

Autonomy for students and student organizations



Fredrik Pettersson

Former President of Uppsala Student Union

Former President of Uppsala Student Union

What is academic freedom?

A public debate in the 1920s really took off during the 30s when Soviet union was publicly restricting research.

1940 the American Association of University Professors signed a Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure.

1. that academics, both inside and outside the classroom, have unrestricted liberty to question and test received wisdom and to put forward controversial and unpopular opinions, whether or not these are deemed offensive, and
2. that academic institutions have no right to curb the exercise of this freedom by members of their staff, or to use it as grounds for disciplinary action or dismissal.

- Academics For Academic Freedom, United Kingdom

Emphasis on freedom of speech.

- Liberty to pursue research of choice
- Freedom to choose teaching methods
- being governed by elected peers

Today, when academic freedom the discussion often revolves the freedom of making professional decisions.

Academic freedom
for students?



Is this a real thing?

change

- Freedom to express our ideas and thoughts without risk of disciplinary action.
- Free education
- Freedom to choose our own path through the academic jungle.
- The right to have elected peers as part of the decision making bodies.

Some say it is, some say it's not.

Some points which might be included.

1 most important. Often guaranteed in relation to state, but not university.

economical. Societies, including universities, expectation on students to quickly becoming part of the labour force.

What is autonomy for
student organisations?

- Economical autonomy
- Political autonomy
- Organizational autonomy

Do we have to be independent? - It depends. On what role we as students want to play at the University. We can organize events, learn and have fun together without autonomy, but if we want to be a part that actively enhance our education by rising our expectations and demands towards the university. Then we have to be independent.

Is it possible to achieve true autonomy?



Well, no.

The students, no matter how independent, will always be a big part of any university and can not be completely independent. We must continuously strive towards independents.

Student's role in decision making at University

Why?

WHY

- Collegial governing
- Education quality
- Values of tomorrow

-If not seen as colleges that should be represented -> Learning is a passive process. One way direction.

