

WHAT HAVE WE DONE FOR YOU?

Summary of the

Student union

impact work 2020/2021

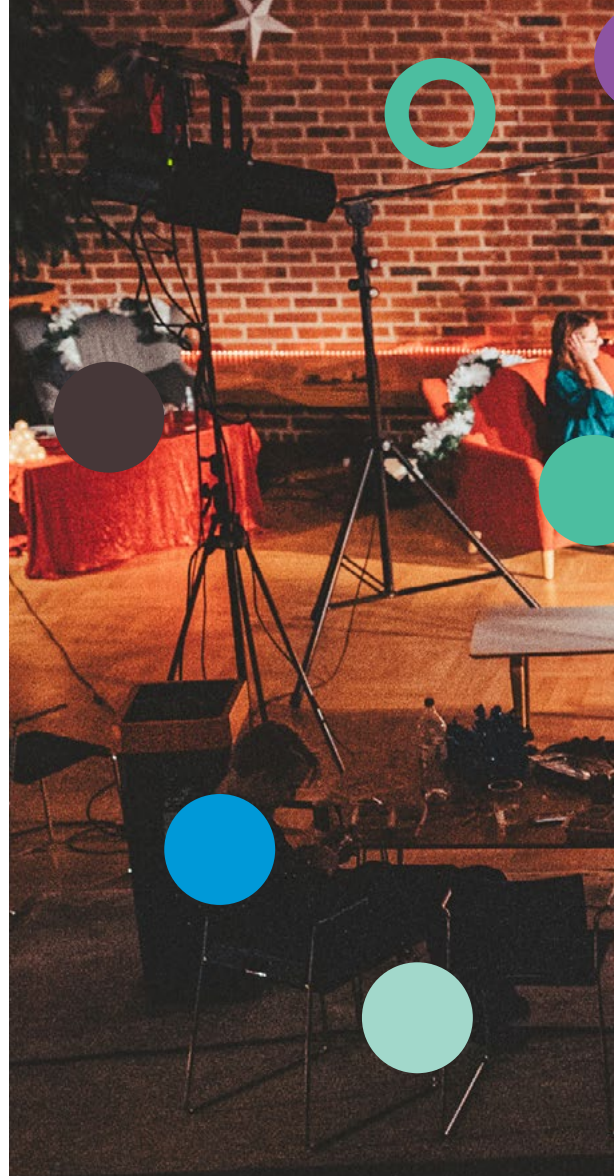
Are we spending your money the right way?

Every semester, you need to renew your membership in the union. We know that the mandatory membership sometimes raises questions. In this summary, we will do our best to explain how we have worked during the year to improve student life at Chalmers.

This report is the short version. Full version 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 2020/2021



A different Christmas - an online streamed event held in lieu of a physical dinner. One of many online events during the pandemic year. More on page 12.



