



The Student Council Work Plan for 2019

Political priorities

RUC's part in the national educational landscape

As the Student Council of RUC, the foundation for our political work is to ensure that RUC is continuously developed through the values of RUC. In a political landscape that tends to develop increasing standardization, it is important that we as students stand our ground and fight for the set of values that make RUC unique. This is applicable for both our mentality as a university, the structure of our educational programs, and our pedagogical methods. The student-initiated projects, combination educations, interdisciplinarity and project work are all elements that make the education offered at RUC both progressive and diverse.

½Currently, universities are facing a national development leaning strongly towards adjusting to the demands of the business world. Through study progress reforms and incentive management, we as students are forced through our education to be available for the job market as quickly as possible. We are encouraged to choose educations with high job security, according to what the business world requests. This is problematic for students, the progress and development of our university, and for society as a whole. This is why the Student Council must work to keep RUC as a progressive university where diversity and creativity is celebrated. The best way to do this is through the different influential bodies at RUC and by participating in the public debate about the university's role in society. Thus, the fight for our values and self-understanding at RUC must be taken both internally and externally.

Local priorities

We must strive to live up to the mandate the students have given us at the university election. Therefore, we will continue our fight for inclusion of all students in the decision-making processes at RUC. We see a tendency that more and more decisions are made by the university leadership at the expense of the study boards. This tendency has been widespread the past years with the institutional accreditation being a priority for the

university, which has had consequences for ensuring quality in our education. We have to keep fighting against this trend and insist that RUC will continue to be a university where the study boards make decisions relevant to the educational programs. There should be room for local solutions. This is why decision making power should be brought back to the students and scientific personnel within the different subject areas of RUC.

The Network of Student Representatives at RUC should be a key forum for discussions about local consequences of centralization, as well as to push against this trend from the bottom up.

We will also keep pushing for representation areas in the Academic Council to make sure that there will always be a student from each main area of RUC.

The quality of the study environment has been complicated by the many financial cuts and resignation of buildings - which has resulted in less space for more students and a larger distance between the students and the administration. The cohesive and thriving student environment in the institutes is lacking and many students find that they lose connection to their house after their first three semesters. This means that students no longer recognise the safe structure of their education after they finish the third semester. The Student Council will work towards making sure that all students of RUC have physical spaces where they feel secure, welcomed and have some degree of ownership. We will push for proper classrooms as well as group rooms. This is a continuous struggle that we will participate in through different bodies at RUC in cooperation with our fellow students.

Students should have a clear idea of the conditions for their studies at RUC. It has too often been the case that students have had misunderstandings and are uncertain of their status and possibilities when dealing with the administration. The previous year we worked to improve the justice for students in the form of a student ombudsman that should offer independent legal advising for students encountering unjust treatment by RUC. The student ombud should also be able to give general comments on RUC's practices. This fight is not won, and we should continue to push for a fair and transparent legal system for all students

at RUC. Even if we will get a student ombud, we have to remember that it is still the role of the Student Council to be on watch for the students.

RUC claims to be an internationally minded university but in reality, it is far from it. We have international students enrolling every year bringing a lot of perspective, knowledge, and experiences. But too many are disappointed when they get to know how few subjects they can choose from. At the same time too much of RUC is inaccessible to non-Danish speakers, from information at intra.ruc.dk to our political bodies. We will push that the academic bodies of RUC will be accessible for non-Danish speaking students. We think that RUC should live up to its promises and be serious about internationalization. Not just for the sake of internationals but for all of us.

We in the Student Council intend to ensure this internationally minded shift occurs by two primary means. One, that a committee be created to help voice the concerns of international students to the elected students who will be able to enact change on their behalf. Two, by maintaining the push for international candidates to run for positions in local study boards and the academic council. With these aims in mind the Student Council will prioritize the inclusion of international students into the broader concerns of the Student Council as a whole.

Climate change

The climate crisis is one of the biggest threats facing our planet. RUC's campus is home to 10.000 students and staff every day, and with a budget of more than 700 million kroner annually, RUC must be a pioneer in ensuring a sustainable and climate-friendly conversion of our society. At the same time, more and more students are speaking up and demanding action to minimize the consequences of global climate change.

We in the Student Council need to support this movement. We will collaborate with the Green Student movement and other such student organisations to put pressure on RUC to have a green climate strategy. We need to investigate RUC's CO₂-emissions and how we as students can take responsibility and influence our university in a more sustainable direction. A part of this is to make sure that RUC reduces its impact on the climate and environment

by choosing more sustainable alternatives. Furthermore, we need to look at us self as an organization and how we can minimize our own impact on the climate and environment. It is important that we put focus on these issues together with our fellow students and make use of the fact that many students at RUC are studying subjects related to climate change, sustainability, and planning. We can benefit from this knowledge and at the same time include more potentially new active students in the organization.

National priorities

We will take part in national discussions about student welfare and social affairs as well as discussions about academic affairs through our collaboration with Danske Studerendes Fællesråd (DSF) and the other Student Councils. It should be a priority for the Student Council to encourage our fellow student to take part in the national political work done in DSF, by informing them about the different committees, activities, courses and events etc. hosted by DSF.

