Work Programme
of the Juso-Hochschulgruppe
at the Rheinische
Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn
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Genies fallen nicht vom Himmel. Sie müssen Gelegenheit zur Ausbildung und Entwicklung haben. - August Bebel

Geniuses do not fall from the sky. They need a chance for training and development. - August Bebel

1 Who are we and what are our goals?

We, that is the “young socialists” (youth party of the German social democratic party) at the University of Bonn, are a political university group that aims to implement the ideal of an internationalized society built upon the principles of solidarity, democracy and feminism into the university’s structure. In our opinion education and politics are deeply entwined, because only critically thinking and educated people can be politically mature members of a society. However, substantial education and sustainable, responsible research is only possible when room and access are created so that everyone is able to fully train and develop their talents and abilities. We are convinced that people can live peacefully together without any performance and marketing pressures.

Since these are high ambitions, we know that we have to work hard to achieve change!

2 Why a work programme?

This work programme shall serve two purposes: On the one hand all students should be able to comprehend our goals and question our work. On the other hand it shall be a guide for ourselves towards which we align our work and which can help us to review our progress. In the future it shall be updated, extended and adapted to changing circumstances.

3 Two self-demands

We, the Jusos, are making two great demands regarding our work: First we want to provide concrete work at our university, at the AStA, at the Student Parliament and at the different boards. We want to bring in our projects and ideas. Moreover, we also have a universally political demand since the university is not a solitary ivory tower but an institution in the centre of the city
and the society. We strongly reject all forces that see the AStA and all other student representations merely as simple authorities or service providers. It is our hard-fought right to have a publicly guaranteed, constitutionalized student body and it is our duty to take responsibility. Only by thinking outside the box we can contribute to decent education and research.

Opening perspectives means to overcome obsolete structures and concepts that hinder people’s academic development, i.e. by restricting their education and research. Our strength shall remain to disprove the die-hards and anxious with reasonable arguments and progressive ideas.

4 Our goals, our ideas

4.1 Education stands for openness

Our education concept is based on the persuasion that everyone should have equal rights and the possibility to evolve their personality without interference. A positive exchange and a development of new ideas can only take place if a university provides room for different views and life styles. Part of that is also to orientate education internationally such that participation in the worlds diversity is guaranteed and frontiers in thinking and collaboration are abolished.

Openness and tolerance lead to creativity and self-confidence. Therefore we must set up structures which allow no discrimination. There can be no room for discrimination, neither during the assignment of jobs nor in research and education. Discrimination is often displayed in allegedly harmless comments and teases that not seldom stands for a whole way of thinking.

A critical student body should always be alert and permit no prejudices and degradations.
Hence the Juso-Hochschulgruppe demands:

- To promote moral courage, e.g. by offering trainings to the university's employees which treat topics such as sexism, homophobia and racism.
- To further support women in research, because despite a female overhang of the students the majority of researchers is still male. At the University of Bonn not even one of seven professorships is staffed by a women.
- To maintain and support student initiatives which confront these topics.
• In particular the autonomous departments (the foreigners department, the homosexuals (LBST) department, the department for women and equality, the sports department).
• To extend international programmes like ERASMUS and similar projects and to support students networks.
• To improve the housing situation especially for students from abroad, for instance by providing more dorm places and by offering more English house hunting websites.

4.2 Freedom means access
Education must be available to everyone and at all levels. This means for us that all students should have the possibility to participate in courses, to finish their studies independently of their parents' financial status and that the university is no bureaucratic monolith.

A sufficient number of postgraduate places has to be offered to guarantee the best possible education to all students. It is important to ensure that no one is forced to leave the university after completing an undergraduate degree. The Bachelor-Master system lead to a loss of flexibilities during the studies which used to help adjusting it to one’s own needs. A second job, the desire to have children or a case of illness seem to have become incompatible with studying. It is our duty to detect, reveal and overcome such obstacles. Therefore it is also our job to firmly confront the anew arising prophecies of doom to introduce tuition fees. We oppose this social injustice in any shape of form.

Therefore we want:

• To reinforce accessibility and to draw attention towards it in the boards.
• To open up the BAFôG (governmental funding for students) to as many students as possible and to maintain the consulting service for it. We demand a funding independent of parental income that suffices to live.
• We reject exclusive, performance oriented scholarships like the Deutschlandstipendium as a monetary foundation, because they support the forging of elites and are not accessible to all students.
• To take all measures to increase the social permeability of the education system.
• To de-bureaucratize admission procedures and to create enough places in particular for the pursuit of further studies.
• To be part of a university that respects the students’ diversity and their various life styles. The compatibility of having children, working and studying has to be possible for all students. Consequently we support the option of part-time studies in Bonn.
• To make the university more transparent by student reporting from inside the boards, e.g. by the student newspapers (Akut, BASTA) and by improving university’s setup structures, e.g. at directional decisions of the rectorate.

