

Thank you for your answers! Now we move forward together!



We have to start by saying a big thank you to everyone who answered our survey “Membership on Equal terms”. The board has, for a few weeks, been doing a deep analysis of the results. The survey shows us that we need to work more towards our regionalised hospitals, Campus Norrköping, and towards a cheaper membership. Because of this, we will work towards development in that direction. Something that came even more into the light was your strong wishes to get greater transparency in Consensus work and advocacy towards the university. Which questions does Consensus work for right now? What does Consensus achieve?

We are proud of the work and advocacy we do and therefore have believed the survey’s answers to be exciting. Therefore we decided to send out a newsletter monthly containing our work and advocacy, to your student e-post. This letter will be called **Impact of the month**. It will also be published on our website. We are currently working on being able to use Lisam for his function in the future.

Since this is a first-time project, we will start by giving you an extensive summary of the work and advocacy we have done up until now for this year. Since a good number of you chose to be members last term (>1000) we had a lot of people that could work with advocacy and we



*Impact of the month is Consensus new way to give you students more transparency to the work and advocacy towards the university. You will also find the **Impact of the month** here: <https://www.consensus.liu.se/aktuellt/manade/ns-paverkan>*

Don't forget to get member in Consensus here: [medlem.consensus.liu.se](https://www.consensus.liu.se/medlem)

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have therefore managed to achieve a great deal, which you can read about in this e-mail. Sadly, the statutory state funding rarely covers enough staffing in the student unions to be able to do this kind of advocacy, and we are therefore dependent on you, our members. It is therefore continuously important that all of our students become members of Consensus to continue having an important role in the development of the university.

The pandemic's impact on students

Even this year has affected us, students, enormously and the Student unions have continued to require constant dialogues with both the university and the medical faculty. Much has regarded the communication towards students, to avoid students receiving various information from LiU, the program or teachers. However, it is an extremely cumbersome task to sort out from further down in the university structure and we believe that clear and straightforward communication from the start would have been a much more efficient and functional system. That's why we now, since the start of the semester, strongly pushed the issue of a student representative in the central crisis management. The central crisis management is the group that makes the most communicative decisions about the pandemic. This matter is currently at the highest principal's level and we are awaiting further information.

At the medical faculty, Consensus managed to have all program managers join several joint agreements, such as guidelines for digital attendance in the base group. We don't believe in differentiating between students without clear reasons, and therefore see these new types of agreements as something very positive for our faculty. However, several of you students reacted to the facemask recommendations that were given at the same time in one of these agreements, and that this could be a financial burden for the students. Therefore we took matters into our own hands and got the university to buy facemasks for the students, that are now available at Infocenter at Campus Us and Campus Norrköping.

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Rima Patel

Clarifications of students' rights

All work at Linköping University is regulated by a large set of regulations and guidelines. As a student, there is a lack of information about these regulations, also called LiUs set of rules, and it is difficult to orient oneself among all the different documents. The full-timers in the Student unions receive a lot of questions from students about their rights regarding both the implementation of the education and the work environment. It is an issue overall, that students don't know about their rights and the work done at LiU is of noticeably much lower quality compared to other large universities regarding this subject. The Student unions, therefore, worked together on Consensus' initiative by having LiU produce a page with comprehensive information about students' rights and obligations. This page will be on SharePoint and is based on LiU's regulations but presented in a clearer and more accessible way.

During the spring, representatives from Consensus will be a part of the working group that has been commissioned to produce content and structure for the site. The student unions' common goal is to have it published before the summer. Focus areas in the first edition are information about the examination, support functions, opportunities for

When the examination period came in January, the infection was still widespread, and a lot of people became sick or lived with someone who was. That's why we, the Student unions, pushed the issue of implementing an extra examination opportunity for the students who had signed up for the examination but couldn't attend due to illness. The issue was pushed to an extra-appointed principal's management council during the Christmas break. However, the faculty's joint statement was that this was not logistically possible ultimately led the management council to vote down the proposal. There were also legal problems, and an additional cost of 6 million sek in addition to the logistical difficulties. However, we in the student unions were not satisfied with this decision and therefore sent out a survey about this at the beginning of the semester, see email 24/1-22. The survey clearly showed that a large proportion of students were affected and that students were worried about the effect of the examination period on future studies. We have shown the results to the university and hope that they have these results with them for future decisions about examination periods during the spread of infection. However, both we at Consensus and Linköping University urge the program responsible at the Faculty of Medicine to be generous when it comes to exemption applications from students who have not been able to write their examinations due to the pandemic. If you have questions about the pandemic's effect on your studies, contact uu@consensus.liu.se or ko@consensus.liu.se.

