Comment 1 November 2019

TREYh40

TREY's comment on the University community's representatives' initiative to the University's administration on the reform of the University's rules of procedure

In September, TREY participated in the Kenen yliopisto? ("Whose University?") research report's results publishing event. The report concerned the University staff's experiences of the new University's management models. The results revealed a fierce critique towards the rules of procedure of our University as well as the manner of electing the administration. Additionally, the results included a desire for strengthening the University's democracy and staff's well-being. The report conforms to TREY's view of the necessity of the subsidiarity principle, the participatory possibilities of the community groups and representative university democracy.

In the 1 November 2019 initiative of the University community's representatives for the renewal of the rules of procedure is a demand for making alterations to the contents of the rules of procedure document which was approved during the transitional period. TREY considers it essential that the University's administration is able to estimate and identify the shortcomings of the rules of procedure and thus recognise when the time calls for reviewing our brand-new rules of procedure. Consequently, the rules of procedure serves the higher education community's operating environment as well as possible. This way the new administration and organisation can earn the community's trust. When the rules of procedure are updated, the whole University community must be a part of that process from the drafting to the decision-making, and it must be accessible for each member of the community.

We appeal to the administration of our University to solve the challenges that were present in the report and the initiative for the renewal of the rules of procedure:

* The status and the relationship of the different bodies must be purified for the sake of improved trust, understanding and flow of information.
* Leadership must be systematic. Different groups within the community must have a genuine and accessible possibility to follow, participate and influence in the drafting, the setting of goals and the decision-making in all matters concerning them on all levels of administration. The influence methods must be diverse and combine both delicate and formal channels of influencing.
* In our diverse organisation of professionals, research knowledge must be appreciated and decision-making must be founded on knowledge-based leadership.
* The new Tampere University must create its own model of a foundation-based University which combines the best features of the former Universities and also further promotes university democracy in all of its forms.

Paula Sajaniemi Venla Monter

Chair of the Executive Board Secretary General

Additional information:

Specialist in Academic Affairs, Jenny Vaara

tel. 050 361 2847, jenny.vaara@trey.fi