



## **SAKS business plan 21/22**

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### **Contents**

SAKS business plan 21/22	1
Focus area	2
Digitalisation	2
Study social revival	4
Structure and communication	5
Continuous work	7
Internal organisation and economy	7
Communication	7
Recruiting members	7
Education supervision	8
Digitalisation	9
Work environment	9
Internationalisation	10
Equality	10
Study social	11
Labor market	11
Cooperation and collaboration	12



## The Union board

The board's primary function is to be the highest decisive, operational instance within SAKS. This means that the union board is to govern the daily business of SAKS and make sure that everything is working as well as possible. The union board shall work strategically to manage and support all parts of SAKS business. The union board also coordinates the educational supervision at the faculty level and represents SAKS externally. In this it is included to make sure all branches within SAKS follow the governing documents and their, by the parliament approved, business plans and budgets.

## Focus area

Every year the union board chooses one or two areas to work on a little extra. For the business year 2021/2022 the board has chosen to have three focus areas: one educational, one study social and one internal organisation focus. The ambition is to choose one educational area and one study social area that run over a two year period, while the internal organisation is chosen yearly. The purpose of this is to under a limited time put extra effort into relevant issues.

	20/21	21/22	22/23
Education	Digitalisation		
Study social		Study social revival	
Internal organisation	Engagement of students	Structure and communication	

## Digitalisation

One area of focus for 20/21 was digitalisation, which among other things resulted in the document of opinions "education on distance and digitalisation", which is to be used as a tool for SAKS ahead. We suggest continuing with this area of focus for 21/22.

The background to this is the ongoing pandemic which during the spring of 2020 led to a quick reorganisation of all educations at Sahlgremska academy to distance education. Something that now and in the future will be in question since mixed forms of education is becoming more common. Even if there have been some shortcomings in the quality of education during the pandemic, this reorganisation have brought some positives. The student union needs to, out of a student perspective, bring forward and work to preserve the positive aspects from the reorganisation, for the time after this pandemic. The work evolving the education in digital environments for the future education is happening both at Sahlgremska academy and at the university level.



### **Pedagogy**

When more education is being held in digital platforms the student union needs to supervise so the pedagogical evolution keeps up with the reorganisation.

The union board shall:

- use what we have learned from the pandemic in its affective work,
- work for that all teachers and tutors at SA gets opportunity to develop their competence with a focus on digital education,
- maintain the student influence over the digitisation process,
- supervise that rules for examination on distance are lived after,
- take part in molding the future education at a faculty- and university level,
- supervise that teachers remain available even when teaching on distance.

### **Social aspects**

To perform in studies and maintain a good physical and mental health it is important to socialise with and meet other people in different contexts. To encounter and communicate with others is important for professional life. We have noticed many students living isolated during the pandemic which have had negative effects on the motivation to study, and the distance education limits the possibilities to interact with classmates and teachers.

The union board shall:

- observe the social context when more of the education is being held on distance,
- work towards that the education promotes the students communication and cooperative skills,
- supervise that teachers are available for students even when they use lectures on distance or prerecorded material.

### **Digital tools and hybrid education**

In the present day it is possible to do a lot of things digitally and there are many digital tools on the market. Except for different quiz-tools, for more interactive lectures, there is software which allows students to practice for example laborative elements virtually. Another example is the clinical placement which was moved to a virtual clinic during spring semester of 2020. There is great potential for such tools to act as a complement to ordinary practical and theoretical education.

In conversation about the future facilities words like multi-lecture hall and hybrid-lecture hall - lecture halls which enables a hybrid education with the option to digitally connect to lectures being held at "berget". The idea is also to enable the education to smoothly swift from lecture to seminar.

The union board shall:

- influence the physical and pedagogical development of hybrid education,
- aim for the Sahlgrenska academy to use high quality digital tools which promotes learning.