Strengthened influence for international students

Linköping University has around 3000 international students and around 30 international programs. We at the Medical faculty have a high percentage of international students and programs both at the base and advanced level. Consensus has therefore during the last year lobbied and put down a lot of work during the last year on the internationalisation of our organisation with translations of steering documents, two-languaged website and social media together with offering all our meetings

reconsideration, etc. If you have thoughts about information that you consider to be relevant, please contact uu@consensus.liu.se.

Students shape the future

As many of you surely know, our principal Jan-Ingvar Jönsson started a huge project to create a new vision and strategic plan for LiU 2030. The Student unions have since the start of this project been involved in this work. During the summer, the president of the student union joined the university's management at Kolmården where they worked together to create goal areas in this strategy. The document however became fairly long and everyone agreed that it needed to be stripped down and condensed during the autumn. This ended up with the students' perspective slowly disappearing according to us, the student unions, and our principal agreed with us. The principal gave us the mission to in only a week create a whole new goal-area. In record speed, we managed to accumulate 100 section-active students and ask them about their opinions of what LiU should radiate in 2030. Through this material, the presidents of the student unions sat down on Friday evening and wrote ***Studenterna formar framtiden***. This goal-area describes that LiU shall know that students with a good well-being have creativity, energy and power that will contribute to the future development of our university. We, the students, shall both inspire the future supply of education, the campus and research. LiU shall also take care of every student's potential by supporting our unique enterprises and our strong student engagement. A university that conveys these formulations in such a high steering document as a strategic plan is something unique and we are extremely proud of the goal-area that we hope will give to the students for the many years upcoming.

Employment of doctoral student representative

The student unions have since long known that it is hard for us to qualitatively represent, support and understand doctoral student's situations. Even though doctorands are

to be in English. With this we wanted the university to follow our example. We did, therefore, together with Julia Berger, president of the section for experimental biomedicine, stand unmoved against the university to strengthen the influence of international students. The goal is that an international student will be able to have a full-time post in Consensus, without the need to learn Swedish.

The question became one of two during the principal's student council in December, which is the forum where the students can prioritise the biggest questions towards the university. About 40 people from the highest management of the University attended the meeting. The effects have already been seen with that Consensus has made all the faculty's and program's action plans, regarding the internationalisation, to get re-remitted to make sure that student influence is included and is a prioritised area. The university's internationalisation director will also create a central work-group to oversee how the more central parts of the university can work with the question. If you have any thoughts or information you deem valuable for the work, contact ko@consensus.liu.se.

Sustainable student

After recurring signals of deteriorating mood among students at the medical program, with high-stress levels and established mental illness, a faculty-wide project *Sustainable Student* was launched. During the autumn semester, a pilot project was carried out for the first semester of medical students. During their first weeks at the program, students were introduced to and taught to use the CBT tool SORKK. Students learn to use the tool on reality-based student cases developed by representatives from Medicinska föreningen before applying the tool to themselves.

Thanks to the positive results from the pilot project, other programs at Medfak are now reviewing the possibility of including the project in their education, and we at Consensus have been invited as a sounding board. The Medical program is also reviewing and revising, and

students they are at the same time employed, which makes the protective labor legislation complicated and gives a whole different need for support. Consensus represents about 500 doctorands and they are extremely important for us and in many cases the university's future. We student unions and our fantastic section for doctorands, DOMFIL, has therefore worked hard on the question to employ a doctoral student representative that can support us in these questions. We can now proudly say that we in December managed to get this included in our renewed Student union mission for the upcoming three years. We, the student unions, will therefore together hire a doctoral student representative with the purpose to strengthen our doctoral student's situation, rights and quality of education. The unions will finance the position with 375 000 sek and the faculties will finance it with 525 000 sek. Consensus sees this as an important investment for ourselves and the students, as it is something that will strengthen our work.

