



WHAT HAVE WE DONE FOR YOU?

Summary of the

Student Union

impact work 2018/2019

What difference did we make?

You are a member of the student union - just like us in the management team. Each year we are elected to work hard for you as a member and the union as a whole. In this Impact Report we sum up the year to let you know what we have accomplished.

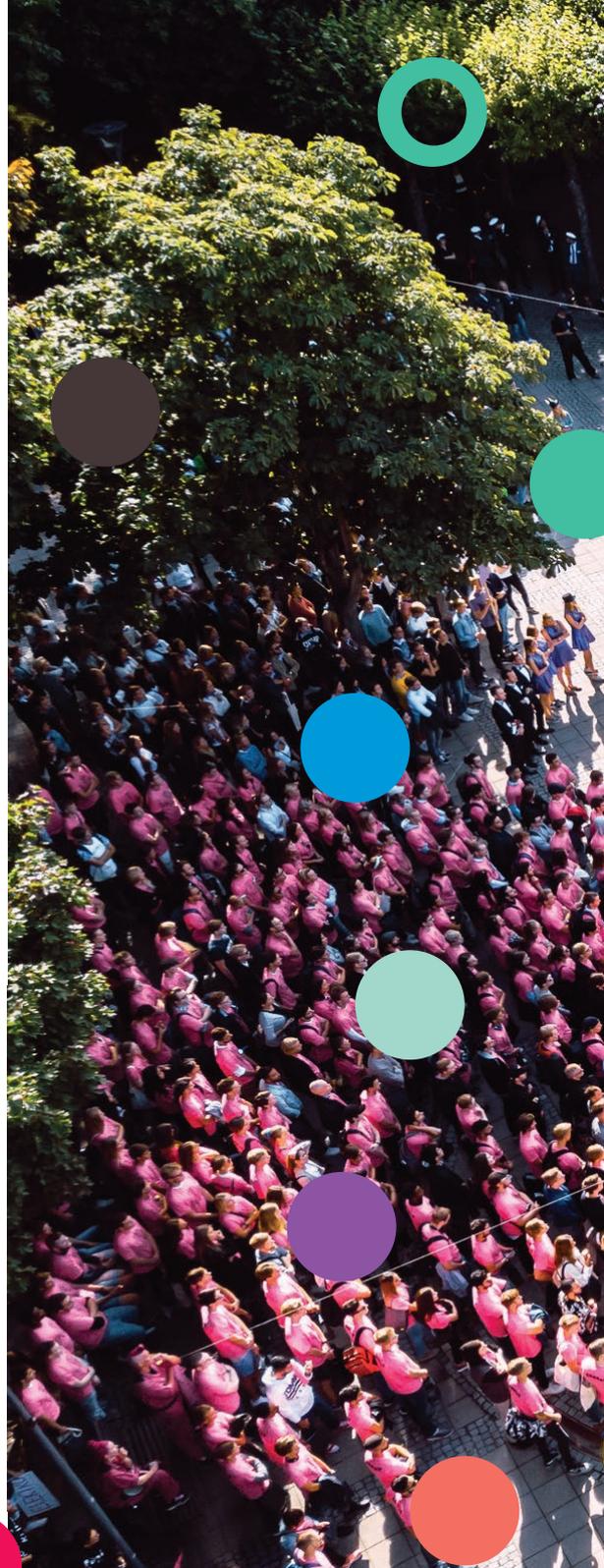
The management team is elected annually by the student union council. Our task has been to lead the daily work and make sure we work towards our vision – ***all members should thrive and develop during their entire time at Chalmers.***

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

If you want more, download the full impact report 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 2018/2019





“All members should thrive and develop during their entire time at Chalmers”

