

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Tallinn

June 10th, 2025 no 6

Start of the meeting at 18:00, end of the meeting 22:35

Chaired by Annette Vihar

Minutes secretary: Ingrid Kirp

15 out of 15 were present: Maksim Dolinin, Karolina Perv, Arqum Shahid, Maris Kortel (via MS Teams), Annemari Riisimäe, Sten Unt, Sander Roosimäe, Markus Käpp, Hanna Savolainen, Ketter Aljes, Ander Mägi, Saara Katarina Merioja (via MS Teams)

Invited: Kristin Liias, Karoliine Orav, Mark Toomsalu, Karl Pikner, Anna Suzdalev, Alexander Rein Robas, Emili Järv, Kaja Sakk, Karol Törmikoski, Karoliina Rebane, Sirely Veri, Vladlen Pahv, Nora Eensalu, Leana Jete Korb

Absent: Ramon Kulp

On the agenda:

I Announcements

1. Creation of the Student Union Development Plan 2026–2030 working group

II Elections

2. Election of members to the Audit Committee
3. Election of Student Representatives
 - a. To the TalTech Senate
 - b. To the General Assembly of the Federation of Estonian Student Unions (FESU)

III Confirmations

4. Confirmation of the Statute for the Supervisor of the Thesis of the Year
5. Confirmation of the Guideline for Drafting Public Messages

IV Reports

6. Semi-Annual Report of the Audit Committee
7. Spring 2025 Report of the Quality of Education Working Group (HKT)
8. Mental Health Promotion at the University
9. Annual Report of the Student Union Board

V Discussions

10. Proposal for Taking a Position
11. Amendments to the Statutes
12. Regulation on Symbols
13. Representation of the Student Parliament at the Kick-off Event, image of the Student Parliament
14. Informing Students about the Possibility of Taking Various Elective Courses
15. Student Parliament ABC

The agenda was approved unanimously.

I Announcements

1. Creation of the Student Union Development Plan 2026–2030 working group

The incoming Chairman of the Student Union Board, Alexander Rein Robas, introduces the idea for collecting input for the Student Union Development Plan 2026–2030. Volunteers are being sought to help with collecting ideas over the summer. It would be beneficial if each faculty were represented. Meeting(s) are likely to be held during the summer. Ander Mägi, Hanna Savolainen, Sander Roosimäe,

and Getter Aljes express their interest. Karolina Perv comments that if the summer dates are suitable, she is also interested.

II Elections

2. Election of members to the Audit Committee

The Chair of the meeting introduces the election procedure. Each candidate is given 5 minutes for self-introduction and 10 minutes for a Q&A session.

One application was received during the nomination period—from Kristin Liias. On-site candidacy is opened, and Emili Järv puts herself forward.

Kristin Liias presents herself. Members of the Student Parliament have reviewed the application documents.

Questions and Answers:

Sten Unt: Emili, what kind of changes in the Rector's office would you be prepared to initiate?

Emili Järv: A student whistleblowing channel. Currently, there is no good place for students to voice their concerns or ideas. Another issue is the overall auditing of student organizations.

Karolina Perv: Kristin, your motivation letter states that you plan to go abroad—when exactly are you going?

Kristin Liias: I wish to complete my mandate first. I'm not planning to go abroad this autumn. I'll be going in autumn of 2026.

Maksim Dolinin: A question for both candidates: in case only 2 candidates are chosen, will your time management skills allow you to fully handle the duties of the Audit Committee?

Emili Järv: In my view, a two-member committee is not ideal. Hopefully, a third member will be elected by the Student Parliament in autumn. Three members make better decisions. Two people could lead to ties.

Kristin Liias: I agree with Emili. Regarding time management, serving on the Audit Committee in my final academic year would significantly enhance my skills.

Markus Käpp: Emili, you've served on the committee for a year already. What did you learn? What would you do differently?

Emili Järv: Honestly, we overworked ourselves and did too much. This time, I'd approach the tasks more rationally.

Speeches for and against

Ander Mägi reads a statement from Mia Peterson in support of Kristin Liias: Kristin has all the necessary skills and personal qualities for the role. As an Audit Committee member should be, she is a document oriented person and she enjoys laws and regulations. She is thorough, detail-oriented, she understands

legal matters more than the average student and is not afraid to speak her mind. The Audit Committee needs someone exactly like Kristina.

