

## The Action Plan of Student Union of Tampere University for 2022

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## Prologue: How do I read an action plan?

Hi! You are holding in your hands a draft of the action plan for 2022. In the early years of the student union, the action plan has a very important role to play in the development of our operations, and therefore the plan is formulated each year to meet our goals even better. This action plan will be a step closer to a more influential and student-centred student union.

This action plan consists of seven cross-sectoral projects that meet the objectives of our strategy. What is different from previous years is that this year, the focus points of our influencing work are highlighted in *Ambitious advocacy – Focus point of influencing*, the seventh project on the list, with the intent to bring attention to our influencing work in addition to other projects presented in the plan. Therefore, these focus points of influencing together with the other projects make the action plan a coherent entity that introduces the priorities and resources of the upcoming year in an easily approachable format.

This action plan, together with our ongoing activities, will help us make the student union better every year for us students. That is the goal with all the contents of the plan as well.

Happy reading!

on behalf of TREY's Board, Chair Iiris Taubert

## **Knowledge: The students know and are familiar with what the student union does**

### **Project: Member services and archives in order! – Developing students' member services**

**Sectors responsible for the project:** Member services

**Sectors working on the project:** Communications and brand, campus development, main sector, association sector

**Today:** The action plan of 2021 included examining the status of member services through a survey. Expansion and development of the selection of member services has been planned based on the results of the survey.

The Office Secretary of the City centre campus will retire in 2022. The organising of the archive room at Hervanta campus is still in process, and the material there is yet to be delivered to the Provincial Archives.

**Target:** Suggestions for the development of member services that were received in the survey have been put into practice, and their functionality has been examined based on feedback.

The personnel resources and working hours of the service offices are planned according to the members' needs. Member services, their locations and other

functions of the service offices are planned so that the Hervanta campus and City centre campus offices have distinct selections of services.

**Long-term target:** TREY is approachable and casual in the eyes of students.

Students are familiar with the daily life of the Student Union, as well as its continuous activities. TREY provides students with a meeting place that brings together working groups and volunteers as well as all students.

**Plan of action:**

- Changing the job description of the Hervanta campus Office Secretary to a Specialist. Recruiting a part-time member services assistant as the successor of the retiring Office Secretary at City centre campus.
- Recruiting a project employee for the organising of the Hervanta campus archive room. Organising the archive material and transferring it to Provincial Archives. Transferring TREY archives from the City centre campus to the archive room at Hervanta campus.
- Expanding and developing the selection of member services based on the results of the survey about member services.
- Familiarising students and associations with the student union's member services.
- Collecting feedback on the new selection of member services at the end of

the year.

## Project: Updating the Freshers' Guide for 2022

**Sectors responsible for the project:** Tutoring

**Sectors working on the project:** Corporate cooperation, communications

**Today:** During TREY's first few years, the Freshers' Guide was first published both in print and in electronic form, and later only in electronic form. Because the print version is no longer distributed to all students, access to the guide mainly depends on tutors' activity in sharing information about it and freshers' own activity in looking for information online. The current publication is not interactive, and its contents are not easily comprehensible or approachable, or easy to update. There is also need for development with corporate cooperation.

**Target:** The goal is to update the Freshers' Guide into an inspiring, interactive, and easily updated source of information for new students. Advertising income is also taken into account when developing the guide.

**Long-term target:** The Freshers' Guide has an established role in freshers' orientation as well as in corporate cooperation.

### Plan of action:

- Conducting a survey in the beginning of the year to hear suggestions for

development of the guide

- Updating the Freshers' Guide
- Making the Guide an appealing concept for corporate collaborators

**Feeling: The students want to be part of the student union and feel that they are a part of it.**

**Project: To the end of the pandemic and beyond! – A student community recovering from corona**

**Sectors responsible for the project:** Corona group at the office

**Sectors working on the project:** Cross-sectoral

**Today:** The corona pandemic has lasted for several years and has had significant effects on the student community, on topics such as students' well-being, progress in studies, internationality, and communality. Special attention needs to be paid to these themes so that the mental, physical and social well-being of students can be advanced. Establishing the cooperation with stakeholders in the aftermaths of the university merge and the pandemic is still in process. The student union's relationship with the university should be strengthened, especially.

