



Some ideas...

**We can't promise anything,
but we'll make our best efforts.**

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Foreword

Hello everyone,
we are the independent student association for digitalisation and pragmatism, [UDP](#) for short. We don't have a manifesto, but certainly some ideas to make the university better for us all. We hope that this document can answer your most important questions about us. If not, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Your people from UDP

Who are you even?

We are Lukas (CS¹), Henrik (CS/Political Science), Rüdán (Political Science/Philosophy), Malik (CS), Henning (CS) und Daniel (CS). For of us also participate in the Student Association for Computer Science². That's also how we got to know each other.

Which political party do you belong to?

It's correct, although all student groups in the StuPa³ are formally independent, they are at least closely related with and broadly represent the largest national parties in Germany. I this point, we are different from all other groups running for election.

Unlike all groups currently represented in the StuPa, we are not affiliated with any political party and don't want to participate in party politics. In that sense, we are open to cooperate with all student groups that feel committed to the liberal democratic order and whose goals are aligned with ours.

In other words:

We are aware of our limited influence. Because of that, we limit our demands and actions to the setting of our university, focussing on student life.

¹ Computer Science

² German: Fachschaft Informatik

³ Student Parliament

Why are you standing for election?

After the Student Association for Dental Medicine (unintentionally) submitted their list of electable members for the StuPa elections last year, we in the Student Association of Computer Science got the idea to do the same thing this year as a joke. Not all members of our Student Association were equally enthusiastic about that plan, and we formed a coalition of the willing instead.

So, here we are now.

So, it's all just a joke?

No. Although we created this list just for fun and want to see how far we can get, we would take our mandates seriously and work constructively in the StuPa, if we are actually elected. That is why this document exists to let you know what you can expect from us.

Your ideas are kind of boring, why should I vote for you despite that?

We came into existence because of our involvement in the Student Association (Fachschaft), so we are always close to your everyday student life. Therefore, it's especially important to us to give Student Associations a strong voice in the StuPa. If another option on the (digital) ballot seems like a better choice to you: Don't hesitate to vote for them! You are free to vote for whomever you like. The most important is that you vote at all so that you are represented.

(The participation rate at the student elections is always quite low. Because of that, less than 100 votes are usually enough to win a seat in the StuPa.)

Vote online:

udp-kiel.de/vote



Student Life

More student participation

Professors still hold a majority of the votes over all other interest groups in many decision-making bodies of our university. That needs to end. Therefore, we demand equal participation and representation for all interest groups in the faculty convents⁴ and the university senate⁵.

Support student initiatives to create places to come together

We believe our campus needs to be understood not just as a place for learning and teaching, but also as the centre of life for many students. Because of that, we want to work towards a campus that is an attractive place to stay and meet other people outside of lectures, exercises and tutorials, inviting students to stay for the whole day.

Part of a strategy to reach that goal could be playground swings (e.g. [this model](#)). Swinging can inspire thoughts, calm you down, encourage conversations and is just plain fun. Because of that, we demand to place swings in various places on campus, making it an attractive place for young and old alike!

Fewer “spam” mails via the stu-info mailing list

The stu-info mailing list is treated as spam by many students and not read anymore at all. To reduce the number of messages, we propose that all mails sent via the mailing list are bundled up into one weekly newsletter. That way, there will be something interesting for everyone in a stu-info message.

That way, the time and effort required for moderation could also be reduced slightly.

By the way, the technology is not complicated to implement (see [here](#)).

⁴ Requires changing [the law on higher education](#) (Hochschulgesetz)

⁵ Also requires changing [the law on higher education](#) (Hochschulgesetz)

More top-up terminals with the CAU-Card with support for EC cards

Yes, they do exist. Yes, they do work. But no, there aren't enough of them. The demand and time spent at the card terminals to top up the CAU-Card are higher than at the terminals using cash. That is why we demand that more card terminals be installed at the cafeterias.