The vision of Chalmers Student Union



Introduction

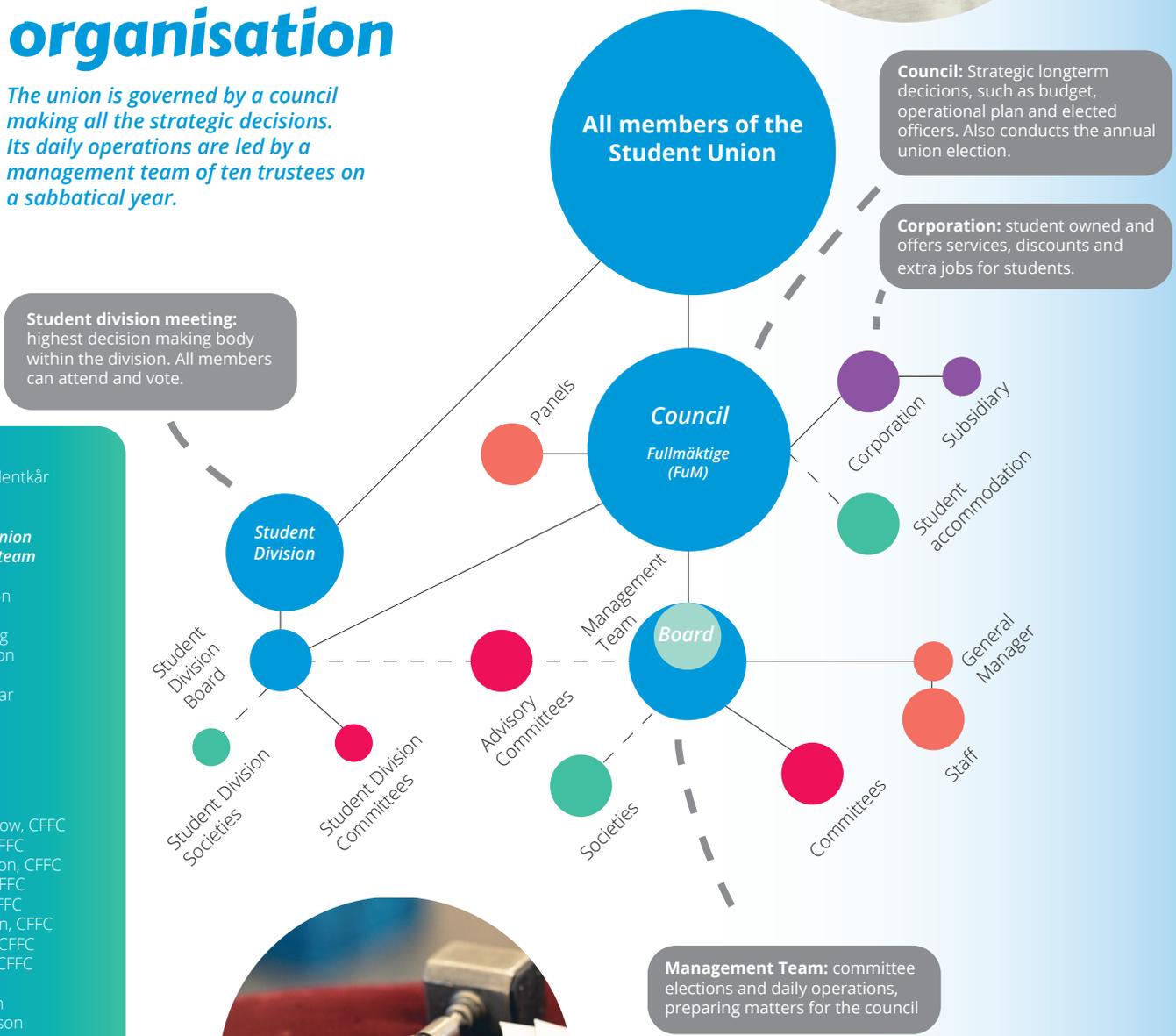
Chalmers Student Union is an independent organization, run democratically by its members and exists to represent, support, and provide opportunities for everyone that studies at Chalmers University of Technology.

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.

Our vision - all members should thrive and develop during their entire time at Chalmers - can be divided into 11 missions that aim to improve various parts of our members' lives as students at Chalmers.

Our organisation

The union is governed by a council making all the strategic decisions. Its daily operations are led by a management team of ten 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 for students.

Student division meeting: highest decision making body within the division. All members can attend and vote.

Management Team: committee elections and daily operations, preparing matters for the council

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1. Make the most of your education

2. Affect your education & study situation

New vice president for education and lifelong learning

Since our former vice president Maria Knutson Wedel left Chalmers there was a recruitment process during the spring of 2019 to find a new vice president. The educational officer in the student union management team was a part of the recruitment group and in October, Anna Karlsson-Bengtsson began her work as the new vice president.

- **Our influence:** Part of the recruitment group and contributed with the student perspective.

New engineering programmes

More funds from the government was allocated to Chalmers in order to increase the number of students and therefore Chalmers decided to start a process of making new study programs. From the contributed suggestions, two programs were chosen. Global Systems Engineering and Biomedical Engineering will both start in 2020.

- **Our influence:** Deciding and feedbacking on the programmes together with the university.