Balancing between semesters

Most of our educational programmes at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences leads to a professional license of practice, and to ensure that the right knowledge is obtained over time the university has established so-called obstructing elements. For a long time, students have expressed high levels of stress and anxiety by the uneven balance between semesters in our larger programs; the medical program and the nursing program. At the beginning of last autumn (2021) Consensus began together with the sections an overall evaluation of the nursing programme to improve the conditions at the third semester. At the request of students at the program, a discussion forum was held about the structure and content during December and the results will be used as a foundation for the upcoming development work during February. It's important for us at Consensus that students feel heard and that the changes that are made are based on the needs and wishes of the student group.

Students in the medical program have also

hoping to make further developments to make the project a cross-semester theme throughout medical education. This work has included the evaluation of new challenges and we at Consensus have both participated in development meetings with the project group and submitted our student cases that can be used in future teaching. If you have ideas on how Sustainable Student can be included in your education, please contact uu@consensus.liu.se.

Clinical training

Most of our programs at the medical faculty have clinical training. At the beginning of autumn 2021, Consensus Education Committee noted that the process for distribution of clinical training places between students differs enormously between the graduate programs, where in several sections there are fellow students who are responsible for the distribution of places. We, therefore, conducted an overview together with representatives from each of our sections, which led to the fact that we have currently begun a revision process of several smaller program models.

In connection with clinical training placements, an evaluation in evaluate is also sent to the students at the Faculty of Medicine. Consensus works continuously to improve the clinical education, both in groups with the regions and with the municipalities. During the autumn, the results from the recent years clinical training evaluate were presented and it emerged that a far too large proportion of students during their clinical experienced bad treatment. During the clinical training placements, the student's supervisor is a key person in the situations where poor treatment is experienced and we at Consensus have therefore worked hard to ensure that the supervisor training now includes support for students who have negative experiences during their placement.

University Political influence

Consensus is a member of SFS, Swedish National Union of Students. SFS represents together with their 52 member student unions about 350 000 students and therefore has a

expressed an unequal workload during the first years which has contributed to larger changes between the second, third and fifth semesters as the program is moving content around. The construction of the 6-year medical program that started in the autumn of 2021 is in full swing and we are monitoring the development to ensure that the quality is maintained throughout the process.

Do you experience an imbalance during your studies or have suggestions for switching between semesters? Feel free to contact uu@consensus.liu.se.

Support in education implemented at different cities

The regionalisation of the Medical program has meant plenty of challenges both for the program, the students and the student influence. The teacher's program that is partly regionalised has seen the same challenges and LiU decided therefore to appoint a project called "*stöd till utbildningar som genomförs på flera orter*". Consensus has representatives in both the steering group and the workgroup, which have worked hard during the year to make sure that the student's hardships get raised and not only the programs. We have also pushed the question that the opportunities for student influence at the regionalised hospitals needs to be strengthened and that LiU needs to be a contributory factor in this work. The workgroup is relatively new and there are all possibilities to affect its future work. Mail: ko@consensus.liu.se if you have opinions on the work.

Renewal of the medical program

The medical program has been through big changes in the last decade. Linköpings University and Umeå University were commissioned by the government to graduate more doctors than before, which led to the decentralisation, now called regionalisation, being required from the higher education institutions. At the same time, a six-year medical program started getting into the work

major impact on both the parliament, the government, and state authorities when it comes to higher education issues. SFS has had two members meetings during the year, one in Trollhättan and one in Uppsala, where Consensus participated with several representatives. The biggest issue discussed is the Aliens Act and how this affects our international doctoral students' right to a residence permit. In addition to this, we have also discussed a new standpoint on commissioned education, development of opinion on students' right to recovery, the CSN interest rate, housing issues, and the Chamber of Deputies' financing model of student influence. In May, SFS will have its annual council in Malmö, where Consensus is now preparing to receive the board propositions, nominate for positions of elected representatives, and motion our ideas and thoughts. Some motion ideas that have been raised within Consensus include the right of international students to influence, the development of opinions about academic freedom, and greater opportunities for democratic meetings in all university and college premises.