Earlier and longer opening hours for the canteens (cafeterias & café lounge)

We think, it would be nice if the canteens, cafeterias, café lounges and the Mensa buildings themselves were open for longer.

The SH-Teller stays!

The SH-Teller offers students tasty and varied dishes every day for the unbeatable price of just €2.50. We believe: The SH-Teller needs to stay a permanent fixture of the canteen menu and must absolutely continue to be offered after the current summer term!

Earlier and longer opening hours for the Studentenwerk daycare centres

The daycare centers run by the Studentenwerk are usually open between 8am and 4pm (7am to 5pm including off-peak groups), but there are many (mandatory) lectures as well as other activities taking place outside of these times, most importantly from 4pm to 6pm, sometimes even from 6pm to 8pm. Without adequate childcare, we deny student parents the opportunities to attend these activities without having to look for other means of childcare.

For an accessible campus

A large part of the buildings at our university are only on paper accessible for disabled people. For example, wheelchair users need to announce them wanting to take the elevator to the lecture halls in advance. We work against such disproportionate barriers and towards a more inclusive, accessible campus.

For a university without discrimination

Likewise, we strictly oppose discrimination of any kind, be it on the grounds of one's sex, gender, sexual orientation, skin colour, country of origin, religion or for any other reason.

Because of that, we will obviously support all efforts to meaningfully combat discrimination at our university.

Free menstrual hygiene products in all toilets on campus

We demand that menstrual hygiene products are made available for free on all toilets on campus. In this context, we support [the official statement on this issue made by the StuPa on 20th November 2023](#) (see p. 41).

Expedite construction and renovations on campus

There are lots of buildings on campus that are in dire need of renovation or even demolition. We will work towards accelerating the modernisation of the university's properties.

Reducing complexity in the organisational structure of the Student Body (Studierendenschaft)

We wish to continue taking part in the discussion surrounding planned changes to the Organisational Statues of the Student Body⁶ as well as the Guideline on Grants and Travel Expenses⁷ in a constructive way.

In that area, it's important to us to strike the right balance between regulation of expenses and giving Student Associations⁸ the freedoms they need to function. We believe clear and verifiable rules to be important when deciding on additional grants given out by the StuPa, but Student Associations should be allowed to operate within a set of general rules when planning and spending their regular budget. In the end, it's the volunteer trasurers of those Student Associations⁹ who need to ensure compliance with these rules.

More student housing

We don't know either, how that could work, but isn't one allowed to dream?

Smarter busses!

We don't just need better cycling infrastructure – the busses need to be better and more frequent, too.

We demand that the bus schedules be better adapted to the timings of lectures and tutorials. For example, there is a "lull" of busses arriving just a quarter of an hour after the end of most lectures. Apart from that, the departure and arrival times should be adjusted to simplify changing from bus to train or train to bus for commuting students.

⁶ Organisationssatzung der Studierendenschaft

⁷ Zuschuss- und Reisekostenrichtlinie

⁸ Fachschaften

⁹ Fachschaftsfinanzbeauftragte

The physical country-wide semester ticket needs to be easier to get!

At this point, we'd like to congratulate the AStA¹⁰ to achieving that the country-wide semester ticket starting in the winter term of this year (2024) will be available as a physical smart card at all.

To get the smart card though, you need to apply for one at the AStA by filling out a form and wait for it to be issued by the KVG. We'd like to simplify that process in the future, if possible.

More support at enrolment

The enrolment process can still be complex and opaque to people from non-academic households and many others. In spite of existing efforts, many potential students still feel deterred by that fact.

We want to do our part at informing (potential) students about courses of study and their formal requirements.

¹⁰ General Student Council

Teaching & Research

More transparent decision-making

Stop the back-room politics at our university!

Do you sometimes wonder how the deans of our university could force its president to step down, although they aren't formally involved in her election or deselection?

That's called back-room politics and seems to be happening quite a lot at our uni. Instead of public (at least partially) democratically elected bodies making those decisions, some of the people involved are quietly sorting things out in the background.