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

The vision of Chalmers Student Union



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2020/2021*

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Introduction

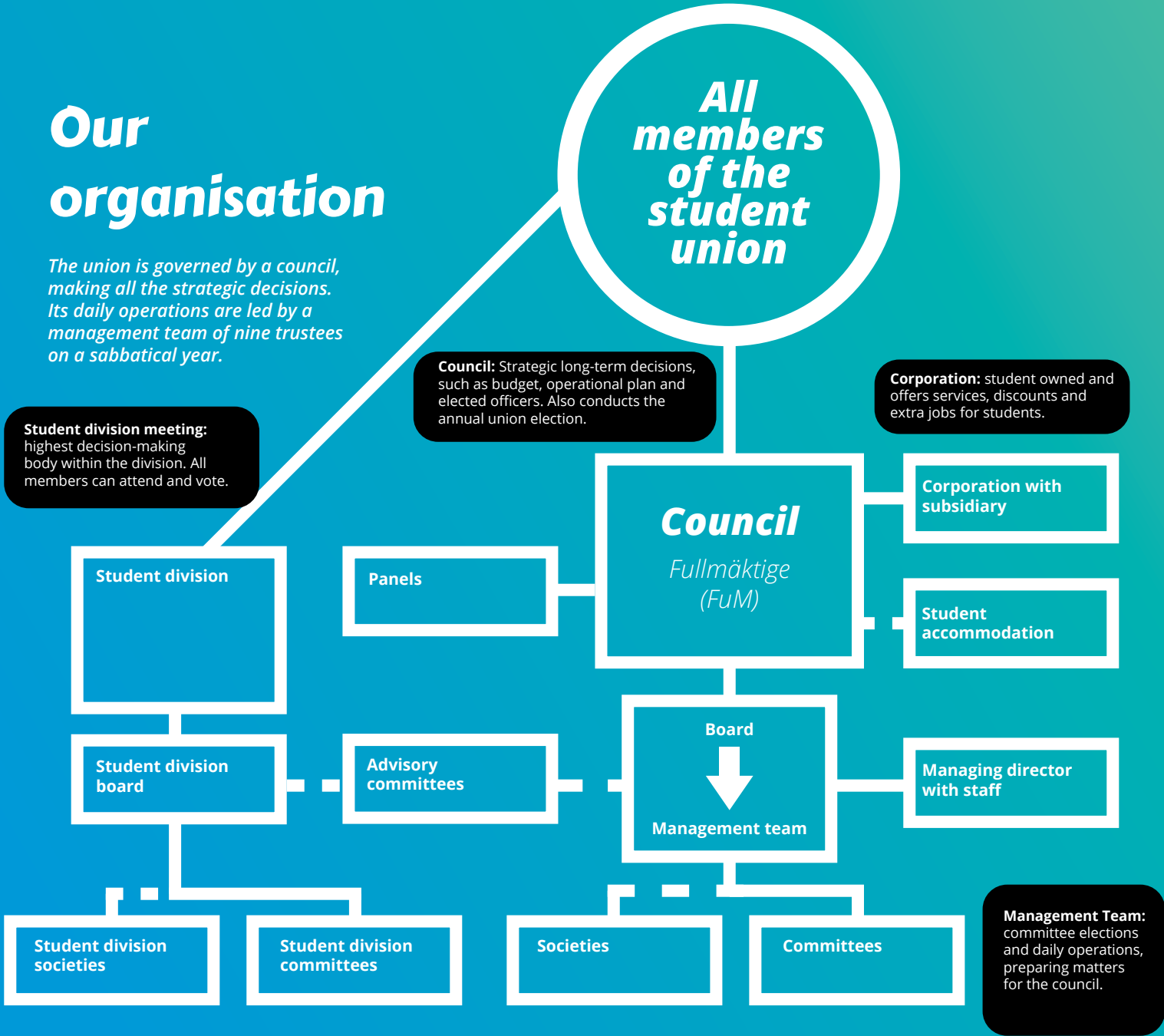
Chalmers Student Union is an independent organization, run democratically by its members and exists to represent, support, and provide opportunities for everyone who studies at Chalmers University of Technology.

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 representative or just having a fun night out at any of our events. Our member survey shows that approximately half of our members get involved in the union during their time at Chalmers.

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 nine trustees on a sabbatical year.



I. Make the most of your education

Difficulties and success during remote teaching

During the academic year 2020/2021, almost all education was given remotely due to the pandemic. The management team worked together with the university and the students to be able to find the best ways to educate remotely. We emphasized the importance of meeting points for student/student and student/teacher. To maintain high quality education remotely have been the basis in all discussions.

Which new methods, learnt during the pandemic, that should remain and continuing to develop has also been a hot topic. We have highlighted new teaching methods and technical solutions that the students have been very satisfied with, but also highlighted the ones that have not worked as desired.

- **Our influence:** highlighted difficulties that students have experienced, been a driving force in the development of remote education, highlighted good examples of teaching.