Karoliina Rebane presents a support speech for Emili Järv: Emili is a member of my team, but I also had the opportunity to work with her while she was in the Audit Committee for a year. She is very diligent, and this role fits her perfectly. In addition, this work will undoubtedly bring a sparkle to her eyes.

Voting takes place electronically via the Election Buddy platform. There are 7 minutes allocated for voting. The results of the electronic voting will be displayed immediately on the big screen once all votes have been submitted, and the results table will be attached to the minutes.

IT WAS DECIDED:

1.1 To approve the appointment of Kristin Liias and Emili Järv as members of the Student Body Audit Committee for the period July 2025 – July 2026.

1.2 The decision takes effect upon adoption.

		Export Results ✓
Revisjonikomisjoni liige/member of the revision committee		
PLURALITY – 3 VACANCIES 22 votes tallied		
Emili Järv	10 votes	45.45%
Kristin Liias	11 votes	50.00%
Blank	1 vote	4.55%
Kristin Liias, Emili Järv, and Blank win with 50.00%, 45.45%, and 4.55% of the votes each which meets the requirement of the most votes.		

VOTING RESULT: Kristin Liias – 11 votes in favor, Emili Järv – 10 votes in favor

3. Election of Student Representatives

a. To the TalTech Senate

Each candidate is given 5 minutes for self-introduction and 15 to 20 minutes for a Q&A session.

During the nomination period, five applications were received. The following individuals submitted their candidacies: Rasmus Tammis, Karol Törmikoski, Alexander Rein Robas, Karoliine Orav, and Nora Eensalu. On-site candidacy is opened, and Mark Toomsalu put himself forward as a candidate. Rasmus Tammis was unable to attend the meeting.

Candidates were given the floor. The members of the Student Parliament have reviewed the submitted candidacy documents.

Questions and Answers:

Maksim Dolinin: The Senate has two committees. Have you considered which one you would like to join?

Nora Eensalu: Academic Affairs Committee

Karol Törmikoski: Academic Affairs Committee

Karoliine Orav: Academic Affairs Committee

Mark Toomsalu: Academic Affairs Committee

Alexander Rein Robas: Academic Committee, because I have experience with it and believe it is a good place to contribute.

Vladlen Pahv: I ask as a former Senate member. All of you mentioned that you want to stand up for students' well-being and rights. Do you believe you have the courage to speak up, address difficult issues, and raise questions that may not be popular with your own faculty? We've done that over the last two years – are you ready to continue?

Karol Törmikoski: Last autumn, an article titled "The situation in the IT job market is absurd" came out. I gave my input in the article about the realities of IT education and was also featured on its cover. In addition, I have engaged in discussions with lecturers about how to improve internship opportunities. This led to conversations on how to distinguish academic versus vocational qualifications. I also participated in a master's program info session a few weeks ago where the article was again mentioned. I always speak the truth and don't sugarcoat.

Nora Eensalu: I am working on building my courage. For example, together with our program director, we tackled several program-related issues, structured them clearly, and presented them in a direct and impactful way.

Karoliine Orav: I'm also working on developing that courage. I wish to practice that as a board member. That's also why I stand here today – to keep practicing and improving it.

Mark Toomsalu: Now that I have a broader overview, I feel more empowered to ask critical rather than superficial questions and to take a more balanced stance.

Alexander Rein Robas: I agree with the others. In addition, I do have the courage to speak up, and that's one of the reasons I'm running.

Maksim Dolinin: Mark has already mentioned the topics, he would bring to the Senate (the topic of thesis organization). What topics would the rest of you bring forward? Perhaps something close to your heart? You will be representing the entire student body, not just your faculty.

.Nora Eensalu offered Alexander the chance to respond first.

Alexander Rein Robas: TalTech's IT systems and solutions are quite inadequate and that could be improved. They often crash or malfunction. I'd like to draw attention to the need for better IT infrastructure at the university, aiming for more sustainable solutions without excessive spending. It may seem very IT specific, but TalTech runs on IT.

Mark Toomsalu: I see a big issue with many services that are designed with departments in mind, but students are often left out (e.g. room booking systems) and won't get any benefits from the service / system. Many systems are staff-oriented rather than student-friendly.

Nora Eensalu: I would like to focus even more on study quality and how information is communicated to students. The communication aspect needs serious attention.