Student culture and event activities have suffered from the pandemic as well, which is why the student union needs to support associations in restoring student culture and event activity in the aftermaths of the pandemic. The core of student

communality, Wappu, has been organised under special circumstances for two years in a row. The work to establish all of the student union's events in the community is still unfinished.

**Target:** Associations have various ways of supporting their members' well-being. Students are well informed on the support, counselling and well-being services of the university, and the services are easily approachable and available. The student union has invested in preventing students' feelings of loneliness, and re-entry orientation.

The community spirit among students is on the rise and event activities are recovering from the pandemic. Finland's Biggest Wappu and other student union events have a more established role in the community.

**Long-term target:** The university community's facilities support different forms of studying and teaching and cater to different learners' needs. The use and planning of facilities takes hybrid teaching into account. The teaching staff has enough resources to arrange flexible and diverse completion methods for studies.

The student community has recovered from the pandemic. Students' well-being is improving and the transition to a post-pandemic time has been smooth.

**Plan of action:**

- Establishing the role of support, counselling and well-being services for

students, through communication and in collaboration with the university.

- Organising an event together with the university where students can share their ideas and suggestions about the development of the university community's facilities and teaching, including contact teaching, remote teaching, and hybrid teaching.
- Training associations on how to support their members' well-being.
- Paying special attention to the themes of mental health and preventing loneliness among students through, for example, a social media campaign or theme week.
- Investing in the development of TREY's stakeholder relations.
- Investing in the orientation and attachment to community of those students that started their studies during the pandemic.
- Supporting the recovery of student culture by organising a theme event for associations where they can share their approaches on event organising and valuing traditions.
- Investing in the organising of Finland's Biggest Wappu and developing it into an even more reachable and community-building event, together with associations and with Tampereen Teekkarit.
- The events section Kollektiivi will be further developed to be more meaningful and suited to TREY's needs.



- The corona situation is monitored and the planning of measures takes into account different scenarios of the corona pandemic, which are taken into account in all activities.

**Action: Students participate in and influence what the student union does.**

**Project: Influencing made interesting – More student representatives for TREY!**

**Sectors responsible for the project:** Educational affairs, volunteers sector

**Sectors working on the project:** Communications and brand

**Today:** The work of student representatives needs to be made more appealing to students, as there are currently relatively few applicants for the positions and additional application periods are needed throughout the year. New student representatives starting their tasks need a more concise orientation process, for which new procedures need to be created. Student representatives should also be more encouraged to commit to their tasks. In 2022, there will be another big recruitment of student representatives as most of the positions will be open for applications.

**Target:** Student representative work has clear common procedures and rules.

Students are interested in the work of student representatives, which can be seen in

the number of high-quality applications. Student representative work is regularly on display in TREY's communication channels.

**Long-term target:** The student representative work in our university community is visible, engaging, and influential, and it supports democracy at the university. Any degree student at Tampere University can become a student representative, regardless of the language they use. The student representative activities are communal and actives group together regularly.

**Plan of action:**

- Offering the student representatives materials for self-study.
- Creating marketing materials that introduce student representative work and can also be used in the recruitment of new representatives.
- Executing a campaign on social media together with the student representatives themselves to bring attention to student representative work.
- Creating a material data bank for student representatives, where notes and other useful materials can be stored for others to use.
- Creating procedures for the orientation of new student representatives and guidelines for student representatives' daily operations and interaction with the university.
- Making student representative activities more attractive by developing the sense of community of actives.

## Project: Please help us! – Training and peer support for associations!

**Sectors responsible for the project:** Association sector

**Sectors working on the project:** Volunteer sector, cross-sectoral

**Today:** In 2021, associations' need for training was examined and a training plan was created based on that. A guide for association activities was also being planned and in preparation. Developing the selection of training for associations, as well as producing the content for the association guide and finishing its implementation are actions to take in 2022.

During the pandemic, associations have been in contact with each other much less than before, which is why there has been less communication and exchanging of ideas and customs between associations.

**Target:** A guide for association activities has been created and associations are widely informed about it. Training for associations has been developed in accordance with the plan made in 2021. The trainings offered are diverse and they answer to associations' wishes. A culture of exchanging ideas and good procedures between associations has been established.

**Long-term target:** Associations can easily ask for training from the student union, and training materials are available for all associations in a material bank.

Associations share their methods and processes with each other actively and easily.