In Östergötland, Consensus has a close dialogue with both Linköping and Norrköping municipalities. During the year, we focused on the security issue as several disturbing events took place in the vicinity of student housing areas in Linköping. Around this issue, we have met the municipality's most responsible for security issues and tried to give the students and student life perspectives on the unrest. Consensus has also met with Moderaternas municipal councilor Annika Krutzén and discussed students' health and what the pandemic has caused for debts in both physical and mental well-being. Recently, the student unions together with Linköping Municipality have started work on revising and updating the municipality's *Student Strategy*, where much of our collaboration with each other is regulated and described. Do you have questions or compliments about national, municipal, or regional influence? Contact ko@consensus.liu.se.

and newer medical programs, such as Örebro, have taken market shares from Linköpings' first-hand applicants. The medical program manager Eva Támas has therefore started a big renewal work with the name LÄK 2.0. The work is organised through a steering group and several working groups. The working groups will then, within a limited area, renew, review and strengthen the program's existing routines. Consensus is very positive about the work and has appointed student representatives in several of the groups to ensure that the student's voices are heard at work. Do you want to give input to the work? Contact the respective student representative:

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Vaccination at Campus

When the successive vaccination of the Swedish population finally came to the students, it became an important question for the student life and education to open up safely. Region Östergötland vaccinated the population at large, but few, vaccination centrals placed relatively far from campus and our biggest student residential areas. This, combined with the fact that a lot of us students have long days in school, made the student unions work unmoved towards vaccination at the campuses. After several extensive discussions with the Region did we finally get to ends meet. We can now proudly tell you that during three separate occasions during the autumn over 700 students got vaccinated, which feels fantastic. Now it is time for everyone to take their third dose och we have made sure that there will be an opportunity at all our campuses! The latest being yesterday, 16th of February!

The Student survey

The student unions advocated in early 2000 about a reoccurring Student survey. Our wishes came true in 2006 when LiU decided to make a recurring extensive student and doctoral survey on a 3-years basis. The survey is now included in LiU's quality assurance process and something that UKÄ looks positively on in their university reviews. The Student survey was supposed to be done every third year, and therefore be done in 2020 but got postponed because of the new pandemic. It got postponed a second time in 2021 and replaced by a smaller survey. Since LiU has based a lot of its work on the Student survey, did the student unions push hard during the autumn that it had to be done in spring 2022. But when LiU put out the advertisement, there was no suitable supplier that could take the job. The Student unions did however refuse to not have a Studentsurvey for this year and demanded that a new solution had to be found. The result was that the Student survey will be done "in-house" through LiU-survey. The survey will be published at the end of February, which we in the unions believe means a lot for our future work.

Consensus' new program of opinions

It is important for representatives of the student union when conducting advocacy work to stick to the students' opinions instead of their own. The difficulty however is to understand the common opinion of the student group as a whole. Most student unions have some kind of programme of opinions to facilitate that work. A programme of opinions is a governing document that is decided by the student union's council and the document works as a guideline for representatives of Consensus on various issues. Consensus currently has a single document of opinions that have been slowly built up over the years. However, it is very difficult to keep such a long document updated and user-friendly. During the year, Consensus and our council have invested a lot of time and energy in creating a completely new program of opinions consisting of several different documents for different

Start-up of the student collaboration group

Student collaboration group, or SSG as it is shortened, is a restarted forum at MedFak where students will have a better opportunity to get in touch and have a dialogue with our two institution departments. Slightly simplified, it can be described that the faculty orders education from the departments, which in themselves are then responsible for producing elements, teachers and courses to match the faculty's order. Many of the student's questions about their education are therefore actually best answered directly by the departments and this initiative should therefore try to strengthen the communication between student and department. Each section board has appointed a representative to this group, so if you want to ask, discuss or send something to SSG, the easiest way is to contact your section board. Consensus is also always present at these meetings and it is therefore also always possible to give us feedback to the forum, email: ko@consensus.liu.se.

purposes, e.g. one higher education policy and one on student health. We hope that the end product will facilitate our advocacy work as well as all other student representatives. The new programme of opinions is expected to be accepted by the council during the spring term. If you want to contribute to our new programme of opinions, email: uu@consensus.liu.se.