2. Affect your education & study situation

Transition challenges during the pandemic

Starting in spring 2020, the pandemic forced the university to start education online. This continued throughout the whole year. The transition was a challenge for both for students and faculty alike. We have discussed what has worked well and less well with Student Educational Committees. This was a big part of the Student Voice during fall. With the broad input, we could form a good picture of what most of our students thought of the transition to digital education.

- **Our influence:** We have lifted the opinions from our members with vice heads of all departments responsible for education as well as with Executive Committee for Education.

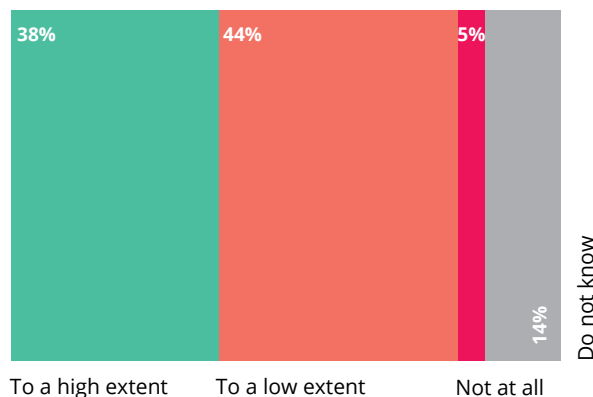
Course selection process moved

As part of Chalmers goal of outsourcing their IT-tools that students use, the course selection process was moved from the student portal to antagning.se (universityadmissions.se). The goal of the transition was also to improve the selection process for students.



To which extent do you feel that you can affect your education and study situation?

Most feel they can affect their education to some extent



3. Feel safe

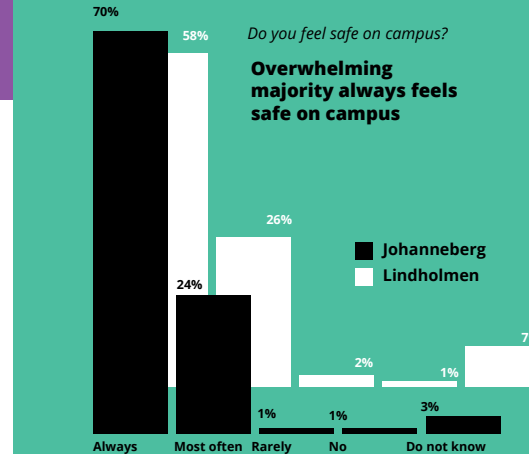


Reacting against inequality

In the spring of 2021, the union's equality committee, together with the divisions' ditto, held an equality week in the theme TOGETHER - against inequality. The week was filled with lots of interesting and inspiring events and lectures.

28 proposals for a better study situation

During the pandemic, we could see a trend in the increased mental illness and loneliness among our members. We collected our members' proposals for how we as a Student Union and Chalmers as a University could create a better study situation for our members during the pandemic. The ideas resulted in as many as 28 concrete proposals.



From the membership survey 2020

New welfare counsellor at Chalmers

The request for a welfare counsellor at Chalmers has long been an issue. The union wanted someone that students can easily turn to for support. Before the summer of 2021, we received the positive news that a counsellor will be employed at Chalmers. Something much needed and that we are looking forward to.

- **Our influence:** The student union has expressed the students' wishes in various forums

New committee election routines

During the year, a new routine for the student union's committees' election was developed. The goal is for the election processes to be more objective and for everyone who applies to the union's committees to feel equally and fairly treated. Among other things, it has been clarified on what grounds the selection may be based.

Safe at Chalmers made safer

During the year, work was done to create standardized working methods for reports received via the website Safe at Chalmers. Partly to make the process more effective, partly so that those who report an incident should feel safe with how the union handles their report.

4. Being prepared for the future

The first ever digital CHARM

Due to the pandemic this year's CHARM fair was the first ever digital fair. This gave students the ability to attend and connect with potential employers through a digital platform, something that was especially important when most of the traditional ways to connect were disrupted.

