



Independent. Critical. Constructive.

University Group at the
Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen

Election Manifesto for the Elections of the 50th Students' Parliament

“Unsere Uni.” is a party-independent, faculty-overreaching university group which was formed during the “Bildungsstreik 2009” (students’ strike). This year, the university group “Offene Liste Phil. I” joined “Unsere Uni.”. Our first election manifesto based on the “Gießener Erklärung” in many points. The “Gießener Erklärung” was adopted by more than 2000 students as the peak of the “Bildungsstreik” in November 2009. Making studying possible for everyone equally and more freely, especially with view on courses of studies, is still a central point of our work. However, there are many other goals, which we think are very important: we play an active role in the General Students’ Committee (“AStA”) as well as in the Students’ Parliament and in a variety of other bodies and commissions.

We believe that our university, meaning university of every student in every faculty, can be improved by dedicated high education policy step by step!

- 1. Free Education for Everyone and a Need-Based Financing of Universities**
- 2. Improvement of the Conditions of Courses of Studies**
- 3. Realize Equal Opportunities!**
- 4. Master for EVERYONE!**
- 5. More Transparency and a Better Information Policy!**
- 6. Strengthen Codetermination!
Invest Committee Work! Use Direct Democratic Instruments!**
- 7. Environmental and Lasting University!**
- 8. Cosmopolitan University in Social Responsibility!**

1. Free Education for Everyone and a Need-Based Financing of Universities

Education is a human right and needs to be accessible freely at all times. We decline any form of tuition or administrative fees and will campaign against any charging of these on all levels. Financing of universities has to be oriented towards the actual demand! Educational system cutbacks are generationally inequitable, socially short-sighted and not acceptable! We request the Hessian Government to take the financial needs of universities seriously. Additionally, we ask to step back from further cutbacks comparable to those concluded in the "Hochschulpakt" in 2010.

2. Improvement of the Conditions of Courses of Studies

We actively put ourselves out for the realization of the "Gießener Erklärung" last year. We took part in the monitoring process and had members in the Senate ("Senat") and the General Students' Committee to reach these goals as fast as possible and to accomplish better conditions for the courses of studies. Since then a lot of concrete improvements have been made. However, there is still a call for action in many study paths.

Our ideal shows courses of studies in which everyone can develop individually and at her or his best conditions. We fundamentally reject any structure at universities that does not support individual development. Furthermore we cannot accept universities which do not take the students' interest in account. Our aim is to further improve the conditions of courses of studies together with each and every one of you!

That is why we demand:

- The continuation of a constructive dialogue between every person involved in our university about necessary changes for the improvement of conditions of courses of studies. Only together we will be able to achieve a far-reaching academic reform!

- The continuation of the process of abolishing compulsory attendance. We strictly reject students' incapacitation through compulsory attendance!
- The students' right to keep out a third of all module grades in the calculation of the overall grade. This aim has already been reached in some courses of studies!
- A biggest possible measure of freedom of choice and content-wise specialisation. We have the right to self-determined studies! Additionally, the planning of courses of studies should enable studying abroad without disadvantages.
- Vacant professorships need to be filled and safe jobs need to be created. Teaching must not be kept up by short dated lectureships.
- Free access to education. Every entrance limitations have to be abolished! Everyone should have the right to study what she or he wishes to.

3. Realize Equal Opportunities!

We neither accept discrimination nor disadvantage of any student because of any origin, disability, gender, sexual orientation or faith. We stand for breaking down all barriers considering the matriculation or the course of studies. Equal opportunities for higher education have to be ensured!

That is why we demand:

- Advancement of women to relief discrimination establishing equality at any level.
- Improvement of the Federal Law on Support in Education ("BaFöG"). This includes the abolishment of students' co-payment as well as the increase of students' tax-exempt income.
- Better quality of consulting and a wider variety of courses of studies for part-time students. As a matter of fact students have to work simultaneously and fulfil responsibilities beyond their studies. This has to be noticed and taken to account at offerings of support and consulting as well as in planning of courses of studies!
- Superior social management for students with children, students with disabilities and international students.

- Better conditions of studies and easier access at German universities for students from abroad with or without the European Passport.
- Improvement of support for international students as well as for students who plan to study abroad.
- Realization of the convention of the Disability Law at our university.

4. Master for EVERYONE!

As can be seen in the “Gießener Erklärung”, we claim university places to study a master’s degree for everyone! Every person with a bachelor’s degree needs to have a legal claim for a university place. We decline a selection of the best 20 or 30 percent of a bachelor-year. Hence, we will take a stand for the abolishment of the overall grade being a criterion for getting a university place to study a master’s degree.

5. More Transparency and a Better Information Policy!

“Unsere Uni.” takes a stand for a more transparent and a more modern information policy at Justus Liebig University. There is need for action in university as well as in student autonomy. It cannot be accepted that only a little number of students know how to actively participate in public meetings of the Senate, faculties, the Students’ Parliament and the General Students’ Committee. Most of the students do not even know what these bodies accomplish. This needs to be changed!