We will prioritize to be an active part of two discussions that possibly will take place in 2019. One, the discussion about institutional accreditation that RUC currently is in the midst of. Two, the future role of study boards. We think these topics are aligned with our local political priorities and that we as the Student Council at RUC will have special views and insight on.

Additionally, 2019 is going to be a year of the general elections. We will participate in relevant discussions and join national campaigns to plead the student's cause.

Organisational priorities

The subject councils

The four subject councils play an essential part in the democratic structure at RUC, which makes them a central collaborator for the Student Council. The subject councils are the most important players in creating coherence in the local study environment, mobilising activity around campus, and representing the students in the local Study Boards. Thus we consider the collaboration with the subject councils as one of the most legitimate ways to

represent the students in the four subject areas and to understand the challenges they each experience locally.

Therefore, we consider it a top priority to continue supporting the active and well-functioning subject councils - both organizationally and financially. We want mutual cooperation where all of the organisations can benefit from each other. The Student Council will also continue to invite the subject councils to participate in the internal decision-making processes. This will in part be done by encouraging all four subject councils to select a representative for the Board of the Student Council and by inviting and encouraging those active within the subject council to participate in the activities of the Student Council, such as weekend seminars. The aim is to strengthen the chain of representation between academic house committees, subject councils, and the Student Council.

Student Representatives Network

One of the most essential parts of the Student Council work is the elected representatives in the political bodies at RUC. Thus, the student representatives in the Study Boards, Institute Councils, the Academic Council, and the Board of Directors are crucial for the student political work at RUC and the representation of the students in general. Therefore, it is important that the Student Council prioritizes the support of and coordination between these representatives through the work in the Student Representatives Network. When helping students run for study board, we should ensure that they are also informed about the Student Representatives' Network so it becomes natural to join and participate.

There are two main goals of this work: 1) to ensure coordination and collaboration between elected representatives of different bodies and 2) to ensure the upgrading of qualifications and professional discussion between the elected representative to maximise their influence. Through a strong network we can push further for the inclusion of students in all decisions.

International focus

When speaking of internationalisation and international focus in an organisation, the most important part is to focus on making a platform where all students feel comfortable, safe, and fully included. To achieve this, we want to work towards building a platform where

students always feel safe to share their perspective no matter what their preferred language is. Therefore, it is pivotal that we make it a mutual responsibility to see to it that everything is translated for all involved to understand.

Through a stronger international focus in the Student Council we want to lead by example, to further show RUC how to improve their international focus.

Cooperation with the other student driven organisations at RUC

The other student driven organisations at RUC, especially those in the Student House, do a huge job in improving the social environment at RUC. Therefore, they are natural collaborators in a lot of the work of the Student Council. We should prioritize good social relations, as well as cooperation, with these organizations when we have interests in common.

Communication

Our first job is to tell our students about what we do as a Student Council. Therefore, we want to make an ambitious and organised communication strategy for our most used social media platforms: Facebook and Instagram. We want to optimise the way we use social media as an external means of communication as an attempt to get out to a broader range of students. The board will discuss and potentially revise the communication strategy from 2017.

At the same time, we understand that social media accounts are for private use, and therefore we want to minimise the use of Facebook for internal communication.

Effort for broader inclusion of students

For a broader inclusion of students, a transparent and inclusive welcome to potential new active students is crucial. If a student is interested in becoming active in the Student Council, we will strive to make sure that an already active student will take good care of them. Every potential active student should get in personal contact with a more experienced active student, who is interested in them as a student and as a human being and will introduce them and follow up on their interest. To do this we need all active students (especially the

Board and elected students) to work as ambassadors for the organisation around campus. Including new active students should be a communal project for the entire organisation.

Volunteering and influence are mutually connected. Therefore, it is important to ensure easy access to and overview of the different projects in the Student Council. We want to make it more accessible to participate without having to formally enter the different committees. This way students can be an active part of the Student Council when they have the time and resources.

We also want to work for a more transparent and easy process to switch between different roles from year to year – whether this be to involve oneself more in the organisation or the other way around. The board will discuss and potentially revise the volunteer strategy from 2017.

Transparency and digital tools

To achieve a more lucid organisation transparency needs to be considered in the day to day work. The goal is to make it easy for active students to help with ad hoc assignments and to regularly adjust their workload in different periods.

One of the initiatives is to introduce new digital communication and coordination platforms in order to make the work of the executive committee more transparent for the board, as well as to help the members of the executive committee support each other's work.

As tools are introduced to support the email system and Google Drive, we want to minimize Facebook as a working tool internally in the organisation. The focus on Facebook (as well as other social media platforms) should primarily be as an external means of communication.

Working environment in the Student Council

The Student Council is primarily built on the active students within. It is the work and effort of these students that carry the organisation and therefore their working environment and well-being is of the utmost importance. It is essential to have a healthy and dynamic working environment with room to work, grow, and challenge oneself – and have fun at the

same time. This needs to be supported by the physical frame of the office as well as by the organisational structure.

