

# TREY's comments on work plans

The Student Union of Tampere University TREY thanks the working group preparing guidelines for work plans about the request to comment.

Work plans and agreeing about them is primarily a matter between the University and its employees. Therefore, we as a student union will comment on the work plan guidelines only from the perspective of preparation time for teaching and the hours allocated for supervision. Preparation time for teaching, and supervision affect, for example, the quality of teaching and students' well-being, so the Student Union as a representative of students should take a stand on a few matters.

We students are worried about the fact that current guidelines have not allocated enough preparation time for teaching. According to the guidelines, preparation time for contact teaching and virtual teaching would only be allocated between zero and two hours per class. Quality and high-class teaching does not arise by itself. Rather, it is the sum of our expert teaching staff and sufficient resources. If the teachers' preparation time is not increased, we fear that this can also hinder the continuous development of teaching.

We would wish that the preparation time allocated for teaching also considered the changes brought on by the coronavirus since the work plan guidelines also concern this year. The teaching personnel has had to revise their courses to make them suitable for distance teaching, and this may have shown in the working hours they spent. However, it's important that we utilize some of the good teaching practices that were discovered during corona times also in the future when our university's everyday life can be normalized. This would require that the teachers could revise their courses and arrangements again when we return from distance teaching to the normal teaching. For the sake of the teaching staff's ability to cope as well, it would be important that enough preparation time was allocated for teaching.

We are also worried about the fact that very little time was dedicated to thesis supervision in the guidelines. Although the scope and needs for supervision, as an

example, in bachelor's theses vary, no student should have to write their first independent study with only two hours of instructional time on top of their seminar. The span of time allocated for supervision also varied greatly according to the guidelines. It is unreasonable that one student must produce a quality thesis with two hours of instructional time when another student can receive up to five times as much instructional time. A small variation in time allocated for supervision is justified, but in this scale, it can place students in an unequal position. We fear that scarce supervision resources can lead to delaying thesis processes and, as a result, graduations. With the resource pressures that the new degree goals and the renewing funding model for universities will bring, this would be an extremely unwanted situation.

TREY is happy about how the guidelines recommend allocating working hours for academic tutoring. Especially bachelor's degree students should receive enough academic tutoring, and we find that the proposed two hours per bachelor's degree student per academic year seems like a reasonable proposal.