TRACKS - more flexible courses for you

The Chalmers foundation decided to finance the educational initiative TRACKS for a period of ten years. TRACKS will give students the opportunity to choose more flexible and challenging courses and projects, as well as interact with students from different disciplines. The initiative will also receive fundings to create new learning environments.

- **Our influence:** The learning environment part came from the union. We have been part of the steering and the management group.



Anna Karlsson-Bengtsson
Vice President of Education
and Lifelong Learning



PingPong is out - meet Canvas!

At the beginning of study year 2019/2020 Canvas replaced PingPong as the learning management system for courses at Chalmers.

During the past year the implementation of Canvas has been a pilot project. Student representatives have been in dialogue with Chalmers regarding which tools to integrate, course page structure and other features.

- **Our influence:** we were part of the steering committee for the implementation of Canvas, and recruited students for a focus group that gave feedback on the functions in PingPong, and suggested what functions and features Canvas should have.

Reverted decision on exams

A decision was made to change some exam routines during the last year. One of them being that Chalmers decided against bringing your own calculator to exams, which was a decision that the student union did not take any part in. The decision was later withdrawn after influence from the student union.

Together with Chalmers we performed a follow up of the decision from 2017 regarding mandatory sign up for exams. As a part of this, a survey was sent out to all student divisions and many of you helped us answer. The results are that the sign up period opens at the start of each study period and is open for a longer period of time. You will now also receive a confirmation of your sign up to your email.

- **Our influence:** Feedback from the educational committees were gathered and this information was used to convince the vice-president of education, among others, to revert the decision about calculators.

Better facilities at Lindholmen

Finally students at Lindholmen will have new student division quarters including a kitchen and room for social activities.

- **Our influence:** Part of decision process and pushing the agenda for more student related facilities at Lindholmen together with H-division and Sjö-division.

3. Feel safe



Safe at Chalmers - our work for a better social environment

#metoo in 2017 made it clear that harassments and unwanted behaviour at Chalmers was present in every aspect of our university and campus life. While there has been many projects and changes made to tackle the problem, one of the main accomplishments over the year has been the creation of the website "Safe at Chalmers". Here students and staff can find information on harassment and how to report it. The site is found at chalmers.se/trygg in both English and Swedish.

Additional unique results of the work were creating sessions on equality from a work/study environment perspective and active bystanding for new students. These will be tried out during the coming year as a mandatory part of your education programme.

Equality groups and equality week

Shortly after #metoo the interest from students in working with equality issues increased significantly. In response to this, the union decided to increase their support to people working with these issues. The equality committee JämK became coordinators for the equality groups at Chalmers student union and provided them with meeting places and information.

One large project organized by JämK and several equality groups was "Speak up", which was several events carried out by the equality groups during one week. The aim was to both increase students awareness and knowledge about the problems we face and also what is being done to tackle the problems at Chalmers.



Student barometer - improvements

The annual survey measuring physical and psychosocial work environment at Chalmers has had some issues for a couple of years. During this year the position responsible for it was vacant for a large part of the autumn. In order to ensure the survey's quality, a task force was formed together with the university. The questionnaire was reformed to have fewer, better and more relevant questions and a plan to increase the response rate was formed. The survey was sent out and the data was a vital part of the yearly work environment inspections. And the data also heavily influenced the content of the university's action plan with regards to work environment for the coming year.

- **Our influence:** Created and led the working group for improving the survey to make questions more efficient and easier to understand and improved the communication .

Counselor - pushing the agenda forward

Chalmers has been without a counselor for a couple of years now and the demand for such a function has been made clear from the students. We have now come to an agreement with the university of how the counselor function could look like in order to work for both our students' and the organisation in general.

- **Our influence:** pushing agenda for having a counselor for our students need.

33%

Does not think the education is equal*

36%

Does not think Chalmers is free from discrimination*

*from the Student Barometer 2018

4. Be prepared for the future

Entrepreneurship for students

The Student Union has been part of the university's work in making Chalmers an internationally leading entrepreneurial university by the year of 2029, as well as making it easier for all students to be part of the innovation eco system. In addition to this, we've worked on a project aiming to integrate entrepreneurial experiences into all educational programs together with the university. These goals are set up to make all Chalmers students better prepared for the complex challenges that our generation will be facing during our working life.

- **Our influence:** part of the steering committee and contributed with the student perspective.