-Unique position for quality assurance

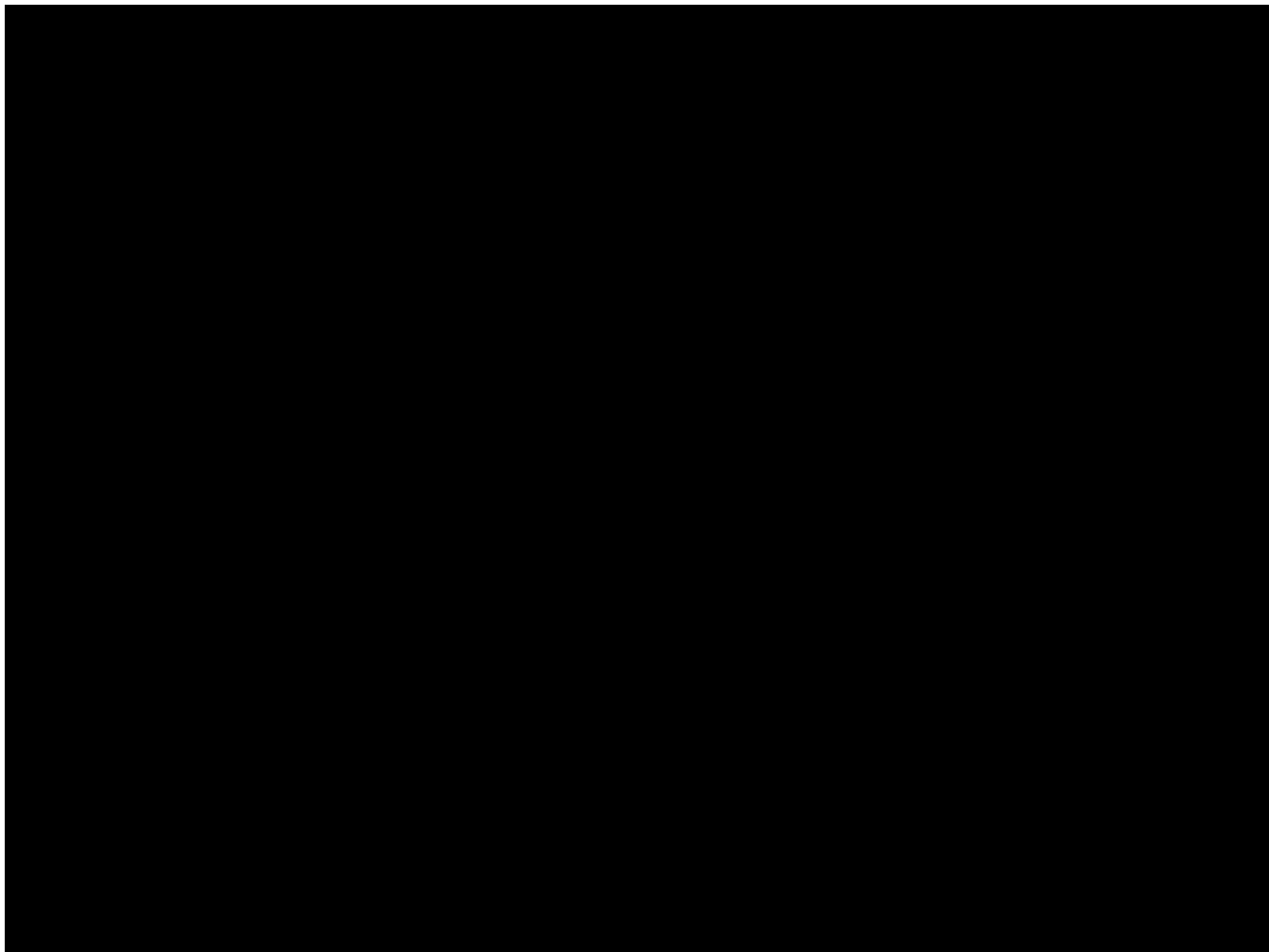
HOW

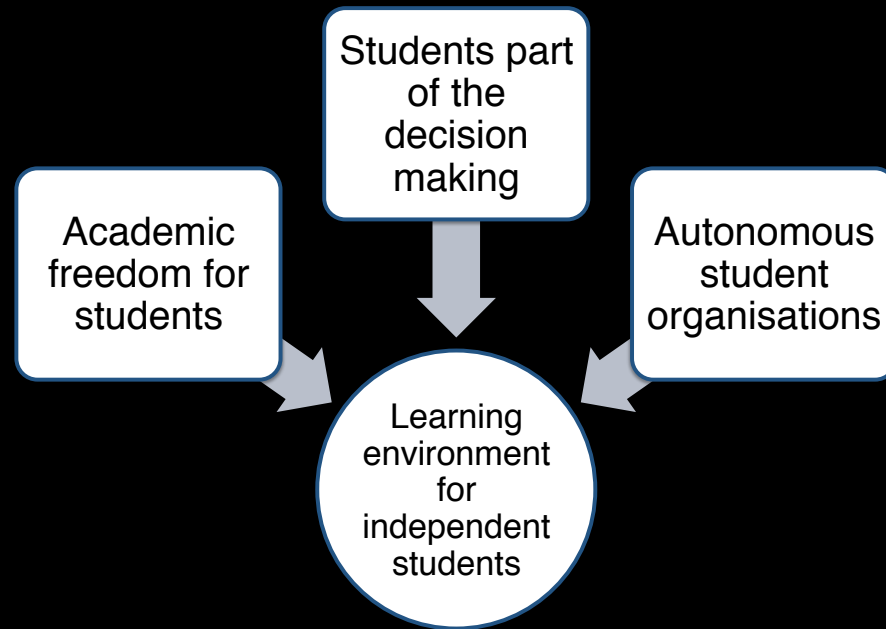
- Decision/regulation guarantee a least level of participation
- Strong influence is a culture.

Very important in conflict. Doesn't help much on a day-to-day basis.

Cultural change comes from the top.

Responsibility!





Learning
environment
for
independent
students

Responsible
students with
organizational
experience

Well educated
citizen ready
to take
responsibility
in all parts of
society.

Society's
benefit

fin