### **Study social revival**

During the business year 20/21 the pandemic induced SAKS study social business into a coma. This has led to an increase of engagement and it has been hard to motivate engagement when physical events have been impossible. To revive the study life the study social business will need a lot of care. Students who have initiated their studies during the pandemic completely lack any idea of SAKS study social business. It is now important that we find ways to engage students again and show all students at Sahlgrenska academy that it is worth it to invest your time in the student union

### **Cooperation**

The student union works continuously with encouraging engagement from students from all the different educations at Sahlgrenska academy. Early contact with other students at the same education but also the other educations creates a way in for engagement even after the reception. The reception is the first contact the new students have with the student union and it is often here that the interest for SAKS grows. By creating an inclusive and transeducational reception we create these early contacts which leads to more engagement. To cooperate with other student unions would also mean that SAKS work to broaden the students study social context and strengthen the student life in Göteborg.

The union board shall:

- support IntrU in its work as coordinators of the reception,
- encourage IntrU to early during the reception arrange a joint event for all the new students,
- encourage the committees to a wider cooperation during the reception,
- create cooperation between the student union of Göteborg,
- develop a forum for cooperation between the different social groups of SAKS.

### **Recruitment and engagement**

This goes hand in hand with cooperation since it is common at the start of your studies, before you find your niche within the union, to get engaged together with your friends. By early on encouraging students to get involved it gets easier to later find members for the union board, the social groups etc. since you have time to think about it and create an interest for it at several occasions, which increases the possibility of someone actually doing it.

The union board shall:

- early on in the business year start with the recruitment for next year,
- increase visibility in the hallways (längan, HVB, Odontologen),
- encourage all groups which are a part of SAKS to promote themselves in the hallways,
- continue with making our work visible in social media.

### **Accessibility**

Most of our events are cheap and well adjusted for a student income, but when it comes to the bigger events such as the spring ball it is often the wallet which decides if you are going or not. We don't want students to abstain from these events simply because they can't afford it and we want to investigate the possibility of having sponsors etc. to decrease the cost. It is also important to make our events physically



accessible by taking this into consideration when planning the logistics of events outside of Hvillan.

The union board shall:

- find suitable sponsors for a long term cooperation with events,
- work for all events to be accessibility adapted when possible,
- aim for all events to be appropriate for a student wallet,
- work for all events to be socially inclusive for all students at Sahlgrenska academy,
- enable participation for students who are non Swedish speakers.

### **Structure and communication**

As an organisation SAKS is a little scattered and it's difficult to get a grip of all of it, either you are an elected member or only passive member. To make it easier for members, active members and elected members to stay informed and find what they are looking for it is important that SAKS creates a clear structure which is easy to follow. This will also facilitate the presiduals to do their job within each area of responsibility.

### **Communication**

One issue has been that the communication has been spread out between email, Slack and Facebook. It is necessary to create a communication plan for how SAKS uses the website, social media, email etc. to communicate with students, members and elected members.

The union board shall:

- create a communication plan which clarifies the use of different media,
- work to always communicate with an inclusive language,
- be consistent in how we communicate
- work for an increased communication between the different parts of SAKS.

### **Governing documents and documents of opinions**

Sequences of work, statues, policies and documents of opinions need updating regularly to fit the conditions of the present day. To increase the usability of the documents of opinions within the influential work a restructure might be necessary.

The union board shall:

- overlook the general structure of the governing documents of SAKS,
- update the sequence of work and SAKS policies to fit the conditions of the present day,
- work for the governing documents to be easily accessible,
- work with translation of all governing documents.

### **Organisational structure**

During the course of the years some parts of SAKS have become more or less autonomous. That elected members find their own solutions for issues that pop up can absolutely be of advantage, but when they lose connection to the union board an important insight in the work is lost. When they then face bigger issues they are unaware of the help and support available from others within SAKS and they also risk moving away from the governing documents. To gather all parts and have a clear



structure which is apparent to everyone facilitates the work of the union board as well as the councils and social groups.