We call on our university to focus its decision-making more strongly in those public bodies. Furthermore, we wish that all members of the university would be able to take a look into the working of these bodies and their processes of decision-making more easily.

A stronger focus on digitalising studying and teaching

We'd like to encourage the increased availability of digital ways of learning. Even though teaching at our university is intended to mostly happen on-campus, there can be a multitude of reasons for students to be unable to attend in person. We believe that those reasons shouldn't keep students from advancing their studies, and it doesn't need to be if there are digital learning options available, enabling everyone to effectively continue learning while off-campus.

In that context, we do explicitly oppose any mandatory requirements to be on-campus for events or activities, if not absolutely necessary.

Additionally, we demand that a stable connection to the eduroam WiFi network is finally possible from all locations on our campus for digital media to work reliably.

Increase available funds for teaching

The university is chronically underfunded. We will work for more money from our university budget to go towards teaching. In this context, we'd like to highlight especially the following:

Without excellent teaching, excellent research becomes difficult. In the light of the rejected project proposals, we wish to reiterate that the label „University of Excellence“ doesn't automatically make our uni an attractive place of learning for students of all fields from Germany and beyond.

Evaluate the university, not just courses!

Every year, the uni runs its own evaluation in the General Study Survey, but until now, you we've heard very little about the results¹¹.

We'd like the results of the General Study Survey to be generally available, so that all students can get an idea of the quality of study at our university.

No exams past 6pm!

When exams are written until late in the evening, many students aren't able to concentrate anymore and can't perform at their best. That's why we demand the complete prohibition of exams happening beyond 6pm.

Less pressure on students to perform

We believe that studying must not just be seen as training for the specialised workers of tomorrow, but instead it's an important phase in life for personal development and self-discovery. Learning just out of one's intrinsic motivation and interest should not come short in that time. In this context, we believe the increased pressure on students, especially due to the Bologna Process, to be problematic.

In particular, we demand an increase in the number of exam attempts, not attending not being graded as 5.0 and changing the regular number of semesters (Regelstudienzeit) to to be treated as and called the minimum number (Mindeststudienzeit).

Of course, we don't want to slow down especially fast or clever students. Everybody should have the opportunity to study at their preferred pace.

¹¹ General results: <https://www.uni-kiel.de/qm/de/evaluation/studierendenbefragungen>

The university VPN needs to work better!

We call on the University Computing Centre (Rechenzentrum) to finally provide functioning set up manuals for the university VPN on all common operating systems¹². These manuals should particularly not require the installation of any third-party software (e.g. FortiClient VPN) or changes to the *Windows Registry*.

In that context, we'd like to note that Windows automatically closes a VPN connection when it doesn't recognize a working internet connection. This does usually happen much faster than users are able to open an <http://> website run by the university in their browser and go through the secondary authentication¹³.

Increased cooperation between universities via DFN

We'd like to see our university increasing cooperation with other German university via the Association for the promotion of a German Research network¹⁴ (DFN).

In that light, we'd welcome students from Kiel being allowed to sign in to the online services of other universities with their RZ-IDs¹⁵.

We also propose that the University Computing Centre could make increased use of [Shibboleth](#) or [DFN-AAI](#) for the login process at university services, standardising it among platforms and universities.

A coat of arms for every faculty

Currently, the Faculty of Engineering is the only one with its own coat of arms (not to be confused with a seal). Their coat of arms is not even that original. Because of that, we demand that all faculties get their own original coat of arms, so that all faculty members can more strongly identify with their faculty and university. These coats of arms should then be presented at the Audimax.

¹² Windows, Linux, macOS, Android, iOS

¹³ See the current [setup manual for the VPN using only on-board Operating System components](#) (Last checked: 19/05/2024, [archive link](#))

¹⁴ Verein zur Förderung eines Deutschen Forschungsnetzes e.V.

¹⁵ Regular online account for students in Kiel

Every vote counts!

**Vote online now,
from 6th to 19th June.**

udp-kiel.de/vote