4.3 Solidarity means responsibility

Solidarity means to have the courage to take over responsibility at several places and in several situations at the university. For us, this means that the semester fee is used in a useful and diligent way, so it can serve the benefit of all. It is the solidarity financing of the constitutionalized student body and enables a student representation which is capable of acting, the semester ticket and a cheap broad variety of the Studentenwerk’s offers, especially in regards to the canteens. Where others talk of waste we see the chance to produce good, diverse work together.

However, we have to draw attention to real financial distresses at the university and fight them. These distresses do not only show themselves in the cancellations of professorships and other chairs, but they are particularly alerting in regards to the situation of academical and student assistants (WHKs and SHKs). Therefore we created the project place „social policy“ (Projektstelle „Sozialpolitik“) at the AStA to counsel student assistants and to urge the university to realize for instance the by the Hochschulzukunftsgesetz (HZG, state law) introduced substitution of students assistants.

Unfortunately, it can be even more dramatic: E.g. during the practical year of medical students or during the practical school training of student teachers, where full hours have to be worked and are rewarded with low payment or no payment at all.

Therefore we remain demanding:
• To preserve the semester fee as it is to finance the AstA. It shall still be spent responsible and thoughtful.
• In particular SHKs, whose elected representatives we are, but also WHKs must receive fair contracts and an adequate payment. Thereby we favour the long existing Berlin fare system.
• If obligatory internships last longer than two months, not less then the BAFöG maximum rate has to be paid.
• A fair education system also includes the decent treatment of all employees. Hence it is necessary to get away from mid-level academic positions of teaching assignments and unnecessary time-limits.
• The pay gap of men and women at the university has to be overcome at last.

4.4 Diversity means possibilities
A democratic university keeps options open and offers the chance to exercise influence. We want that the University of Bonn does not abolish minor subjects for being uneconomical and stops neglecting language courses. Our self-demand as a modern university should not be to stimulate profitability, but to incite a variety of student commitments and cultural groups as well as university sports, work groups and for instance the language partnerships.

Since the Bologna-reform most courses have been rather school-like and forced into a narrow corset of modules. The joy of learning has often been replaced by hunting credit points or is prevented by a lack of time. Therefore the Juso-Hochschulgruppe demands:

• To keep small subjects alive. This can only work, if excellence initiatives are for instance not accepted to cover insufficient university funding.
• To reform courses fundamentally and to liberate them from the rigidity of module schedules.
• To abolish the standard study period.
• To actively promote cultural groups and to support them financially. Hereby they may not serve for mere prestige or suffer under a harassing bureaucracy.
To extend the existing online offers and to establish an online infrastructure.

To sustain language courses as a elementary part of academical education for everyone without any fees. The existing offer does not represent the demand in any way.

4.5 Democracy means participation

On the way to create the education system that we have in mind, many changes and improvements have to be made and demanded. Thereby it is beyond question that good work is already being accomplished by student participation in the existing boards and committees. In the student bodies, faculty councils, the Senate, the student parliament, the other committees and last but not least the AStA, committed students stand up for the awareness of students’ interests that ought to be voiced.

The „Free Coalition of Student Bodies“ (fzs) therefore does a good job at federal level by networking student representatives, by being heard as experts in the Bundestag and the Landtage and by providing numerous education offers to equip student representatives practically and ideally. At state level we see the Landes-ASten encounters in NRW (LAT NRW) as a similar possibility to run student lobbying and to co-determine the political discourse since the constitutionalized student body is more than a service provider or a administrative structure. It is and will be a political institution. Therefore we maintain our view that:

All student representatives and participants shall be be political and necessarily have to represent the interests of the whole student body.

The student body of the University of Bonn shall remain member of the fzs and the AStA shall actively play a part in it.

The quarter parity of the Senate shall be altered in the basic university rules.

Members of the AStA shall visit the LAT NRW to represent the interests of students from Bonn as well as to interfere in state level politics.
5 A forecast
We, the Juso-Hochschulgruppe Bonn, want to be engaged in politics within the realms of our possibility with this work programme as a general basis. We will not be stopped by seemingly unsurpassable obstacles and we are going to keep fighting for our ideals.
Engaging in politics demands sure instincts, diplomacy and the capability to listen to people while weighing up arguments. Being a student self-government, we explicitly do not want to be neutral since this contradicts to the concept of interests groups.
This realigned content is now ready to be realized by us. Hopefully with you at our side, because every idea needs people to make it come true.

6 References, links and organisations
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