62 of 67

Student representatives on the university's boards.
8
Monitoring health and work environment

In collaboration with the university, the student union has improved the monitoring of student health and work environment by the use of a new survey called the student barometer.

The results from the new survey have resulted in increased efforts to reduce stress among students at several study programs as well as initiative to improve the students physical work environment and fire safety knowledge.

Where to turn to when you need help?

Many students suffer from periods of poor mental or physical health but there is a lack of knowledge about where to turn to for help. All students need to know where to go when they need health support and counselling.

To make sure that students in need of help know where to turn to when they feel unwell, the student union has arranged presentations and seminars among students to improve knowledge of social security systems and the student health center.

Have experience stress as a result of the studies

78% Yes
21% No
1% Don't know

45% Yes
41% No
14% Don't know

40% Yes
60% No
0% Don't know

81% Yes
13% No
6% Don't know

I know about the Student Health Centre
Stress or mental health has been obstacles in my studies
I know about my student guidance counsellor

*from the Student Barometer 2016*
4. Be prepared for the future

Challenge our ideas
To ensure that CHARM will continue to be among the leading career fairs in Sweden we have developed a long term strategy. It will be used as support and help CHARM to challenge their ideas and create stability in the organization.

Better relations with university
By creating a continuous contact the relations with key personnel at the university has been improved. The idea is to have a continuous dialogue and cooperation regarding external parties. A concrete outcome is that the union will be represented in the work with the university’s strategic agreements.

* From the ATEC survey sent to all students at Chalmers and KTH Royal Institute of Technology

How familiar are you with businesses within your area of education?*
5. Access to housing

New system - less queues

New queueing system in our student accommodation makes life easier – especially for everyone attending their first semester at Chalmers. There will now be 100 advance apartments available, regardless of being a Swedish or international student. In general the queues have been dramatically shortened for all our members.

No Kårbo

Unfortunately the project Kårbo, planned for an 18 stories building in the heart of campus, has been dismissed due to its close proximity to research facilities at Chalmers Tvärgata. Together with Chalmersfastigheter, our housing company will try and find a better location for the building.
Less hassle - one card

Per our initiative the student union card now contains everything you need in just one card: access, membership proof and method of payment including discounts.

New bistro and high end lunches

Wijkanders opened during 2016 and now offer lunches and bistro during evenings - all at student friendly prices.

New café at campus Vasa

Café Vera is our latest addition within our corporation, located conveniently at the entrance of Industrial Engineering and Management building, providing coffee, snacks and cold lunches.

TWO BECOMES ONE. Less cards, more freedom with only one card for everything!

Lunches purchased in Express

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>spring term 2016</th>
<th>spring term 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>meat/fish</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetarian</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 NUMBER OF CLIMATE BRANDED products within the restaurant division.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>May 2016</th>
<th>May 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>712</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Go Fresh* products sold

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>spring term 2016</th>
<th>spring term 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>number of items</td>
<td>31,514</td>
<td>40,439</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Local, fresh, campus made products, sold on campus only.
Leadership training for involved students

We have been working to create a leadership training for involved students and a pilot trial will start during fall 2017. The training will be offered to involved student at both central and local levels and will provide tools for them to further train and discuss in their respective groups.

The future of getting involved

During the year a survey was made to see how the union can become more including and thus eliminate obstacles for participation in activities and engagements. The results will be the foundation for the work with the new prioritized area “Ensure future engagements”

How satisfied are you with the social activities within the Student union?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Satisfied Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither nor</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfied</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very dissatisfied</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During your time at Chalmers, have you or would you like to get involved within Chalmers Student Union’s organization?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Satisfied Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have been involved (and would like to continue)</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have been involved</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to get involved</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31% of members state that the union contributed to their personal growth.
Our country cabins

The opening ceremony of our country cabins, Kårhus på landet, was held in September 2016. The final cost of the project has been calculated to approximately 30 million SEK, excluding the thousands of hours spent by volunteers. The frequency of bookings has gradually increased during the year, even with the period of unaccessible bookings included.