Therefore, the Student Council will continue to work for a better and more inclusive office with space to work for all active students within the organisation.

We recognise that dealing with time, resources, and different workloads is a very individual thing that will differ from person to person. We want to work towards building a culture that embraces this in a way that leaves room for all students to work within their individual limits. It is important to disassociate from the culture of comparing workloads and instead embrace that all individual limits are respected, no matter how active one is in the organisation.

Financial priorities

We want to be inclusive in financial matters and decisions since all financial decisions ultimately will be political decisions as well. It is essential that we use our financial resources in a way that benefit the students at RUC as widely as possible. The limited resources we have should be used with care and reflection, so we have a stable economy and get as much value for money as possible. At the same time, it is important that we do not buy in to the fear of cutbacks and that we live up to our full potential by staying ambitious with our activities and goals. Throughout the year the Board will make initiatives to maintain overview and assure quality of the financial reports.

5 year plan

The 5 year plan is a formal document to guide the Student Council in a coherent direction. We see the plan as a visionary future-workshop, where we can work to set ambitious and long term plans for future developments, as well as avoid difficulties related to short term memory in an organisation with ongoing changes in the student body and leadership.

Therefore we will make sure to discuss and involve the 5 year plan in our work throughout the year - with a special focus in the spring, where the board will define and plan how they see themselves as part of the organisation's visions.

Danske Studerendes Fællesråd

The Student Councils most important collaborator in the national arena is DSF and the other member organisations of DSF. Through collaboration we work across different institutions and fields of education to influence national education-political agendas that affect students. We will continuously work towards a close and productive collaboration with these organisations as well as continuously participate actively in the internal debates in DSF.

Furthermore we will prioritize collaboration with the other member organisations in other cases than the national political agenda. Through mutual exchange of experiences, we can help each other with day-to-day operations and organisational development of our respective organisations.

Academic priorities

Purposeful academic event strategy

We believe that a Student Council should work to fill in potential knowledge gaps at the university - whether this be general academic competencies or in relation to the specific subjects. In the past the Student Council has had success with hosting different events such as the academically relevant debates, extracurricular courses and skill development seminars (as mentioned above). In 2019 it should be a priority to keep planning and hosting academic events.

We want to ensure a structure that allows students to suggest or plan academically relevant events through the Student Council. This should be both structurally and financially possible for students, regardless of their prior involvement in the Student Council.

Academic Network (Fagligt Netværk)

The cooperation between the Student Council and the unions, Djøf and Magistrene, through Academic Network offers a broad range of different courses for the students at RUC. We want to keep working on offering these extracurricular courses for all RUC-students,



because students as well as the three involved organisations all benefit from this cooperation.

That being said we should also evaluate the cooperation as well as the course catalogue within 2019 to make sure all resources are spent in a meaningful manner.

Skill developing courses

It will be a priority to offer different types of skill developing courses for the students at RUC. Where some of these can be targeted at all RUC-students, others can be for a specific audience related to the Student Council. This could for example be the elected representatives in boards and councils, the subject councils, the Student Council's own board, the executive committee, or active students in the Student Council. It is important to prioritize the organisation of skill development for active students within the Student Council to make sure that all active students will have a feeling of getting the help they need to complete their work as well as get the opportunity to develop their personal skills and competencies.

Social priorities

A good tutoring period for all

Tutoring is the foundation of the study environment at RUC - both for the new students and for the tutors. This is in huge part thanks to the people involved.

The first couple of weeks can be crucial for the well-being of new students. Therefore, it is important that tutoring ensures that everyone feels welcome and safe. We think it is important to respect boundaries and continue the focus on inclusion of all new students during the tutoring period and further develop this work. As responsible for tutoring, the Student Council will work to ensure high satisfaction from the new students as well as the tutors.

We will make sure that this is kept in mind by the rus-chairmanship, lackeys, and tutors by making demands that they perform their tasks in an appropriate way and that tutoring first and foremost be for the new students. In order for tutors, lackeys, and other central players

to be able to perform their tasks in a meaningful way they have to have as healthy working conditions as possible. It is a priority for the Student Council to take responsibility for this and ensure the needed structural framework, while still remaining critical of the process. This includes practical circumstances regarding tutoring as well as general recognition for the work done by the tutors.

Locally embedded social study environment

One of the things we are proud of about RUC is the range of possibilities for actively engaging in the student environment. The social environment in the local arenas is a substantial part of supporting this study environment and well-being amongst students. Therefore, supporting a healthy study environment in the local arenas at RUC should continue to be a priority for the Student Council in 2019.

We will continue to focus on the social and structural study environment - both in the houses, at the individual subjects at the institutes and at campus in general. The Student Council shall work to ensure that the social environment at RUC is not limited by rules and structures and that it can thrive on student driven initiatives and engagement.

RUC'ers by Choice

The Student Council should continue to organize social events for all RUC students in order to facilitate socializing between students from different institutes.