The union board shall:

- work for all educational councils to follow a continuous structure,
- clarify all parts of SAKS organisation, and
- illuminate who does what,
- include the student representatives in all of the unions educational supervising business,
- develop networks of student representatives and elected members.



## Continuous work

### Internal organisation and economy

The union board's primary assignment is to keep together the internal organisation and take responsibility for the economy. To do this a good communication with all branches of the union is necessary. Furthermore the union board shall work for the union to engage more people and accomplish more. It is important to strengthen the sense of unity in the union.

The union board shall:

- develop internal educations for elected members, including parliament members,
- work for a broader participation in our business and our activities,
- work for a broader recruitment to SAKS elected positions, and student representative assignments at Sahlgrenska academy,
- work to fill all our student representative positions,
- maintain a stable economic development,
- keep working to clarify that SAKS is all of our business and our members, not just the union board,
- evolve SAKS as an organization and consider a possible reorganization in the future.

### Communication

The union is nothing without its members and instances and the communication between them is essential for the function of the union. Both the internal and external communication needs to work well. How and what we communicate affects the work as well as how we are perceived. The communication needs to be efficient, be able to reach far and be inclusive for both Swedish- and non-Swedish speakers. Internal communication is of utmost importance for the ability of all branches of SAKS to have a voice and to uphold transparency and the democratic processes.

The union board shall:

- Maintain a good communication with the parliament,
- have an active communication in both English and Swedish,
- work with communicating the educational supervision in different ways in an attempt to increase involvement and interest in the work, and
- develop innovative ways of spreading information to the members,
- keep increasing the visibility on social media,
- work with transparency and the illumination of the unions work,
- work for the union to have a tab at the course sights on Canvas,
- strengthen SAKS as a brand by creating and sticking to a clear graphic profile.

### Recruiting members

Without its members there is no SAKS. Recruiting members is important to show that we have a large mass of students behind us. Today we see an uneven distribution of members in SAKS, where the affiliation differs a lot at the different educations. We also notice many students who never update their membership past the reception. We need to strengthen the diversity of elected members and active members within SAKS.



To be able to execute an inclusive work and reflect the student population we need to recruit wider and more. A broader recruitment gives more angles and different perspectives on things and a higher quality of the influential work.

The union board shall:

- increase visibility among all students at Sahlgreńska academy,
- increase visibility and affiliation among the PhD students,
- be visible on social media and encourage everyone to follow us,
- work for all councils and social groups to be visible through our main channels on social media,
- work for all students to consider the membership a given choice,
- illuminate the communal sense of unity,
- visit all the new courses at the start of a new semester,
- continuously visit and inform courses at education with low affiliation,
- invite our own instances to arrange happenings in association with the coffee on Mondays, and
- work with making a membership and having an elected position more attractive and clarify the value,
- use the channels we have of communication to remind students to update their membership.

### **Education supervision**

The educational supervision is the core of the student union and it means to illustrate and impel areas which will lead to an improved educational quality and study situation for the students at Sahlgreńska academy. Practically its about recruiting, appointing and educating student representatives, and to have an active discussion about relevant subjects for the educational supervision at different levels at the faculty. The union board and the vice president with responsibility for education should consider themselves like the spider in the web for the student representatives at the academy.

The union board shall:

- together with the councils create a plan for the use of the documents of opinions,
- have a good cooperation with the dean and vice deans for education and research, and the faculty board, faculty educational council and other faculty common instances,
- through GUS, and directly with representatives from the university, illustrate areas in need of support from a university level,
- supervise all the student representative students rights,
- be an active part of the internal and external quality revision and recruit competent student representatives for the assessment groups,
- investigate and evaluate the system of excellent teachers and their use,
- cover and strengthen the student influence at the faculty,
- have a continuous dialogue with all educational councils regarding education supervision issues at faculty-, institution-, and course level, and evolve the form of communal council meetings,



- start up councils where active ones are missing,
- support the councils in their recruitment of student representatives at institutional level, and
- organise internal education for student representatives,
- work for the whole faculty to consider the student influence and the work of the union as an organic part of the processes,
- strengthen the cooperation between the union and the institutions.

