



WA
VENSTREALLIANSEN

The Leftist Alliance

List and List programme 2021

University of Stavanger

English

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List candidates

1. Joakim R. Ramsland
2. Stefan Jekic
3. Christoffer Raarup Sennels
4. Marija Stevkovska Pedersen
5. Ine Hansen
6. Ole Lunde
7. Jens Hestnes Andersen
8. Shan Amin

What we want

1. Fight against inequality and exclusion. A cut in rent, higher student aid and free textbooks. There should be an action plan for diversity, equality and inclusion, as other universities have. The university must include both digital and international students.
2. Green and solidaristic university. The university should be decarbonised by 2030 through a detailed carbon budget and concrete targets. It should become a leader in green research and education in the country. The university should be fair trade and stand for human rights and international law.
3. Feminism. Gender balance must be ensured in the classrooms and among employees. Lecturers should have pink competency courses about gender and sexual diversity. The university should ensure women's rights and equal pay.
4. Universal design and facilitation. We support the university's action plan, but want it to go even faster.
5. Mental Health. The budget must be increased and the waiting time must be reduced for mental health care. There should be more low-threshold services and alternatives to the student priest.

List programme

Democracy

Student democracy and university democracy are fundamental pillars in the university's role as a critical institution. An active student democracy makes the university better. Student democracy must be strengthened by providing good, predictable conditions and good training. VA also defends the university's democracy and the institutions' right to self-governance.

- The student politics must be democratized.
- The Student Parliament must examine alternative models for student democratic engagement, such as a citizens' jury.
- Efforts should be made to increase voter turnout in student elections. Information campaigns and information about the election during class can contribute to this.
- The principal must be elected. Being able to stand for election as principal should not require principal competence.
- The university will operate its own buildings.
- The university should offer training to student representatives on faculty and department boards.
- The university should have guidelines for student democracy and shop stewards at the faculty and department levels that give students good conditions and rights for their democratic work.
- The Student Parliament should have as open processes as possible and inform more about the work they do.
- Student associations should have easy access to areas and services on campus.

The Student Welfare Organization SiS

Through the Welfare Council, students have influence over the Student Welfare Organization SiS, and thus over the student welfare services in Stavanger. VA will use that power actively.

- The rent for the SiS homes must be reduced, so that it becomes possible to live on support from Lånekassen when renting from SiS.
- The student democracies must have real influence on the Student Welfare Organization SiS, through a power-critical Welfare Council.
- The Welfare Council should have the right to file a motion of no confidence toward its shop stewards.
- The leadership salaries of SiS must be reduced.
- SiS should be subject to the Freedom of Information Act.
- SiS should not finance the profits of other companies. The money SiS earns on students will go back to the students' welfare.
- The student housing should have shop stewards from each student city, which will then have a dialogue with the homeowner.
- We support a SiS monopoly on the different welfare services on campus. This is vital to make sure the money goes to the students and that they are democratically controlled by the students.

Solidarity with the Labor Movement

The trade union movement is a cornerstone of the Nordic model. But it is under heavy pressure due to today's free trade, increasing liberalization of the Working Environment Act and the declining degree of unionization.

- The university should ensure good working conditions for its employees. The Working Environment Act must be interpreted strictly. Full-time and permanent positions should be the norm.
- Promote working life demands in the Welfare Council and the Student Parliament, which will be made in collaboration with the shop stewards.
- Non-negotiable support for all strikes on campus.
- The university should employ cleaners, rather than outsource them.

Equal Access to Education and the Fight Against Inequality

Everyone should have an equal right to education. But we know that class background still plays a significant role and that the social differences in Norway are increasing. VA will therefore work for measures against inequality in education.

- The class divisions in higher education must be erased. Higher education should be free, and financial background should not be a prerequisite for starting or completing higher education.
- Introduce free textbooks through a loan scheme. Another option is the use of digital books paid for by the university.
- Increase the student support to 2.5 G and give it for 12 months.
- Ensure the free principle in all teaching both in Norway and internationally. Nothing should cost.
- Reverse the government's change in the conversion scheme regarding the study loan and grant.
- Housing prices in Stavanger will be regulated through public ownership of housing.
- The housing demand should be met with the building of housing by the public sector.
- The university will never introduce an Honours-program. The resources must be reserved for all students instead.
- The work with strengthened working life relevance should not be a back door for commercialization of education. The business community's defining power over what is relevant knowledge must be limited, in order for the university's role as a critical knowledge institution to be preserved.
- The university must establish a loan scheme for computer equipment for students, so that students have equal opportunities to follow their education.

