



1 *Executive Board proposal for TYY Plan of Action 2016*

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## 4 **Plan of Action of the Student Union** 5 **of the University of Turku 2016**

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7 'Faculty' refers to faculties and Turku School of Economics.

8

### 9 **Influential projects of the Student Union**

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11 The plan of Action of the Student Union of the University of Turku (TYY) describes the influential  
12 projects and projects different from the continuous activities.

13

#### 14 **1. University adjustment measures**

15 (In the three-year plan "Adjustment programme of the University finances" and "Enhancement of  
16 all-year studies")

17

18 The financing cuts targeted by the Finnish Government have a significant impact on the activities of  
19 the University of Turku. The adjustment need incurred by the cuts is ca. EUR 9 million in the  
20 University of Turku in 2016, and due to the abolishment of university index, 2-3 million annually in  
21 the future. University must adjust its activities, which has impacts on education and research.

22

23 In 2016, TYY follows and actively influences in the implementation of the adjustment measures.

24 Adjustment measures will, for the foreseeable future, impact the administration, e.g. the

25 organisation of administration, Open University arrangements, language teaching included in the

26 degrees and university premise solutions. Students' position, services and rights should be

27 guaranteed in the course of the adjustment measures. The quality of education and research should

28 not be decreased and the eventual benefits from the measures should be reached. Simultaneously,

29 preconditions for all-year studying will be enhanced with the university, in order for students to

30 prevent study delay and to accelerate their graduation.

31

32 Students' position will be ensured by actively influencing in the working groups discussing

33 adjustment measures, in order to make the students' voice heard. The student representatives in the

34 administration and in subject-specific organisations will be acquainted with the adjustment measure



35 discussion and supported in their influence work. After the adjustment measures, the preconditions  
36 for studying should remain at a good level and teaching should be of high quality.

37

## 38 **2. More effective interest promotion in international Master's programmes**

39 (In the three-year plan, "international students")

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41 In order to improve the promotion of student interests in international Master's programmes,  
42 in 2016, TYY will review the possibility of international students to influence decision-making  
43 concerning themselves and their studies. TYY will review all groups where influencing should be  
44 done. In cooperation with international Master's coordinators, personnel, student representatives in  
45 faculties, and international students will be trained to improve teaching and curricula, and the  
46 general practises of the Master's programmes.

47

48 During the year, all Master's coordinators will be met and the adjacent subject-specific organisations  
49 of the Master's programme will be reviewed, in order for the activity to be made continuous and  
50 peer support from other student representatives to be available. Training will also be provided  
51 for adjacent subject-specific organisations and for student representatives in the faculties concerning  
52 the contents, practices and influence possibilities. Awareness of the influence possibilities  
53 and the influence system of the Finnish universities will be increased for the international students  
54 with effective communication and training.

55

## 56 **3. Students' comprehensive well-being**

57 (In the three-year plan, "Common higher education sports" and "Study preconditions")

58

59 Students' well-being is a sum of several factors, which is why the most important influence  
60 channels are the networks gathering different actors together. TYY should take care of  
61 the active functioning the networks, especially while the cuts in the public sector are targeted  
62 at student's life circle.

63

64 TYY will participate in the well-being work conducted in 2016 by the well-being section of the  
65 University of Turku in the faculties and will play an initiative role in the realisation of the work. The  
66 purpose is to particularly increase the influence possibilities of students' in the well-being work of  
67 the university and to consider increasing the participation of organisations' well-being coordinators.

68

69 TYY will actively participate in the financial adjustment programme of FSHS and aim at making  
70 the service package such that it will decrease the health services of the students as little



71 as possible. The Student Union will monitor that the threshold to seek care from FSHS does not  
72 become higher due to the visit fees or electronic services. In its activities, TYY will especially  
73 emphasise the improvement of the availability of mental health services by bringing up the  
74 insufficient resources of the current services.

75  
76 TYY will actively participate in the review work on uniting the sports services of Turku higher  
77 education institutions (UTU, ÅA, Turku University of Applied Sciences and Novia), which is set to  
78 be ready by the end of 2016. Special attention will be paid to the availability and location of the  
79 sports premises, and the service quality is sought to be improved. The review should lead into a  
80 concrete proposal, on the basis of which the fusion will be launched. Filial campuses will be also  
81 taken into account in the review.

82  
83 The equality programme of the Student Union will be updated in 2016. The equality programme  
84 should function as a cross-sectoral tool, which is easy for everyone to use in their everyday activities.  
85 Equality training will be held for the new Student Union Council in the beginning of the term.

86  
87 **4. Students in the centre of the municipal policy**

88 (in the three-year plan, "Student City Turku")

89  
90 In 2016, municipal (election) objectives will be updated together with other Group 30,000 actors by  
91 drafting a municipal policy questionnaire for students and writing a new municipal programme on  
92 the basis of the results. Municipal election strategy will also be drafted, i.e. a plan concerning what  
93 to do before elections, during elections, and after elections. It is also important to influence the local  
94 election programmes of the parties, in order to include students' objectives as widely as possible in  
95 them, and after the elections in the council agreement.