### **Digitalisation**

We live in a more and more digital world. The university has moved a lot of parts of the education to digital forums. The business year 20/21 SAKS received a document of opinions regarding digitalisation. Digitalisation is one of the focus areas for SAKS union board 20/21 and 21/22. In the future it is expected that education will incorporate more digital tools as part of pedagogy.

The union board shall:

- oversee that the rules regarding digital of education and examination are followed,
- take part to mould the future education,
- supervise the digital work environment,
- supervise that quality of education is maintained.

### **Work environment**

The students' work environment has for a long time been a difficult issue to address since the students' participation in the continuous work with this had very diffuse relations. The last couple of years a lot of work has been done implementing "SAMO" in the business of the faculties. During 20/21 a lot of work has gone into implementing SAMOs at Sahlgreńska academy and the student work environment at large. The survey "Studenttrivsel på Sahlgreńska akademien", which also relates to the psychosocial work environment, was done and a report was written and published the spring of 21. There are ongoing building projects and renovations which will continue over several years where the student union needs to have a watching eye to make sure the supply of good study places is met with the demand. It is important for the union to keep supervising and make sure that the student's physical and psychosocial work environment is part of the conversation.

The union board shall:

- keep evolving the SAMO network within SAKS, and work to recruit SAMOs at all educations at Sahlgreńska academy,
- together with GUS develop the crash course for SAMOs,
- bring up the student perspective on psychosocial and physical work environment and work for all students to be met with professionalism,
- oversee and strengthen the psychosocial work environment at the whole faculty and especially at the institution of Odontology,
- oversee and follow up on all previous surveys and reports regarding the psychosocial and physical work environment at GU and Sahlgreńska academy.



- follow up on the work which has been done regarding equal treatment, equality and accessibility, and
- watch over the facility projects and the work environment connected to eventual evacuations,
- work for all educational councils to appoint at least one SAMO, and
- make sure the people who are SAMO are granted access into the work environment work at the institutions.

### **Internationalisation**

The mobility of students at Sahlgreńska academy is quite high and a lot of students go on exchanges, but internationalisation is much bigger than that. The board has a responsibility to bring up the question of quality regarding all sorts of internationalisation such as out- and incoming students, out- and incoming teachers, international PhD students and other international cooperations and to promote a culture which protects international diversity. The pandemic has left its tracks on both the ability to and the possible kinds of internationalisation. That more seminars and meetings have moved into digital forums enables a broader international cooperation, both for the academy and for the students. It is easier than ever to establish international networks.

The union board shall:

- work for an accessible, inspiring and inclusive environment for international students,
- keep increasing the possibility for international students to engage themselves with the student union,
- promote the work with high quality exchange agreements for all education at Sahlgreńska academy,
- work for a more just and fair system of exchange and the possibility of exchange for all students,
- oversee the work with CIM (certificate of international merits), and
- promote the work with educational quality, for both incoming and outgoing students,
- develop the different ways of international cooperations and possibilities for exchange of knowledge and experience,
- work for and illustrate the importance of social, economic and ecological sustainable internationalisation.

### **Equality**

Equality is not an isolated assignment but something that should be incorporated in everything, as well the organisation as outward to the university and others. The concept of equality needs to be a natural part of everything that SAKS does. The specific work is mostly about mediating knowledge, engagement and constantly making sure the equality perspective is considered.

The union board shall:



- work for an accessible, inspiring study environment for all students at Sahlgreńska academy,
- inform students and illuminate student rights,
- inspect SAKS own organisation regarding equality issues,
- work for a broader recruitment of elected members,
- illustrate shortcomings and needs regarding equality which affects the students of Sahlgreńska academy,
- ensure all students as well equal rights as equal opportunity in their studies at Sahlgreńska academy, and
- organise SAKS participation in the West Pride- parade,
- monitor the effects of the project “An easy way in”,
- evaluate the function of the equality group “IRIS”.

