

Linnaeus Union Document of Opinion



Contents

Introduction	3
Foundational principles	4
Equalistic education	4
The inclusion of the students	4
Two cities, one university	4
Opinions of Linnaeus Union	5
Education	5
Quality in education.....	5
Teaching	5
Internationalization in the education.....	5
Cheat and plagiarism	5
Sustainable education	6
Linnaeus Union demands:	6
Participation of students	7
Course evaluation.....	7
Students rights	7
Student representatives	7
Student safety deputy	7
Linnaeus Union demands:	8
An including student life.....	8
Students health.....	8
Campus in development	8
Integration.....	9
Students' associations	9
Linnaeus Union demands:	9
The student's social stance in society.....	9
Housing.....	9
Student funds	10
Students social protection	10
Availability to course literature	10
Linnaeus Union demands:	10
Equal value.....	11

Equal conditions	11
Broadened recruitment	11
Advice and support	11
Linnaeus Union demands:	11
Postgraduate education	12
Postgraduate representation	12
Postgraduates organizational study enviroment.....	12
Employment.....	12
Linnaeus Union demand:	12

Introduction

Linnaeus Union's Document of Opinion is a document that states the stances that the organization has. It is the political platform that we proceed from in our daily work to influence the university, Kalmar Municipality, Växjö Municipality and other actors and parties.

Linnaeus Union represents all students and postgraduates at Linnaeus University and where these students has different opinions, experiences and conditions there are questions where students think alike. The Document of Opinion will include student collective questions such as study environment, educational matters and the circumstances that are available to the students.

The Linnaeus Union's Document of Opinion is a crucial component to make the Unions work more transparent to our members and to students at large and will not contain any party-political positioning. The Document of Opinion is adopted at the members meetings, which means that the document is thoroughly revised by the members of the Union. On the members meeting, they are given the option to give their view on the document and suggest changes to the document. This can be made by creating propositions before the meeting or to attend the relevant meetings as a member of the union.

The Document of Opinion is used by all representatives of Linnaeus Union, both employed and elected. The document imbues the entire operation and follows in contact with students, Linnaeus University, other cooperation partners and media. The document is the foundation for the operation and contribute for Linnaeus Union to create the study time for all.

Foundational principles

Equalistic education

Society is constantly evolving, and the university has a responsibility to adapt to and develop in the pace that is needed. Nowadays, more and more people are entering higher education and it lies on the university to make sure that the educations are available to all. An equalistic education are based on the fact that all higher education shall be free of charge, available and including.

An important principle for making higher education an available right for all is that the education is free of charge. If economic conditions make a difference for the availability of the education, then the quality, the diversity and the place of the education as a human right in a globalized society are at risk to get lost. All operations on the university shall be based on inclusion and openness. It is an important principle that the university focus on a broadened recruitment of staff and can guarantee an environment that are free from discrimination in order to create more diversity. All individuals in society shall have the possibility to enter higher education.

The inclusion of the students

The inclusion of the students in the university's development will create an education with higher quality. The influence of the students works at best when the students are included. When students are allowed to decide regarding those parts of the education, it will create a better study environment. The student union has an important role in this question as an independent operation that can influence the university on the behalf on the students. It is important that the university makes sure that there are at least one independent student union at the university that are given the possibility to influence the university on behalf of the students.

The students' influence over their education is founded in Swedish Law and can never be questioned. The university is responsible for giving the student union conditions for working the participation of the students. The new perspectives that the students are contributing with shall not be undermined.

Two cities, one university

Linnaeus university has an important role in the development of society. This comes with a responsibility to be a model in other questions regarding equal rights, diversity and equality. The unique situation of Linnaeus University with two main cities constitutes several possibilities but also challenges. In order to utilize the possibilities and overcoming the challenges that the situation with two main cities constitutes, an open dialog with has to be between the regions, Linnaeus University and the student union. The geographical place of the education shall not inhibit their availability. Together with the regions and the student union, Linnaeus University has to work constantly make the entirety of the university's supply available to all students.

As a student union based in two cities it is essential to have a working cooperation between the offices. All students at Linnaeus University, regardless of the city that they are studying in, shall receive equal help from the student union.