Chalmers E-village

Is an entrepreneurial hub at Chalmers which aims to create a place where students, scientists, entrepreneurs, start-ups along with many more can meet, share ideas and exchange knowledge.

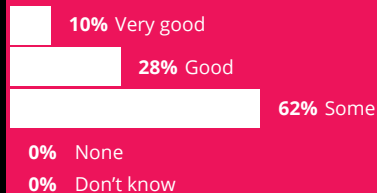
- **Our influence:** Providing the student perspective in different developing groups. Especially on how to make Chalmers E-village attractive for students.

Approaching the international labor market

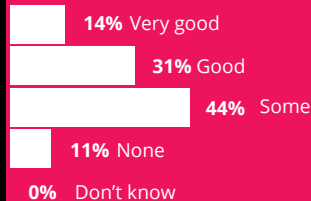
We have worked on how to give a better view of and allow international companies to get in contact with our students. Our work aims to lower the threshold for international companies to arrange events for Chalmers students in the future.



How good knowledge do you think you have about employers relevant for your programme?



How well do you feel prepared for your future career?



5. Access to housing



Photo: Liljewall

Long and short stay with new hostel

North of the student union building on Johanneberg, Chalmers studentbostäder (CSB) are building student accommodation in terms of long and short stay options. There will be approximately 65 rooms, as well as 300 brand new student apartments. Holterman Hostel will most likely be finished in late 2021, and the apartments in 2026.

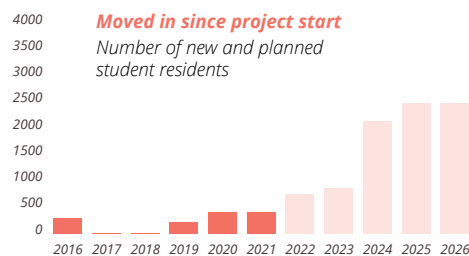
Student housing on Gibraltarvallen

On the parking lot east of campus Johanneberg, CSB has a new student housing project called Mira. The first students can hopefully move in during 2026.

- **Our influence:** Student representatives on the board of CSB. Common influence on local governance through cooperation with other student unions in Gothenburg (GFS).

Constant need for new housing

There are a lot of ongoing student housing projects in Gothenburg, mainly by the two companies CSB and SGS. Hopefully the trend will continue, to satisfy the ever-growing need.



From: <https://gbg7000.se/statistik>
Last update 2020

6. Offer suitable & affordable services

Providing service in harsh times

The pandemic has been tough on all aspects, and very much so for our restaurant company Chalmers Studentkårs Restaurang AB. As most events have been cancelled and students have been staying at home, the restaurants on campus has had a tough time. However, the student union deemed it necessary to provide a restaurant service to our students and decided to try to stay open as much as possible. As a result of the low demand some restaurants or cafés still had to close temporarily. During autumn 2021, all units are planned to be reopened.

New booking routines

During this past year, the student union has implemented new booking routines in order to enable our members to plan events and have fun together without the need to stress about booking costs if the event had to be cancelled. The cancellation fee was set to zero regardless of how late the booking had to be cancelled. We also made sure that every event was as COVID-safe as possible by demanding more thorough planning of each event with an event description and a risk analysis that had to be validated by the student union management team. Also, there has been a couple of new digital events as well.



Maximum capacity - 20 guests



STORE
BY CHALMERS STUDENTKÅR



Before entering, take a peg and fasten on your clothes.



Before leaving the shop, leave the peg in the box.



If box is empty, wait outside for your turn.



7. Personal growth & participation

The future of Of Course

The event Of Course is an annual event dedicated to personal growth and in 2021 it was, unlike other years, a digital event. Furthermore it was held over 4 days, instead of one afternoon. The theme was "Milestones" and included things like "take control of your to-do list", "meditation for engineers" and "optimize your brain".