Karol Törmikoski: I participated in an informatics teaching seminar for lecturers as a student representative. We also discussed teaching quality and the need for pedagogical feedback and encouragement. Some older lecturers don't understand the importance of positive reinforcement and student feedback.

Karoliine Orav: I am responsible for the Quality of Education Working Group, so I plan to continue focusing on quality of education and student well-being, including mental health.

Markus Käpp: How do you plan to manage your time if you are running for multiple positions?

Nora Eensalu: My current mandate as Political Advisor is finished at the end of June.

Karol Törmikoski: I'm currently focused on studies. I've worked as a teaching assistant, and my upcoming master's studies in autumn should not be an obstacle.

Karoliine Orav: My current commitments include school and my mandate as a board member in education – and that's it.

Mark Toomsalu: This is a responsibility I want to take on and contribute to in addition to my work in the board.

Alexander Rein Robas: I've considered my obligations and do not believe this position would add a significant workload.

Maksim Dolinin: If elected, you will represent more than yourselves. How do you plan to collect feedback about students' concerns and problems? Do you plan to attend Student Parliament meetings as well? That would be necessary to ensure that the council's policies don't contradict your own.

Nora Eensalu: Gathering input is essential, and maintaining integration with the Student Parliament is crucial and absolutely planned. I would also like to collaborate with the student union's internal communications coordinator.

Karol Törmikoski: As a teaching assistant and tutor, I interact with many students from my own field of study and other IT students, whom I maintain I maintain communication even after initial contact. Our internal communication within the program is very strong. I hope to work with all of you to gain broader insight from the IT faculty perspective.

Karoliine Orav: I have the opportunity to gather input through the Quality of Education Working Group, Academic Committee, and the ordinary meeting of the Student Parliament. Any student is welcome to reach out to me directly with their problems.

Mark Toomsalu: I believe Senate members should include board members, since we have strong feedback channels. The Senate would benefit from the information we gather. My team members work daily with different student issues.

Alexander Rein Robas: My goal is to represent all students anyway, so this fits naturally with my mission.

Hanna Savolainen: What is your position on preserving free higher education?

Alexander Rein Robas: The issue is bigger than I thought. I've investigated the cost of credit points (EAPs). Paid education could encourage more talent and build greater trust. But I'm glad the decision was made to keep the first degree free.

Nora Eensalu: Free higher education is important.

Karol Törmikoski: Free higher education is what makes us unique. Estonians are smart people, and free education helps us stay that way.

Karoliine Orav: I agree.

Mark Toomsalu: I support it – no question about that.

Voting takes place electronically via the Election Buddy platform. There are 7 minutes allocated for voting. The results will be displayed immediately on the big screen once all votes have been submitted, and the results table will be attached to the minutes.

IT WAS DECIDED:

2.1 To confirm the appointment of the following student representatives to the TalTech Senate for the academic year 2025/2026:

- Karoliine Orav
- Nora Eensalu
- Mark Toomsalu
- Karol Törmikoski
- Alexander Rein Robas
- Rasmus Tammis

2.2 The decision takes effect upon adoption.

TalTech Senati esindajad/Senate representatives

PLURALITY – 3 VACANCIES 68 votes tallied

Rasmus Tammis	10 votes 14.71%
Karol Tõrmikoski	11 votes 16.18%
Karoliine Orav	12 votes 17.65%
Alexander Rein Robas	11 votes 16.18%
Nora Eensalu	12 votes 17.65%
Mark Toomsalu	12 votes 17.65%
Blank	0 votes 0%
Karoliine Orav, Nora Eensalu, and Mark Toomsalu win with 17.65% of the votes each which meets the requirement of the most votes.	

VOTING RESULT: Karoliine Orav, Nora Eensalu, Mark Toomsalu - 12 votes in favor, Karol Tõrmikoski, Alexander Rein Robas – 11 votes in favor, Rasmus Tammis – 10 votes in favor

b. To the General Assembly of the Federation of Estonian Student Unions (FESU)

During the nomination period, three applications were received. The following individuals submitted their candidacies: Alexander Rein Robas, Karoliine Orav ja Nora Eensalu. On-site candidacy is opened, Sirely Veri and Mark Toomsalu put themselves forward as candidates.

Each candidate is given 5 minutes for self-introduction and 15 minutes for a Q&A session. The members of the Student Parliament have reviewed the submitted candidacy documents.

Questions and Answers:

Sten Unt: Do you believe you bring something unique to the table?