Opinions of Linnaeus Union

Education

Quality in education

Students has the right to get the tools they need in order to finish their studies. This includes a high quality of the educations. Having high quality and a guard of quality adds to a front-running and meaningful development of the education and at the work of the university. The discussion regarding higher quality has to be constantly present in the talks of the university. For students, it is of utmost importance that the higher education has a development that focuses on the quality of and a continuous expanding of the education. It is not only good results that indicates good quality; there has to be a system of quality assessment that are used by the university.

Teaching

Linnaeus University has to meet the needs that exists in a mixed group of students. It is during lectures and teacher-supervised teaching that the student gets deepened knowledge regarding their subject. It is therefore important that a well-adapted number of teacher-supervised teaching are offered. Students learn under different conditions and it is therefore important that different kinds of teaching and examination are offered. It is not reasonable that some educations consist of a majority of lectures with hundreds of students followed by a written exam in the first years. Linnaeus University needs to offer more individual based teaching and various forms of teaching and examination. The student union finds that it is of great importance that postgraduates that teach shall have a pedagogical education.

Internationalization in the education

Linnaeus University profiles itself as an international university. With this, there comes a responsibility that the courses with international students has a high quality. Teachers that teaches or supervises on another language than their main language, shall have good knowledge and master the language that they supervise in. At the same time, the international students that are requited shall have sufficient knowledge of language so they can finish their studies. It is important that the international student can account for these courses when they return to their main university. The cooperation that the university has with other universities has to have a high standard.

Cheat and plagiarism

A common reason for the suspension of a student is because of cheating. It is important that the university and student union actively work to minimize the possibilities for cheat and plagiarism, for example by shaping forms of examination that limits the opportunity for students to cheat. The student union does not, under any kinds of circumstances, accept cheat or plagiarism as a way to pass an examination. It may be that cheating is a result of a student being in a hard situation or has other problems with their studies. To be accused to cheating puts a great deal of pressure on the student and may impact their studies negatively.

Sustainable education

The university has a responsibility to promote sustainable development, which should imbue all operations at the university. This should be imbued keeping the European Unions' strategy for sustainable development, Agenda 2030 and Sweden's' environmental goals in mind. When the student has graduated, he or she should have the knowledge and understanding for how the society should work toward a sustainable development through the lens of the chosen subject of the student. The university should work towards giving students the conditions for living their life on the chosen city of study in a sustainable way. By adapting a practical environmental adaptation, the university creates a credible profile in environmental issues. By using existing routines in the planning of schedules, uploading compendium and other material on digital platforms, the university saves energy and natural resources. The climate- and environmental aspect shall be a factor in the contexts of planning for travel and conferences. Climate- and environmental demand should be in mind in the contexts of grand scale procurements.

Linnaeus Union demands:

- That the university shall have a well-functioning system of quality assessment in addition to the national system of assessment.
- That the students actively shall participate in the work of quality.
- That each education shall have the same high quality, regardless of pace or forms of teaching.
- That teachers and postgraduates shall have high pedagogical competence and that they shall have gone through pedagogical education. Furthermore, that they continuously update their pedagogical competence with the frames that are offered by the university.
- That a formal education regarding pedagogical skills towards higher education shall be prioritized and merited when recruiting teachers.
- That the university shall strive for a varied division of gender and diversity among teachers.
- That students studying full-time at least shall have 15 hours of interaction with teachers and corresponding for part-time students.
- That the students shall have the right to receive feedback on submissions and examinations within 15 workdays.
- That the university shall work for integration between Erasmus students, international students and Swedish students.
- That the university actively work for the possibility for students to conduct studies abroad
- That the Degree Certificate shall be internationally available.
- That eventual preparatory test in conjunction with studies abroad shall be free of charge.
- That all that has been charged for cheating or plagiarism are treated equally.
- That the university follow up the student that has cheated, examines why and, by potential problems, help the student in a possible way.
- That the university processes cases of cheating with haste.
- That the university staff shall report suspicion of cheating to the Board of Discipline.
- That the university shall have sustainability focus in their operation.
- That the university shall have existing routines regarding digital sharing of materials.