96  
97 In 2015, relations with the council groups, officials, city lead, TYY alumni and MPs from the South  
98 West Finland have been actively created. Relations with the aforementioned and other decision-  
99 makers in the region will be strengthened and regularised in 2016. Cooperation with the city, higher  
100 education institutions, economic life and students will be strengthened in the framework of the  
101 RSGT concept. The activities of Group 30,000 will be enlarged by including two other Student  
102 Unions, Humak and O'Diak in the group. Inspiration for articles and writings will be actively offered  
103 to the media in order to strengthen the positive image of students as city dwellers. The image of  
104 student organisations as experts in students' needs will be sharpened by making careful statements  
105 and comments on topical subjects. In municipal influencing, especially issues related to income will  
106 be brought up. The City of Turku will introduce, like many other Finnish cities, social loans,



107 and students should not be discriminated against when granting subsistence support. The  
108 cooperation between Kela and the City of Turku should function as seamlessly as possible, and TYY  
109 should contribute to the discussion: e.g. the role of income support network is preliminary. TYY will  
110 review how the Master Plan 2029 progresses and participates in the development of the campus  
111 area.

112

113 The objective is to make TYY's municipal influence as well-planned and effective as possible.  
114 Through image construction, students will be considered a great strength for the region, and  
115 students' expert views will be welcome to be heard and taken into account in decision-making. A  
116 longer term objective is to make Turku the most student-friendly city in Finland, where students'  
117 municipal objectives turn into actions.

118

## 119 **5. Unified communication and influential communication for international students**

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121 In 2016, TYY will unify its communication and create its own communicational identity. The image  
122 of TYY as a specialised and reliable cooperation partner, interesting actor and attractive work  
123 environment will be strengthened. The graphic image will be renewed and introduced in all  
124 applicable communication, such as in new video material and events. The instructions for  
125 communication will be updated to correspond to the reforms made before. Media connections will  
126 be strengthened and TYY will be made into a city media partner, who will be asked for comments  
127 and article ideas related to education and students.

128

129 The internationality of communication will be increased in the coming year. Communication for  
130 international students will be improved by making questionnaires concerning the information they  
131 look for, communication channels they follow and wishes for TYY's communication. The  
132 questionnaire will be realised first in the spring and for the second time in the autumn, in order to  
133 evaluate the impacts of the changes after the spring one. English-language communication in the  
134 organisations is improved by training and encouraging those responsible for communication to do  
135 that more in English.

136

## 137 **6. Renovation, premise issue and accessible office for volunteer actors**

138 (In three-year plan, "Premise issues and renovation")

139

140 Student House A will be renovated in 2016–2017. In the beginning of the year 2016, the previous  
141 library in Student House B will be turned into an organisational premise, where TYY staff will work  
142 from the end of April throughout the summer. Move to the renovated premises will occur in the



143 beginning of September. The previous library will be further rented out for organisations. New work  
144 stations suitable for shared work premises will be bought in order to improve ergonomics and use of  
145 space in the renovated premises. Some of the current offices will be turned into negotiation rooms  
146 and suitable for quiet working.

147  
148 The office will be renovated into more open and comfortable premises also for members. During the  
149 temporary locations, the office services will be provided in the university premises. Members will be  
150 communicated on the move and especially on the availability and location of the services in advance  
151 and in a unified manner.

152  
153 In connection with the renovation and the move back, special attention will be paid to the  
154 accessibility and openness of the office for all people participating in the activities of the Student  
155 Union. TYY will also provide premises and tools in a flexible manner for Wings, Student Union  
156 Council, Project Workers and other actors. The preconditions for volunteer and project work will be  
157 improved also through orientation, training and communication.

158  
159 A working group established in 2015 will continue the review on obtaining student premises for  
160 TYY's use or possession. The review will map the need for premises and consider the eventual  
161 solutions found in the renovation of Student Houses and Turku University premise programme. The  
162 working group will present the results of their work for the Student Union Council during 2016.

163

## 164 **7. Anniversaries**

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166 TYY turns 95 years in 2017 and 100 years in 2022. Especially the 100-year celebrations should be  
167 planned well in advance.

168

169 A committee will be established during the spring, and it will plan the 95-year celebration. The  
170 event organiser of the celebration will be recruited during 2016 and a renewed and commented  
171 edition of Student's songbook will be drafted for the anniversary. Special history committee will  
172 prepare a book for 2022, covering the time after the 75-year history book so that the history of the  
173 Student Union of Turku School of Economics will be taken into account, for the essential parts, in  
174 the book.

175 The anniversary committee will plan the best manner to realise the 100-year celebration, and it may  
176 already make premise reservations or other necessary preparations. The celebrations will be  
177 considered in the three-year plans and budgets from 2017 onwards.



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178 Both TYY's anniversaries can be seen and heard among the members, in the city and nationally.  
179 TYY's organisations will be made part of the planning and realisation of the celebration weeks, and  
180 the programme will be diversified and accessible for all members.  
181

## 182 **8. Changes in the development cooperation**

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184 TYY's development cooperation in Mexico started in 1997 and TYY's own development cooperation  
185 project has been coordinated from 2001. From 2002, the project has been 85 % funded by the  
186 Foreign Ministry. The support for the project is likely to have been ended anyway, but the  
187 Government decisions to cut development cooperation money means especially the end of support  
188 for small organisations.  
189

190 In 2016, planning for the future of TYY's development cooperation after development cooperation  
191 cuts will be started. The modes of action will start to be reviewed on the basis of SYL union meetings  
192 and the joint Finland-based communication and global education projects. During the year, possible  
193 cooperation parties will be mapped and possibilities for launching the following development  
194 cooperation project together with e.g. other Student Unions, SYL or actors in the surrounding  
195 region will be considered. In addition to cooperation issues, the office will review the target country  
196 and topics of the project.