**Plan of action:**

- Developing the training offered for associations in accordance with the training plan
- Executing and approving a guide for association activities in collaboration with all sectors.
- Encouraging associations to share their methods with each other by offering a platform for it, for example through discussion forums, peer training events or a shared material bank for associations.

**Scope of action: The student union is a respected and influential expert of student life.**

**Project: Ambitious advocacy – Focus points of influencing for 2022**

**Internal focus points of influencing**

- **Council election:** The next council elections of TREY will be organised in autumn 2022. Investing in the visibility of the elections on campuses will increase the interest towards the elections, which can be seen in the increased number of candidates as well as the voting percentage.  
Sector responsible is the main sector.

- **Working life sector:** Creating a clear division of responsibilities at the office for employment issues and developing procedures to advance employment issues. Sectors responsible are the main sector and working life sector.
- **TREY carbon neutral by 2025:** Acting in accordance with the carbon neutrality mapping project. Sector responsible is the sustainable development sector.

### External focus points of influencing

- **Health and well-being:** Influencing FSHS to train employees on how to face students in their different situations and ways life and with different problems. Ensuring that the team service model of FSHS works effectively from the students' point of view. Sector responsible is the social affairs sector.
- **Campus development:** As the campus development project progresses, TREY will participate in its development and implementation. The project takes into account the needs of the students and ensures that the use of the facilities is effortless throughout the project. Sector responsible is the campus development sector.
- **International tutoring:** Developing international tutoring from all points of view together with the university and associations, which will make international tutoring more appealing and interesting. Sector responsible is the tutoring sector.

- **Possibilities of internationalization for everyone:** Advancing the target groups of internationalisation modules to include underrepresented groups more effectively, such as adult students, students with families, and students with disabilities. Sector responsible is the international affairs sector.
- **Employment of international students:** Influencing the city and the university to solve challenges with the employment of international students. Sector responsible is the international affairs sector.
- **County elections:** Themes that are important to students are visible in the new county council. County council representatives will consider students' needs in their decision-making. TREY promotes student turnout in the county elections, with special regard to campus advance voting locations. Sector responsible is the social affairs sector.
- **Income report:** The results of the income report are implemented in the student union's influencing work and the results are announced to students in a launching event. Sector responsible is the social affairs sector.
- **Harassment intervention:** TREY and the university will create concise process models for how to intervene harassment in the student community. The university's role in solving harassment cases will increase. Harassment contact persons are responsible.
- **Partnership between the city and the university community:** Strengthening the role of TREY in the partnership between the city of Tampere and the

university community. Finding more opportunities for cooperation in the framework of the partnership, for example with engaging students to the city community and advancing students' well-being. Sector responsible is the social affairs sector.

- **Influencing parliamentary elections:** TREY prepares for parliamentary election work and actively participates in SYL's program and campaign work. Local advocacy goals are shaped from the program. Sector responsible is the social affairs sector.

The student union has various resources for influencing, including statements and blog texts, demonstrations, influencing at working groups and cabinets as well as communicational influencing campaigns. More information on the methods of influencing can be found in the office's internal guide for advocacy which supports the influencing work. The sectors can choose a suitable way of influencing for each of the focus points within the resources available.

## The Student Union's internal development

**Project: What does TREY look like in the new decade? – towards a new strategy period!**

**Sectors responsible for the project:** Main sector

**Sectors working on the project:** Strategy working group

**Today:** The first strategy period of the Student Union of Tampere University is from 2019 to 2022. The work towards creating a new strategy will begin on the basis of the project plan for updating the strategy.

**Target:** At the end of 2022, the student union has a new strategy for the next strategy period. Opinions from the community are heard when creating the strategy.

**Long-term target:** The procedures created for TREY's strategy process will be used in upcoming updating processes of the strategy.

### **Plan of action:**

- Updating the strategy as a process in accordance with the project plan.
- Preparing a personnel strategy and updating the communications strategy that support the execution of the new strategy.



## **APPENDIX: Continuous schedule of steering documents and surveys**

This appendix features the documents that will be prepared and approved during TREY's first strategy period. The schedule is approximate, and it is meant to give a background to what the strategic planning behind the Action Plan of 2022 looks like.

### **Plan of Action, 2022**

- Planning and implementing a board member survey
- Updating the main rule where necessary
- Approving a medium-term financial plan
- Finalizing and approving the student union's financial rule
- Preparing and approving the student union's strategy