Feminism

The Left Alliance is a feminist organization. In today's society, heteronormative men as a group generally have more power than women. Power is skewed between genders in society. VA wants to use radical measures to achieve a fairer gender balance. VA works according to principles of feminist practice. That is, we want to ensure gender statistics are kept, encourage girls to have a say in discussions and in other ways work to make visible and counteract the imbalance of power caused by structural gender discrimination.

- The university must ensure gender equality through the strengthening and further development of quota schemes, such as gender points. There should be gender quotas for employees also, to ensure gender balance when it comes to professors and other positions.
- There should be more female authors on the curriculum.
- The university must introduce a scheme for free sanitary products on campus.
- Practice feminist self-defense courses during the Fadderfestival.
- The university's reporting routines must be robust, and it must be easy to report sexual harassment and other critical matters. We support the "si ifra"-system.
- Support the fight for women's right to self-determined abortion.
- Start working on the introduction of "pink competence" courses about gender and sexual diversity to lecturers at the university. The teaching must be adapted to all gender identities.
- Work for equal pay between men and women.
- Parental leave must be universally available to all students at the university as an institution, regardless of faculty affiliation and gender. Information about the parental leave schemes should be easily accessible to students via the university's website and the information centers of the various faculties.
- There must be gender-neutral toilets at all faculties.

Inclusion and the Fight Against Discrimination

The university must be an institution that is open to everyone. Too many people experience discrimination in Norway, whether it concerns one's ethnic background, sexual orientation, disability or other factors. We recognize that structural discrimination exists in Norway. Therefore, VA will shed light on discrimination and fight it.

- The university and all offers for students should work for full universal design and facilitation. We support the university's action plan in this area, but want it to go faster.
- There should be an action plan for diversity, equality and inclusion as all other universities have.
- Democracy requires inclusion. There should be zero tolerance for direct and indirect discrimination. Islamophobia, antisemitism, racism, sexism, discrimination against LGBT+ people and other groups should be combated through enforcement of the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act and relevant parts of the Working Environment Act.
- Ensure that Pride is still supported by the university.
- The university should have an ombud which helps students who experience discrimination at the university or other areas of society.
- The Sámi National Day should be marked by the university.
- Ensure that the Language Act is followed. At least 25% of the written material must be in Nynorsk.
- Ensure that all exams are available in Nynorsk.

International Solidarity

VA believes it is important to show international solidarity and support oppressed students' fight for the right to higher education. We will be a driving force for international law, human rights, and fair trade.

- Continue and strengthen the Students at Risk and Scholars at Risk programs.
- Refugees with higher education should be allowed to use their education in Norway.
- Research should be published in open journals whenever possible.
- The university must boycott Israel, Turkey, and other countries that greatly violate international law and human rights. The university must stand against the oppression of the Palestinians, the occupation of Palestine and the illegal invasion of Rojava. We must be consistent and active in standing for human rights and international law.
- The university must become a fair trade university as USN is. This means that it becomes committed to working for fairer trade conditions for developing countries. Environmental, social and economic conditions should be improved in trade to reduce global inequality. This will mean that more fair trade products are available at the university.
- Have a quota scheme for refugee students.
- Decolonize the curriculum. We must have a full perspective of the world and not just a Western one.
- Have good exchange agreements for students and for research positions.

International Students and Exchange

International students should be included. We know it can be tough to go to a new country. Therefore, we must ensure as much inclusion as possible. At the same time, we must ensure that all students, regardless of background, can go on exchange. We believe that cultural diversity strengthens the University of Stavanger and Norway.

- Work to ensure that the housing guarantee applies to international students as well.
- Work against an introduction of tuition fees to international students.
- The university must ensure that as much information as possible is in English and available to international students.
- The university must have inclusive social events for international students, so that they experience belonging and well-being.
- Students must be offered good exchange schemes.
- The opportunity to go on exchange should not be limited by financial conditions.
- Students must have democratic influence over the university alliances that the university is part of.

Climate, Environment and Animal Welfare

VA puts the environment before profit, and wants environmentally friendly institutions for higher education, where environmentally friendly research is taken seriously. The climate and environmental crises are the biggest challenges of our time. Therefore, research on energy must reflect a principle that sustainable, renewable energy sources are what the society of the future will be built on. At the same time, we will fight for animal welfare.

- The university will cut emissions in its own operations by 40% by 2025, and operations will be climate neutral by 2030.
- The university must have a radical and ambitious climate and environmental strategy, which sets clear goals for reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions. A significantly more detailed carbon budget than today's budget is needed to achieve this.
- We are in support of the UN's SDGs being part of the university's strategy.
- We support the university's work as Eco-Lighthouse certified.
- The university should declare a climate crisis.
- Employee use of air travel should be limited.
- The university will facilitate more electric car use among students and teachers, to reduce the use of fossil cars.
- Recycling must be easier throughout the university.
- Efforts will be made to create cycle paths to the student cities.
- The city bike scheme will be expanded, and there will be stations on campus, at student housing and other places students travel.
- Oil research at the university will be phased out, and focus will be placed on research within green and renewable energy solutions. The university will be a leader in green research in Norway and contribute to Stavanger becoming the renewable capital instead of the oil capital.
- The university should show visibility in the collaborations they have with the business community and establish a committee for ethical guidelines, to ensure that climate research remains independent.
- The university will have more environmental and climate-related electives and programmes. We support phasing out oil education.