Chalmers students could attend for free and listen to Anders Hansen, chief physician, among others. The event was overall successful and the lessons learned from having it as a digital event will help improve Of Course in the future.

Our newest societies

During the year, four new societies have been accepted into the student union which all student union members can join.

These are:

Väst kustfolk - a student folk ensemble which play folk tunes by ear on various types of instrument.

Chalmers Entrepreneurship Society (CES) - Chalmers entrepreneurship society's main goal is to create a hub for entrepreneurial students to connect and create. They want to lower the bar for entrepreneurship among students and make it more accessible.

Chalmers Coding Club - Chalmers coding club aims to promote competitive coding among Chalmers students.

Effective Altruism Chalmers - Effective Altruism Chalmers aims to educate and elevate within the subject effective altruism.



8. Campus life & leisure



Online Christmas dinner.

Improvements in the union building

We are happy to present the latest improvements in the student union building:

- The terrace on second floor has been equipped with new tables and benches so you can study or enjoy lunch outside during the warmer months.
- The indoor lighting has been upgraded with new LED lights which will help reduce the energy consumption. It also comes with a new control system which enables easier control of each lamp, making it easier to set different scenes depending on the event.
- A plan for renovating the union building sauna has been presented. Renovations are planned for 2021/2022.
- The meeting room Vera Sandberg will be getting a facelift, a custom designed wallpaper showing the history of Vera Sandberg.

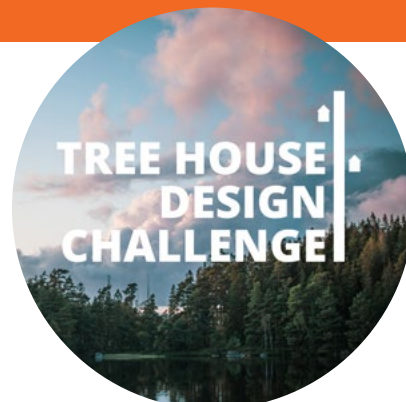
Pandemic friendly reception

The aim of the reception is to give new student good a good start to manage studies and thrive during their entire time at Chalmers.

By providing a broad variety of events, new students have the opportunity to get to know each other, their school and the student union. During the pandemic, we therefore worked hard to conduct a safe reception by implementing temporary rules and supporting organizing students in creating safe events. Despite the regulations, we got the impression that the reception was well appreciated by the new students and fulfilled its purpose.

Online Christmas dinner

During the pandemic, a lot of the regular, annual events were cancelled. However, a lot of the events were also remade and adapted instead of cancelled. An example was the digital Christmas dinner that the central part of the student union organized for all students. The event offered a traditional Swedish "Christmas plate", made by the unions restaurant company, for takeaway and an evening full of live streamed entertainment. The event was a huge success with over 200 participants watching the stream while enjoying good food.



Sleeping under the stars

The union has a vision of having a student union building on the countryside. Since 2016 that included a wish to develop an unused area at our cabins in Härryda.

The plan was to make it easier for students to hang out and stay overnight closer to nature. Therefore the union launched an architect competition called "Tree House Design Challenge" where students and alumni can send in their proposal of a design for a small sleepover cabin. The winners are presented in the beginning of October 2021 and the winning contributions will be used as base when building the overnight cabins.



Meeting room Vera Sandberg.

9. A healthy organisation



New booking system for union vehicle fleet

Both committees and societies are dependent on the vehicles provided by the student union. The new booking system has simplified and streamlined the administration of the union's vehicle fleet thanks to functionalities such as digital logbooks and automatic invoicing.

Improved investment and economy routines

Extensive work has been carried out with the union's committee funds and how withdrawals and investments from these are to be handled. The changes are intended to simplify the follow-up of each committee's operating profit over the years, in order to be able to see trends without regard to large investments. The finances will thus be reported more clearly before and after financial items.

