

THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY IN CHILEAN UNIVERSITIES: THE CASE OF PUC CHILE

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History of the Student Movement



1967

University Reform:
University extension,
autonomy and
democracy.



1973- 1989

Students
fighting
against the
dictatorship.



2011-2017

"Educación
Pública,
Gratuita y de
calidad"



2018 - PRESENT

Feminist
movement:
safety and no
discrimination

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC)

PUC STUDENT'S UNION (FEUC)

- +50% of undergrad students vote for the Student Union election every year.
- Represents the students with the university authorities and the government
- Creates projects to support students, promote public discussion and build community.

STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION PER DEPARTMENT

- Represent students from their departments with the local authorities.
- All of them are elected by students.

PARTICIPATION IN THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

- Students have 2 representatives over 47 members (department chairs and authorities)
- Until 2018, students could express their opinion but they couldn't vote.
- Active participation on the decision-making



Involving students effectively: what happens and how it improves universities?

VISIBILIZE ISSUES THAT STUDENTS ARE FACING

Participation in decision-making processes allows students to bring up issues they are facing that the authorities may not be aware of.

SUPPORT THE AUTHORITIES AND THE COMMUNITY TO FIND THE BEST SOLUTIONS

Students have their own experiences and perspectives. Working together with other members of the community makes it easier to find the best solutions for all.

PROTOCOL TO PREVENT AND SANCTION SEXUAL VIOLENCE

2015 SEGEX (Gender and Sexuality Secretary) was founded by women and queer students.

- Student-led organization to support survivors of sexual violence and discrimination in university context.

2017 University authorities and student representatives worked on a protocol to prevent and sanction sexual violence.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS FACING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

After the social outbreak of 2019 and due to COVID-19 a lot of students started facing mental health issues. The student union proposed to increase the university resources to support students in this situation.



Conclusion

Student engagement is important to create positive environments for all the university community.

It's possible to engage students by supporting their own processes: i.e. elections, events making and organization. And supporting their participation in decision-making spaces.