Participation of students

Course evaluation

Course evaluations are the most important tool for students to impact their education. It is through course evaluations that the student gets to participate in the shaping and quality development of the education. In order for course evaluations to work as a tool for impact, it is vital that they are well thought-out, have a high frequency of answers and are returned and followed up together with the students. Course evaluations are a formidable way to get the students' input, which are needed in order to ensure quality and to further develop the education. Today, students do not realize the importance of course evaluations and they are considered pointless, followed by a decreasing participation. It is therefore important that the university has guidelines that are implemented and followed. The university have to encourage students to actively share their experiences. If the university develops structures where student representatives can participate in the work regarding course evaluations, they can contribute with sharing the results and give constructive feedback

Students rights

The university is an administrative authority and has therefore an obligation to make sure that the legal rights of the students are guaranteed and to be open for problems that arises. The information to the students shall be precise and clear and there shall be no space for other interpretations regard matters such as examinations. The grade criteria that each student have to right to for every course shall be clear and binding. By this, the students know what is demanded of them in order for them to receive the grade they want. A student that suspects that their examination has been graded wrongly, has the right to get their examination and their grade reevaluated by an independent examiner. However, the grade of a student can never be lowered through an examination, as a higher grade is perceived to be a beneficial official decision and may not be negatively altered for the part of the student.

Student representatives

The students influence over their education and every-day life can never be questioned. The students influence over their education is founded in Swedish Law and dependent on a well-functioning system till democratically appointed representatives. The university is responsible for the conditions needed by the student union in order to appoint these. Students has to be given a real possibility to democratically impact their education by being represented in the processing and deciding bodies in the university. A student that has the task as a student representative has a great responsibility, but for the sole student this task shall not be hard or time consuming. It is the university that has a responsibility to develop flexible and transparent forms for influence that gives all students a possibility to impact.

Student safety deputy

A student safety deputy represents the students in different contexts regarding the physical and psycho-social study environment. The working environment of the students is not always taken seriously and therefore it has to exist forum where these types of questions can be processed. Who has the responsibility and the existing routines for finding and adjusting flaws in the working environment regarding large student groups has to be clarified. Follow-up on the students' perception on the physical and psycho-social study environment on a university level has to be prioritized. To be student safety deputy is a commission of trust. Today, the university is only taking responsibility for the working environment in conjunction to teaching and not for

the study-time as a whole, even though a great deal for the studies conducted by the students are done by their own outside the lectures

Linnaeus Union demands:

- That all courses shall be evaluated and followed up through course evaluations and syllabuses to base a development of the education.
- That course evaluations shall be made anonymously.
- That previous course evaluation for a course shall be made available for students at not later than the start of the course.
- That all those responsible for a course shall take part in an education in course evaluation.
- That course evaluations shall be done in all courses and that all those take a course shall be given a possibility to participate in the evaluation.
- That students shall have the right to get their examination and grade reevaluated by an independent examiner.
- That there shall be clear and binding grading criteria.
- That the influence of the students has to be guaranteed by the university.
- That the university has a responsible to inform the student union about what student representative task are available.
- That the students shall be represented in all processing and deciding bodies.
- That student representatives shall get clear information regarding who they can contact in regard to questions about their task.
- That there shall be at least one student safety deputy per faculty.
- That the university shall take responsibility for the students physical and psycho-social working environment.
- That the students and staff shall be given the possibility to participate in the development of the working environment.

An including student life

Students health

An academic education places high demands on students. Students health are determined in part of the studies, in part of factor as extra work and domestic conditions. It is therefore important that the students that need support receives such from the university. Student shall be able to conduct their studies without risking their physical and mental health. To have a close cooperation between the student union and Studenthälsan (Student health) is of importance in order to help students in need at an early stage. All students shall have the right to an equalistic support from the university. The university has a responsibility to work proactive with measures for the health of the students. Sufficient resources should thereby be allocated to Studenthälsan in order for all students to have access to support if they should need it.

Campus in development

The university premise that the students are in are the workplace of the students. To have access to adapted and safe premises is essential. It is foundational that the students shall have access to study place, which means that the number of study places should increase when the number of students increase. It is also foundational to have ample of places where students can eat, and heat brought food. A possibility to use a wireless network and working computer labs shall also be prioritized. These components shall be available to students, regardless of the city. The availability has to be adapted to the number of students. No one should need to go home in order to eat or study. The university shall be a moving campus, that are in constant development

from the existing needs. The university shall offer creative study environments that not only faces the demand but takes a step further than so.