Supporting membership

A new routine has been developed for handling and recruiting support members for Chalmers Student Union. The value of support membership is primarily the network of alumni and Chalmers friends that it creates. It will be a direct way for the organisation to reach out to people who are passionate about the student union and can be used for everything from new donation campaigns to social events for alumni and students.



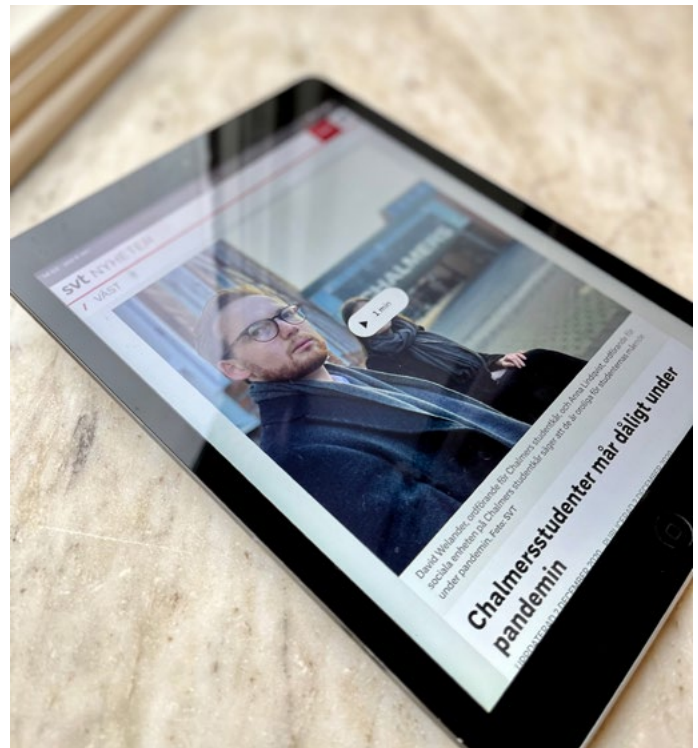
10. Represent members opinions

Media presence during the pandemic

The Student Union has been seen and heard in the media several times during the last year and raised questions about the psychosocial health, both due to the pandemic but also in general. This has put the issue on the agenda at the university, which has focused more on the issue.

The cooperation between the Student Unions in Gothenburg, GFS, will concentrate their focus on student political influence since the sale of Fysiken. Their main focus is the student housing situation, student discounts in Gothenburg and jobs after graduation.

- **Our influence:** highlighted the problems with student health, made the university focus on the issue, five Chalmers students in the board of GFS.