- Environmental and climate perspectives must be included in more study programs.
- More and better green areas must be established for students. Also generally more vegetation on campus.
- The university must control the air quality inside and out, and make sure that it is satisfactory.
- New buildings connected to the university will be built with new and innovative energy technology. They must have the highest energy label.
- All material used at the university should use the Nordic Ecolabel.
- Books and texts should be offered in digital format.
- The canteens should have more vegetarian and vegan options. Events should also have such options. There should always be alternatives for halal, kosher, and other religious dietary considerations. As well as consideration for allergens. Everything should always be marked.
- Food waste from the cafeterias and events should be reduced. There needs to be cooperation with the Matsentral.
- Work against animal testing in research.
- There should be more buses to the university available, especially outside of Stavanger.
- The student discount on the bus pass should apply to all students.
- The student bus pass should apply to the whole county.
- The university will reduce its emissions of microplastics.

Student Health

Students' health should be taken seriously, especially mental health. We think that measures are important, but believe that the causes must be taken seriously as well. Inequality is linked to health and social problems. This is partly because it restricts access to help, but also because it leads to problems.

- Students will have access to good and free health services at the various campus departments.
- Mental health care must be available to students as soon as possible and the waiting time must be cut through an increase in the budget.
- We want mental health care to be free until you are 25 years old, regarding the national healthcare system. Student mental health care will come in addition to the national healthcare.
- Even more low-threshold services related to mental and physical health must be established on campus. There should be a good selection of books on positive psychology, cognitive behavioral self-help and such, in the library.
- There should be an alternative to the student priest for Humanists, Muslims, Jews, and members of other religious and philosophical communities.
- Ensure that there are non-alcoholic and inclusive events.
- We support the introduction of a student doctor.
- Dental health services should be provided free of charge for students at the university. Until then, the current dental care refund arrangement should be maintained.
- Birth control should be free.
- Students should have access to free and easily accessible information and help with questions related to sexual health.

Students' Rights

Students' rights must be taken seriously and VA will fight for them to be strengthened.

- Introduce a provision in law or regulations that complaints that are not formally processed within a reasonable time, are to be regarded as a refusal that can be formally appealed (cf. regulation to the Education Act, § 9a-4, 3rd paragraph).
- Give the Norwegian Labor Inspection Authority and the student ombudsman the right of initiative in complaints about the learning environment where there is not already a complaint from students.
- Give the Norwegian Student Organization or other suitable actors increased funding to be able to assist students legally in judicial review of cases concerning the learning environment.

Internships and student life

We believe that internships are important for future job opportunities and therefore support it. At the same time, gender balance is an important goal.

- All study programs must have access to internships. The internship courses must be available to both students at bachelor's and master's level.
- The university must create qualification positions for the underrepresented gender, in order to achieve a gender balance in professional environments where it is needed.
- Introduce additional points for the underrepresented gender when admitting to health profession studies with a high grade point average.

Learning Environment

A good learning environment, both physically and mentally, is important for students to thrive in education. Learning should be a democratic dialogue between students and lecturers, where power is decentralized.

Unfortunately, the learning environment has been weakened by the pandemic. It is therefore important that we include digital students, especially considering that many are in sensitive groups when it comes to health.

- We will work to make the university ad-free. Commercial interests should not permeate the campus experience.
- Concretize requirements for learning environments in a new regulation on learning environments with accompanying guidelines. Make it so students can democratically design the teaching in ongoing dialogue with lecturers.
- Support an expansion of pedagogical teaching for lecturers. Teaching should be equal with research.
- There should be more student assistants.
- Work to have digital recording and teaching in all subjects, even after the pandemic is over.
- There should be specific requirements that lecturers include digital students in the teaching.
- Introduce requirements for systems for internal control for the physical learning environment at all institutions in new regulations on the learning environment.
- Give the Norwegian Labor Inspection Authority a clearer mandate as an appeal and control body for the physical learning environment for students.
- Give the Norwegian Labor Inspection Authority the authority to sanction institutions that do not follow up the Norwegian Labor Inspection Authority's requests for a learning environment.
- Introduce requirements for anonymised systems at all institutions for appealing against bullying cases and harassment.
- The reporting system must be easily accessible where students are, online and physically on campus.
- Work for automatic justification for the exam.