We hardly worked for a better information policy on different levels to improve the General Students’ Committee transparency. A new homepage was built up, regular live streams could be watched, reports of meetings were published and the General Students’ Committee magazine was released frequently. Within our Students’ Parliaments’ and General Students’ Committee’s work we took a stand for public information displays and a public promotion of Students’ Parliaments’ meetings. This goal has mainly been reached through commitment of the group “Offene Liste Phil I”.

By use of the new assistants' database ("Helferdatenbank") on the General Students' Committee's homepage, students' have the opportunity to acquire a position to put up posters, to lay out flyers or to help in other ways. Furthermore, we were able to bring in basic regulations in the new rules of the student body which already lead to a greater transparency and a better information policy. A more transparent information policy is the necessary basis for a wider students' involvement in higher education policy decisions!

"Unsere Uni." stands for:

- A more open and transparent organisation of higher education policy. Together with all students' interested in it, we want to abolish all participation obstacles within higher education policy processes. Higher education policy is everyone's business! That is why we stand for public information displays at the whole university and a bill-sticking regulation.
- Financial transparency: Reason for that is the student body managing a big budget. Therefore, it is very important to pay attention to the funds being dealt with carefully. A biggest transparency of the financial situation as well as of the financial activities of the General Students' Committee is still a defined goal of "Unsere Uni.". It's the students' right to know what happens to their money!

6. Strengthen Codetermination!

Invest Committee Work! Use Direct Democratic Instruments!

The "Giessener Erklärung", the monitoring process and the commission for the QSL-funds' allocation, which consists to 50 percent of students, showed that substantial involvement of students' in decisions contributes to their quality and sustainability. We criticise that 24000 students (which is 90% of all 'members' of the JLU Gießen) only play a very little role in all of the important university bodies. That is why we demand the improvement of students' right for codetermination in all of the university bodies. For that reason we worked very hard for the foundation of a teacher trainees' faculty as well as for the involvement of student representatives in the "Zentrum für Lehrerinnen- und Lehrerbildung".

“Unsere Uni.” stands for an independent, constructive and critical committee work. Whether it is in the administrative board of the student services (“Studentenwerk”) or the Senate’s commission ‘courses of studies’ or the Senate’s commission ‘constitution’, “Unsere Uni.” takes committee work very seriously. We do not fill committees with the help of party memberships or university groups’ memberships but by competence and reliability.

We were significantly involved in the establishment of a new constitution on the level of student self-administration. It allows student’s strike ballots. Additionally, it contains a great number of beneficial regulations of the students’ councils. We put ourselves out for strike ballots being used in important decisions. To us, students’ councils are the spine of higher education policy. We speak out in favour of strong and autonomous students’ council and want to further support those in future.

7. Environmental and Lasting University!

Climate change and active environmental protection are social cross-cutting issues which can also be found at our university. One part of this wide topic is the local public transport. In our opinion, the university has to participate in the active environmental protection!

That is why we demand:

- Expansion and improvement of the local public transport to university.
- Construction of new and safe bikeways as well as the construction of made footpaths, especially of the path leading to the “Philosophikum 2”. The mud path has to go!
- Expansion of usage of recycled paper at our university!
- Introduction of waste separation at our university! This can be reached by installing accordingly adjusted waste bins.
- The installation of a modern insulation and the turning down of the heating to a minimum at night!
- Renewable energies instead of electricity generated by nuclear power!

8. Cosmopolitan University in Social Responsibility!

“Unsere Uni.” stands for cultural variety and tolerance. We emphatically declare ourselves against racism, anti-Semitism, sexism and cultural discrimination at our university. Cosmopolitanism contains expansion of international cooperation with other universities. For this purpose, the “Erasmus” offices could be changed into international offices.

At the same time, we see our university in social responsibility. Our university is financed by social resources. Therefore, we see our duty in a socially responsible acting in research and teaching. This is why we put ourselves out for the inclusion of a civil-clause in the constitution of our university. In this it should be ruled that the studies of defence and armour at JLU Gießen should be stopped and research and teaching should be obliged to peaceful and civil aims. The general principle of ‘life sciences’ and the historical responsibility can be fulfilled this way.

Still some questions left?

Or interested in high education policy?

Let’s improve our university together!

Just connect us, we’re waiting for you!

www.unsereuni.eu.ki

<http://twitter.com/UnsereUniPunkt>

unserunipunkt@gmx.de

The ballot box election takes place from Wednesday, 19th of January until Tuesday, 25th January 2011!

Polling Places and Election Times:

Juridicum, Licher Straße 68, 9 am – 4 pm

Audimax Phil II, Karl-Glöckner-Str.21, 9 – 4 pm

Neue Mensa, Otto-Behagel-Straße 27, 9 am – 4 pm

IFZ für Umweltsicherung, Hein-Buff-Ring, 9 am – 4 pm

Uni-Hauptgebäude, Ludwigstraße 23, 9 am – 4 pm

Frankfurter Str. 100, Flur Hörsaalgebäude, 9 am – 4 pm

Otto-Eger-Heim, Leihgesterner Weg, 16, 9 am – 4 pm

YOU ARE A PART OF OUR UNIVERSITY!

VOTE FOR

UNSERE UNI.