The vision of the entire area and the cape have been processed by a working group. There is no final draft at this moment but there has been discussions about an activity course for team building and the like.

Lindholmen efforts

As a result of the decision made by the university president to move operations to Lindholmen the union has been working on getting a permanent student union building at Lindholmen. We asked involved students at Lindholmen regarding needs and expectations and based on these answers a suggestions will take form.

Eq.Sus award

Former university president Jan-Eric Sundgren requested the union to reinstate the previous Equality award that has been latent for some years due to a decreasing interest. The new award is called Eq.Sus and now also includes sustainability. The first winner was presented during the hat ceremony in October 2017.

Grand cabin

Booking grade Fridays & Saturdays during the spring term 2017
9. Keeping a steady course

Improved leadership training for your reps

A new leadership programme has been developed for the student union management team in order to better handle the work load and thus provide better membership services.

New IT-department

The IT strategy decided during 2016/2017 resulted in two new assignments within the union, a Chief Information Officer and Deputy Information Officer. These two will modernize and stabilize the union’s IT.

How affordable do you think the Student Union membership fee is relative to the membership benefits?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
<th>*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very affordable</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rather affordable</td>
<td>17]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not affordable</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*annual member survey 2016

10. Represent members opinions

Representation high and low

Chalmers student union has representatives in councils on all levels: from local program councils at Chalmers to national student political boards. This ensures that we have an impact in everything from components in courses to what will be on the student political agenda.

Regional and national impact on student issues

Chalmers student union aim to improve its members situation, both on and off Chalmers campuses. To do this the student union is a member of two student political organizations: the Swedish National Union of Students (SFS) and the Association of Student Unions in Gothenburg (GFS).

SFS

SFS organize student unions all over Sweden and aim to represent and promote the students interests in education, research and student welfare issues at national level. During 2016/2017 SFS has for example affected politicians to accept part time sick-listing for students, improving the current students health insurance system or highlighted the need for a national system to ensure the high quality of all higher education.

GFS:

GFS work with lobbying to improve the student situation in Gothenburg. Main focus in GFS during the study year 2016/2017 was the housing situation and initiation of the project Gbg 7000+, with the goal of building 7000 new student accommodations before 2026. GFS also worked with questions such as better discounts in public transport and improved support for students with mental illness in Gothenburg.
II. Continuous communication with members

The member survey continues to support our main focus within the union – for members to learn about small and big decisions made by the union. Just over 80% finds this the most important information they want to receive.

New website

During spring 2017 we started to look over the current website to make sure it met the needs of the visitors. A quote was made to modernize and enhance the web experience and a new website started to take form just before summer to be completed in August 2017.

The goal was to create a cleaner website based on how our members use the site. Student divisions were invited to give input and have had a great impact on the final result. To make sure the website could better be maintained and updated it would be entirely in English.

More movies

Based on the previous years experience we found the video format to be both efficient and effective as a communication platform. During the year we created 5 different videos, from election promotions to Christmas greetings. Outside these five we also made 7 council brief videos.

Better outreach through English

We have greatly expanded our English communication, not only is everything communicated from the union in both Swedish and English, some major events are communicated in English only, such as the election information and marketing.

We also continued our work to translate vital documents such as the union bylaws. Work will continue during fall 2017.
WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?

- **Education** – to maintain and monitor our education for its quality and student rights. To have your opinions represented both locally and nationally.
- **Health** – that you have a well functioning support system and to actively work on equality issues.
- **Student life** – that you have meaningful activities outside your studies to create a rich social life.
- **Employability** – to help you understand and get in contact with the job market for your future career.
- **Savings** – we save money strategically to ensure fundings of future ventures and projects, such as our country cabins.

**Voted in the student union council election**

**WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION DO YOU WANT FROM THE STUDENT UNION?**

- **General membership information** – 67%
- **Events and activities** – 74%
- **What you can get involved in** – 54%
- **Service interruptions** – 48%
- **Information from the student union companies** – 49%
- **How the Student union affects your education** – 68%
- **Larger decisions that the union makes** – 81%

*annual member survey 2016*