### **Study social**

The union board has an important role in managing and organising the study social business. The union board also has an overall responsibility for the unions serving alcohol and should therefore make sure the serving of alcohol follows all rules and laws and promotes a responsible culture around alcohol. The study social business also promotes the communal sense of unity with the union and the psychosocial health of our members. If there is something we have learned from the pandemic it's the dangers of isolation. Isolation is not limited to what it has been during the pandemic, to not meet other people, it can also be an exclusion from social activities. The union board should therefore work actively with strengthening all of the study social business for students of all interests.

The union board shall:

- appoint a spring ball committee,
- evolve and tighten the cooperation between SAKS and the “corpser” and IFMSA Göteborg, among other things by early on evaluate and sign new cooperation agreements,
- discuss how the different ways of engagement in the union evolves during the time of studies and continue to strengthen some sort of stairs of engagement,
- work for all the study social activities to be considered a part of SAKS and that everyone who is engaged feels a sense of belonging to SAKS,
- plan and execute a “thank you” activity for all the elected members within SAKS, and
- work for a responsible culture around alcohol,
- support and encourage new engagements,
- with the pandemic's limits in mind develop new ways of organising social activities.

### **Labor market**

The work fair of SAKS, ALARM, had to, during 20/21, be innovative and find new platforms to reach out to students and employers. When we are moving out of the pandemic and the physical paralysis we have had over us it is important to keep the



benefits of this digitalisation. The pressure from different employers to reach out to students has increased and we see a lot of potential in expanding our work to prepare students for a world after their studies and help them get in contact with their future professional life early on.

The union board shall:

- work for all students to not be scheduled during ALARM, at least for some part of it,
- thoroughly evaluate the use of digital platforms to get students in contact with more employers, and elaborate on the work that was done 20/21,
- arrange more lunch lectures and events which can be inspiring and prepare students for their professions,
- find out which companies/organisations the students want to meet,
- work with strengthening ALARM as a brand,
- contact more businesses within each section (pharmacy, healthcare, dentistry)
- market ALARM for the students, and
- work for clear guidelines regarding external associations and organisations use of SAKS channels of information.

### **Cooperation and collaboration**

SAKS is a part of many collaborations both locally and nationally, to ensure that issues from our students are being discussed widely. SAKS are members of Sveriges Förenade Studentkårer (SFS), Göteborgs Förenade Studentkårer (GFS) and Göteborgs universitets studentkårer (GUS). SAKS are also part owners of “Göteborgs studenters företagsgrupp AB (GSF AB)”. On top of that some of SAKS educational councils are part of education specific networks (i.e SNAPS, OMSiS). We also have an open dialogue and collaborate informally with other organisations such as Swedish Institute for Global Health Transformation Student Organization Network (SIGHT SON) to bring together different students in different forums. There has been a collaboration before between the medical student unions called “forum MVH”. During 20/21 SAKS have mostly had contact with Consensus in Linköping and both of us wish to establish such a collaboration again. The pandemic has shown the special position that education within healthcare has compared to other more theoretical educations. The need to communicate with each other has hence increased.

The union board shall:

- work to reestablish a network between the student union with educations in healthcare,
- maintain the established collaboration with other union in SFS,
- support and strengthen the participation of our educational councils in education specific networks, and encourage the creation of such where there are none,
- have an active participation within GFS and preserve the pleasant atmosphere which has been present during 20/21,
- monitor the member service and the different unions equal influence in GSF AB after the new stock ownership agreement is implemented, and



- evaluate the new system regarding financing of student media,
- have an active part as a member union in GUS and take a part in molding the organisation as such, and
- collaborate with SIGHT regarding their events about global health.