Integration

Linnaeus University has a strong international profile. The University has a responsibility to work for a clear integration of international students. On this lies a responsibility to utilize the international students' experiences of the possibility to connect to the local society and the Swedish culture. It should be prioritized for the university to take initiatives to integrating activities that strengthens the connections between international students and the surrounding society. The student union prioritizes integration of international student and their well-being is an important part of the unions work.

Students' associations

Linnaeus University shall have a strong collective activity that enables all students to have the selection for a variety of social engagements. The union-approved associations are some of the unions most important, most engaging and meaningful cooperation partners which shall be treasured and developed. All associations with a democratic foundation have the right to apply to be a students' association. The educational associations, associations of interests and nations that exist today, both in Kalmar and Växjö, has an unreplaceable role for the student life for all. The student union has a responsibility to encourage cooperation between existing association in order to add to the benefit of the student in a developing and including way. In order to make this a possibility, Linnaeus University must work towards creating and keeping an open, welcoming and including climate.

Linnaeus Union demands:

- That the Studenthälsan shall be allocated to resources needed to guarantee the well-being of the students.
- That the staffing of Studenthälsan is ample to the need.
- That there are student-based locations for study-social means.
- That drug-free activities are given within the study-social environment.
- That a well-functioning student life assumes good opportunities for students to engage and organize themselves.
- That the climate on the cities of study shall be open, welcoming and including in order to encourage cooperation between an association and between the student union.
- That the student union should, within reasonable frames, make a good contact between associations and the university.
- That Linnaeus University should participate in the yearly International Student Barometer.
- That Linnaeus University takes initiative to improve the integration of international students.

The student's social stance in society

Housing

A place to live is one the most fundamental conditions to succeed with the studies. Students at Linnaeus University must have the opportunity to find accommodation within reasonable time in order to plan and follow through their studies. A student accommodation shall be available, of

good standard and with a reasonable upkeep cost. The municipality have a great responsibility to see to the demand and need for student accommodation and also to see through that these are achieved; especially regarding new housing estates. This is done at best through working and large-scale housing-guarantees adapted after the heterogeneous student group. When constructing new student housing estates, a clear dialogue between the student union, the municipality and the housing cooperation should be held.

Student funds

The availability of student funds is a fundamental condition for students in order for them to proceed with higher level studies. Many students experience that the student funds do not cover the basic costs of living. The life situation of students differs greatly within the student group and it is of importance that the student funds are calculated in accordance with this fact. The total sum of the student funds must be able to cover students' different life situations. The student funds should therefore be increased in order to match the different costs of living for students. Student shall not need to work extra besides their studies in order to survive.

At the same time, there may be a need of extra work. With such situations, rules regarding student funds, for example regarding the tax-free amount, cannot be allowed to hinder students from adapting their student life based on their own need.

Students social protection

To conduct higher studies are, for many, a full-time engagement and has to mean an equalistic social protection as any other full-time engagement. There has to be a fully accepted net of protection for students that, of several reasons, temporarily has to pause their studies which enables them to return to the studies in the future. Sickness, injuries or parental leave are all examples of situations where the rights of the students has to be the same as any other full-time engagement. Full-time students shall be offered to the social protections and right such as pension, unemployment benefit, and sick leave benefit as in any other full-time engagements.

Availability to course literature

The student shall be given the opportunity to take part of the obligatory course literature independently of economy and disability, which may impact the availability. This shall be on the conditions of the student and the student shall have the opportunity to form the situation based on their own conditions.

Linnaeus Union demands:

- That students will be offered an accommodation within a month after the start of the semester.
- That the municipalities of the cities of study take responsibility for that the number of accommodations are in proportion to the demand and need.
- That a large-scale and well-functioning accommodation guarantee exists in all cities of study.
- That the rent for an accommodation shall not exceed more than a third of the student fund.
- That all accommodations shall offer a reasonable standard of living.
- That the rules regarding the student funds shall be generous and show respect to the different life situations of the students.
- That there is a fair balance between the benefit- and loan part of the student funds.
- That the student fund shall give students a reasonable standard of living by covering the actual costs of the students.