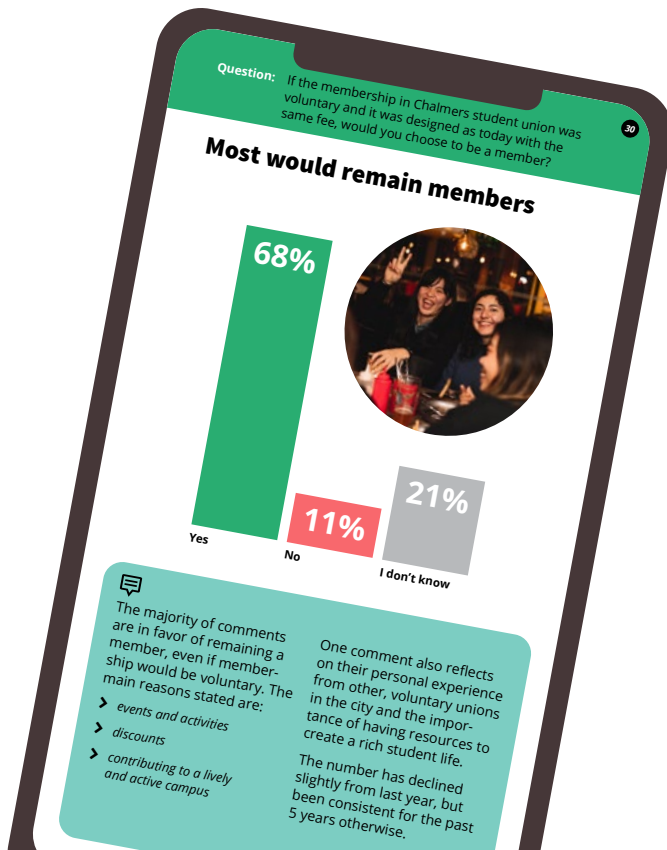


II. Continuous communication with members

Results from the annual membership survey

Previous years, the results from the membership survey was only presented to the student union council. The data was of course available to all in the minutes and summon of that particular council meeting, but not designed to reach all members.

The pandemic made it particularly important to reach our members and so we decided to make an attempt to summarize and design the results to better fit its most important audience - those who have answered the survey. It became one of the most read message in the May newsletter where it was first published.



Sport on campus

In the annual operational plan, sports was one of our focus areas. Particularly, designing a vision for the future campus and how to integrate sports to become a natural part of students life and our campus. This work resulted in an inspiring brochure containing all the points, ideas and goals. Available online and outside union offices.



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.

1. Information desk

2. Recreation Härryda

3. Documents

4. The union card

5. Being a member

6. Covid-19 information

Top 5 visited links, union website

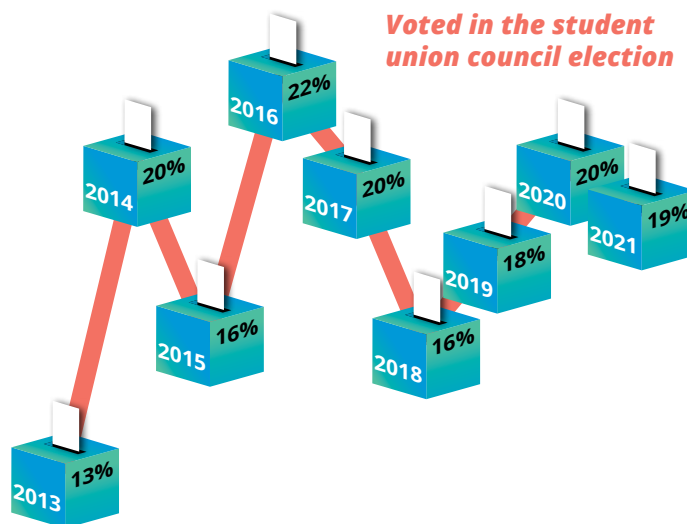
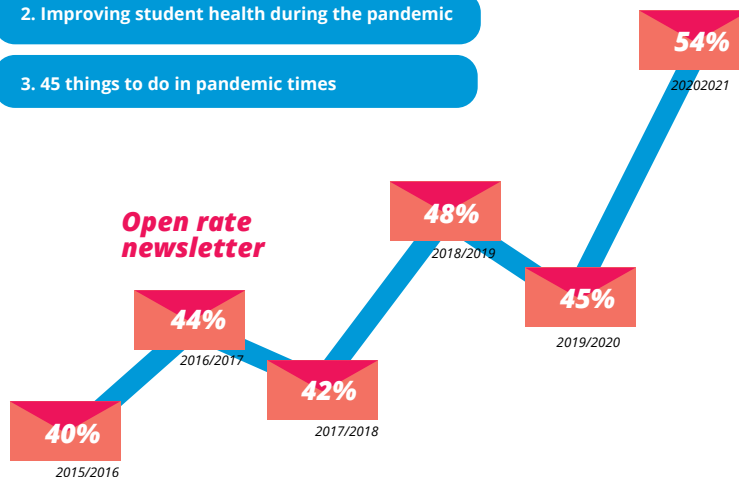


Top 3 visited links in union newsletter

1. New restrictions on campus

2. Improving student health during the pandemic

3. 45 things to do in pandemic times





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STUDENTKÅR