

R E P O R T

LIFE AT SCHOOL & ON CAMPUS SPRING 2016 – POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

Date: 4 March 2016
Place: Student's Hall
Participants: Student representatives from all levels and all departments, in all 66 students
Agenda: A closer look at the students' situation, all levels & all departments

Background: The Students' Union arranged this meeting in order to gain knowledge and register possible areas in need of improvements at the end of this spring semester. The themes addressed concern both practical study elements as well as health issues, motivation factors and the students' social lives. The discussion was useful, and several students made good interventions in order to better the conditions for an efficient conclusion to the spring term 2016.

Problem areas: The lack of sufficient reading room facilities makes studying and working at school between lectures difficult. The number of important lectures increase towards the end of the semester. A high number of students wish to follow these last lectures, to write their summaries, and to arrange colloquiums in order to organize and exchange views.

The labs are filled to bursting point with students finishing their projects. A list organizing a set of rotating hours may make the access to these valuable work places more fairly and evenly distributed. The assistants working in the labs might also be offered extra hours, so that the labs may be kept open longer than the usual hours.

In the student canteen the kitchen is running the same dishes that we have had all winter, and the menu is in serious need of some new ideas and items. Some of the core dishes are of course popular enough to be permanent features. The students are however not happy with having the same few choices day in and day out.

Some students, individually and in groups, show worrisome signals of beginning to lose faith in themselves and their chosen studies. These signals needs to be addressed in order to improve the atmosphere in both corridors and lecture rooms. The students need not only to keep faith with their possible success at the immediate exams, but also to build confidence regarding fulfilling their study plans.

Quite a few of the student groups who do not finish important subjects this semester are a bit too noisy both inside the lecture hall and outside on campus. This makes concentrating on important last efforts difficult. The Student Union intend to arrange an outdoor meeting addressing this problem and try to make the noisy spring activists understand that a calmer study environment eventually will be of advantage to all.

The participants at the meeting all expressed their willingness to support and participate in any renewal activities, and here is a list made at the end of the meeting:

List of suggestion - possible solutions:

- Lack of rooms: Rooms ordinarily assigned to students currently absent on internship jobs, could be redistributed for the period between today and the end of the exam period.
- Overfilled labs: A rotating list of assigned periods, in addition to extra time for the lab assistants may create a more fairly distribution of lab time, plus a better exploitation of these valuable rooms.

- Menu changes: The chefs working in the canteen kitchen should be sent visiting other student canteens in order to find some inspiration. Good food makes for good reading and thereby good exams. The effect of pleasant meals should not be underrated.
- Motivation problems: Are there any former students with success as well as sufficient communications skills that may come visit us? A pep talk from former students who have exchanged their studies into successful careers would be of great inspiration. Some students are beginning to worry about their situation, both short and long term – a typical phenomenon when exams are getting closer. A visit like this would help.
- Noisy spring revelry: In order to inspire the more carefree parties of the student body, the Student Union intends to arrange an outdoor meeting, presenting the long-term benefits of a more quiet campus when exams loom on the horizon.

These suggestions are not without outlays concerning extra rooms, extra personnel, as well as extra expenses concerning visiting alumni. The Student Union believes, however, that these suggestions will go a long way towards better conditions for the students, and thereby better results for the school.

Aalesund 5 March 2016

Niels Nielsen
Head of the Students Union