- That students shall have equal social right and protection as any gainfully employed.
- That all studies shall predicate pension, employment- and sick leave benefits.
- That the working environment at the university as a city of study and as a home shall have a good standard

Equal value

Equal conditions

Linnaeus University shall be a university for all. This is an essential condition in order for all students to apply for and undergo higher education. Student has the right to feel secure and well treated during their time of study and shall not encounter any kind of discrimination during their time of study. Every student shall feel safe regardless of their sexual orientation, ethnicity or religion. Student with disabilities shall be given equal opportunity to succeed with their studies. It is of utmost importance that the university actively work with equal rights on all levels within the organization. The student union emanate from a norm-critical and intersectional perspective in their work. The student union denounces racism, fascism and any kind of xenophobia and discrimination.

Broadened recruitment

Within academia, the equal value and opportunity to impact is central. Therefore, all operations must be characterized by diversity and openness that enables free conversations between groups in society. Diversity benefit both education and research with new perspectives while it brings a greater understanding between people. In order to create an academia that are a real alternative to a heterogeneous student group, the work with a broadened recruitment has to be in constant development. An example of this can be aimed measures in order to recruit students from homes with no traditions of higher studies. The availability of the education for all must be given, regardless of the conditions or limitations of the individuals. To adapt the operation after the different conditions of the heterogenous student group is an important work which cannot be prioritized lower or be forgotten.

Advice and support

The university has the responsibility for guiding and supporting different students during their time of study. Many students experience stress and concern due to different reasons and need help in different aspects. The university has to market their supportive functions that are available clearer, in order to direct student to the right supportive resource. Units on the university that work with the including of student should be economically prioritized and their function for the students can never be questioned.

Linnaeus Union demands:

- That equity and diversity shall characterize the entire operation of the university.
- That all students shall receive equal conditions in order to execute their education.
- That no student shall be discriminated in their education at the university.
- That the university shall actively work and for equal rights for all.
- That then university shall have premises that are adapted for availability.
- That student that because of a disability needs guidance, interpretation or any other kind of help shall receive such.

- That there shall be available and free help for those students that, of different reasons, need support during their time of study.
- That the university work continuously with improving their methods for a broadened recruitment.
- That the university clearly communicates where students should seek in case they need advice and support

Postgraduate education

Postgraduate representation

Postgraduate students have a unique position at the university as they are both employed and students at the same time. Postgraduate representation is a priority for Linnaeus Union. It is important for the university and the student union to utilize the knowledge that postgraduates have. Several important aspects of the research of the postgraduates, such as individual curriculum, supervisor colleagues and supervision are vital for successful studies. One area of focus for the union is to actively work for postgraduates to be represented in the processing and deciding bodies of the university.

Postgraduates organizational study environment

A postgraduate student at Linnaeus University should feel safe in the study- and working environment. If a postgraduate is subject for harassment or discrimination the university must take consideration to the postgraduates' education so that the work gets no consequences during the current education. In those cases where a postgraduate cannot graduate within the given timeframe, the institutions should take great responsibility and see what opportunities are available in order to resolve the situation. In cases where a postgraduate chose to change their supervisor, the cases should be processed with haste and great consideration to the project and education of the postgraduate. Making sure that each postgraduate has the knowledge of the rules that applies at the start of the postgraduate education should be given great emphasis

Employment

Postgraduates has the right to a social net of protection and to feel the same social safety as any other employee of the university. The different levels of salary for postgraduates should be clear and objective guidelines for what a postgraduate should have reached and when a postgraduate is deemed ready to proceed to the next level. Of salary. Postgraduates shall not be expected to work with their project during public holidays, red-letter days or on their vacation. It is important that the supervisor emphasize that the postgraduate take vacation and that supervisors do not expect postgraduates to work overtime.

Linnaeus Union demand:

- That postgraduates shall be able to impact the election of main- and substituting supervisor.
- That a postgraduate that wishes to change their supervisor shall be given a real opportunity to do so.
- That all supervisor shall have undergone a supervision education.
- That postgraduates whose studies are financed by grants or benefits shall have the right to the same social insurance system as employed postgraduates.

- That all postgraduates shall have the possibility to finish their education within the set timeframe, extension of the postgraduate education shall be done in case of a faulty research environment or supervision.