Offering better insight to the public sector

In addition to the student union's own career fair, CHARM, a new collaboration with Framtidsmässan was started in 2019. Framtidsmässan, which is a one day career fair for all students at Chalmers, is a great complement as its focus is on the public sector as an employer. Our students got the chance to learn more about working in health care, different government bodies and local municipalities.

- **Our influence:** The concept A Fair Fair was used as a certification, first fair outside CHARM to hold this certificate.



5. Access to housing

118

New housing for students at Uddjaur

15
85

New housing for international students and guest researchers at the new Gibraltar Guesthouse



Hundreds of new homes

Two new houses with student homes have been inaugurated during the last year by Chalmers Studentbostäder. Uddjaur at Emilsborg and Gibraltar Guesthouse next to the library at campus Johanneberg. They contribute with 118 and 100 homes respectively.

Gibraltar Guesthouse is dedicated to international students, ensuring that everyone, no matter where you come from, has the opportunity to study at Chalmers and that the university is an international environment.

22%

Have had problems finding accommodation

*during the last 12 months.
43% answered no
35% answered relocation has not been necessary*

Advocacy for more housing

Although we have built many new student housings this year we still believe things are moving too slow in order to meet the growing demand. While funding is solved and the will to build exists among relevant participants, the large roadblock lies within the municipality of Gothenburg.

- **Our influence:** To tackle this problem the union has been active both in meetings with and in media towards the municipality. A joint letter between the president of the union and the president of Chalmers that got media attention was sent. We also did advocacy when a motion to allow zoning plans to be created by the building actors was up for votes in the municipal board.

6. Offer suitable & affordable services



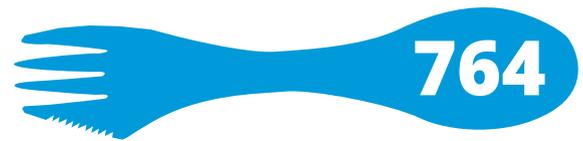
Reduced plastic consumption

The plastic lunchboxes for our take-away meals have been partially replaced to biodegradable versions that are healthier for the environment. During the trial period hungry guests may see different types of packaging as we aim to find a solution that accommodates both taste and student wallets.

Furthermore, to encourage people to bring their own cutleries single use cutlery is no longer included in the meal. You also have the option to buy a reusable cutlery, such as a Spork.



NUMBER OF CLIMATE (CO₂) BRANDED products within the restaurant division.



SPORKS SOLD ON CAMPUS
Aug 2018-July 2019

Go Fresh* products sold



* Local, fresh, campus made products, sold on campus only.

7. Personal growth & participation

Personal growth for volunteering students

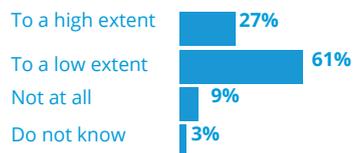
During the year focus has been on educating volunteering students in our committees on how to respond to sexual harassments, both prevention and managing situations.

Personal growth for all students

For the second year in a row the event Of Course, a day in personal growth for all students, was held. Due to the great response and high demand the year before, the student union decided to invest even more in this day to make it accessible for a larger group of students. This year's keynote speaker was the adventurer Annelie Pompe, and many different workshops were held on topics such as stress management, self leadership and even yoga for beginners.



To which extent do you feel that you have spare time in addition to your studies?*



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



31%
of members state that the union contributed to their personal growth.*

*annual member survey 2018

8. Campus life & leisure

Train car exterior upgrade

For a long time our train car from SJ has been in need for exterior maintenance. During the summer of 2019 we had it repainted and it now shines brightly as it deserves.

Union building improvements

We have made several improvements in the student union building during the year, some visible, others not. The fire-alarm was upgraded together with Chalmersfastigheter and Emils Kårhus AB, we also made improvements to both the ventilation and the floor in Gasquen. We started working on being able to control the lighting in the house, refurbished furniture and a brand new photo wallpaper with bits of union history and fun pictures can be experienced in the stairway of Kyrkan.

Better access to sports

We started working closer together with the sports society Chalmers Idrottssällskap (CIS) due to an increased demand from our members to easier access sport activities. We strive to make the wide range of sports activities more easily available to all students.

Wider range of events

Times are changing, as is the union, adapting the range of events towards our members. Tivolit is a new event where our freshmen students have the opportunity to discover the broad range of extracurricular activities available through the union.

Another example is Speak Up, an entire week highlighting equality on campus. With these types of events, our ambition is to make sure that you as a member find something that appeals to you.



9. A healthy organisation

Safer IT for you and the union

Some of the focus areas of the work in IT this year have been:

- continue to implement the office-package Google Suite for our active members to help them in their work and make their data storage GDPR-compliant.
- start the process of outsourcing our IT operations. This has been progressed this year by the help of an external consulting firm where we together have evaluated our current position, our goals and the gap between them.
- continued work on GDPR-compliance to ensure the best possible security for your personal information.

New position in the union management team

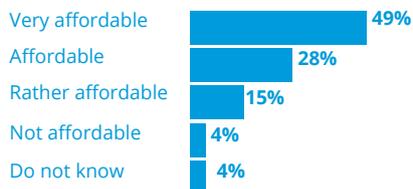
The temporary position IT officer was, for the first time, included in the union management team.

The addition to the team means a healthier work load for the management team and less worry and work for our volunteering students so they can focus on maintaining and developing student life for all members.

Better transparency in finances

The union's economy is split into a centralized part and a decentralized part. This year, the first step towards centralizing the entire economy of the union was taken. For you, this means that the union has become more transparent about how our finances are being used and that you – through the union council – have better influence on how we spend and invest our money.

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



10. Represent members opinions

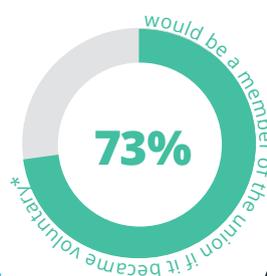
Initiated work for ecological sustainability

For the past year we have taken into account the increased interest in sustainability from our members. The student union has initiated projects for climate actions. Among others, the union's new prioritized area is Ecological Sustainability. Furthermore, the union is represented in the university's project of creating a climate strategy, where we will ensure a high level of action.

Continued work for equality at Chalmers

During 2017 and 2018 there were a lot of initiatives for equality issues. Many of them have been the main focuses during this year as well. The union has been represented in decision making processes in the projects "Chalmers against sexism", "Focus equality" and "GENIE".

All of these projects strive for equality and against sexism in different ways. In addition to being part of decisions the union has also been heavily involved in the operative parts of Chalmers against sexism, such as creating processes for incident management, helping with the web design of "Safe at Chalmers" and creating an educational package for first year students.



*annual member survey 2018



II. Continuous communication with members

Customized stress management

Stress is a natural part of student life, but must be managed at some point in order to not escalate out of control. Inspired by and with permission from another university we created and published a stress management guide for our students filled with relatable information. It contains useful tips and tools as well as contact information.

Improved communication

All new students have received a copy of the brochure Safe at Chalmers. We also developed the webpage Safe at Chalmers together with the university and launched it just before summer 2019.

During spring we did an information tour on both campuses about our equality work where students and staff were welcome.

We updated our webpage to make sports at Chalmers more visible and accessible by gathering all the options available in one place.



CHALMERS



Start > Safe at Chalmers



Safe at Chalmers



We made a promotion film about the recreation area in Härryda to make sure more students were aware and took the chance to visit the lake and sauna. A short version of the film is shown on the screens at Kårservice and was also shown to new students during the first PU-movie sessions.



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.

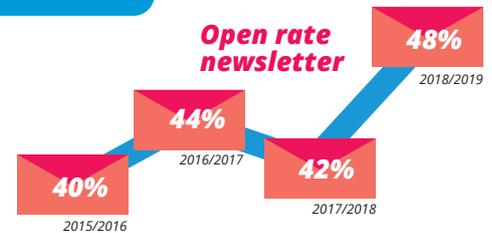


Savings – we save money strategically to ensure fundings of future ventures and projects, such as our country cabins.



Top 3 visited links in union newsletter

1. List of sports at Chalmers
2. Breakfast lecture - from Volvo to his own autonomous trucks
3. Candidates student union council



1. Recreation - Härryda

2. Documents

3. Information desk

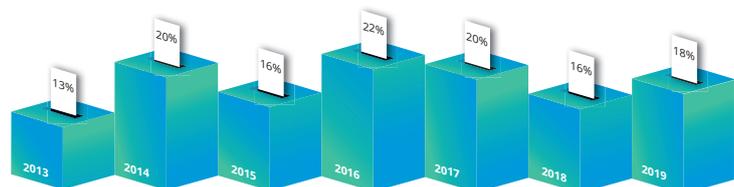
4. The union card

5. Being a member

Top 5 visited links, union website



Voted in the student union council election





CHALMERS
STUDENTKÅR