Sirely Veri: I am highly solution-oriented and very strong in getting things done. I have proof of finding solutions.

Nora Eensalu: I was previously a member of the FESU, I forgot to mention that. Largely, we are working toward a common goal, and I would like to bring more unification to the table.

Mark Toomsalu: I'm a strong networker; I can bring contacts and prior experience to the table. We already have existing contacts within FESU. I can help mediate the flow of information between TalTech and FESU.

Karoliine Orav: I study politics, so I'm very interested in FESU. I'm mainly interested in education policy, and by studying it, I can bring my knowledge to the table.

Alexander Rein Robas: I bring to the table everything the other candidates bring. In addition, I care.

Arqum Shahid: Once again a question regarding time management—how will you manage contributing to the Senate, FESU, etc.?

Nora Eensalu: FESU meets twice a year, it doesn't consume much energy. The Senate and FESU complement each other.

Mark Toomsalu: I agree with Nora, they truly do complement each other.

Karoliine Orav: This is all new to me, and I haven't been in either before, but as a board member, this will be beneficial. I'm very good at time management, and I don't foresee any issues.

Alexander Rein Robas: I accounted for this when running for chair of the board—everything has been considered.

Hanna Savolainen: Mark, Karoliine and Nora mentioned working groups. Would you like to join any of the working groups, and if yes, which one and what do you plan to do there?

Mark Toomsalu: Right now, the timing of the working groups is poor- the groups are already set.

Nora Eensalu: In autumn there will be a new round of applications for working groups. I have been part of the education policy working group, and the international working group also interests me a lot.

Mark Toomsalu: The international working group could bring additional value.

Sirely Veri: The international working group. International cooperation between universities and student organizations is part of my job, and I want to develop and advocate for it.

Nora Eensalu: Just to add, FESU has three working groups: education policy, social policy, and international.

Karoliine Orav: For me, education policy.

Alexander Rein Robas: I have not planned to apply for a working group considering my current workload. If an opportunity arises, I will consider it.

Maksim Dolinin: What is your view on the future of the Estonian education system? What would you like to pass on to FESU that could be forwarded to the government if they were to adopt it?

Sirely Veri: Currently, there is a big focus on involving international students. In addition to demonstrations, there should be more concrete development goals and positions.

Mark Toomsalu: I would like our education system to allow universities to keep pace with the times quickly.

Sirely Veri: I forgot to mention support systems aimed at students — I would like to develop those.

Karoliine Orav: I agree with the previous ideas.

Alexander Rein Robas: I agree with the ideas. I would add that a higher number of university-educated people should be in the government. FESU helps support that, and free higher education encourages it.

Mark Toomsalu: TalTech could be more visible within FESU — this is something that could be improved compared to last year.

Saara Katarina Merioja left at 20:20.

Voting takes place electronically via the Election Buddy platform. There are 5 minutes allocated for voting. The electronic voting results will be displayed immediately on the big screen once all votes have been submitted, and the results table will be attached to the minutes.

IT WAS DECIDED:

3.1 To confirm the appointment of student representatives to the FESU General Assembly for the academic year 2025/2026:

- Karoliine Orav
- Alexander Rein Robas
- Nora Eensalu
- Sirely Veri
- Mark Toomsalu

3.2 The decision takes effect upon adoption.

EÜL esindajad/representatives

PLURALITY – 3 VACANCIES 51 votes tallied

Karoliine Orav	11 votes 21.57%
Alexander Rein Robas	10 votes 19.61%
Nora Eensalu	10 votes 19.61%
Sirely Veri	10 votes 19.61%
Mark Toomsalu	10 votes 19.61%
Blank	0 votes 0%

Karoliine Orav, Alexander Rein Robas, Nora Eensalu, Sirely Veri, and Mark Toomsalu win with 21.57% and 19.61% of the votes each which meets the requirement of the most votes.

VOTING RESULT: Karoliine Orav - 11 votes in favor, Alexander Rein Robas, Nora Eensalu, Sirely Veri, Mark Toomsalu – 10 votes in favor

Break in the meeting of the Student Parliament from 20:23 to 20:38.

III Confirmations

4. Confirmation of the Statute for the Supervisor of the Thesis of the Year

Representative Parliament member Maksim Dolinin was given the floor to introduce the statute for the Student Body's Thesis Supervisor of the Year award. The members of the Student Parliament have reviewed the submitted candidacy documents.

Questions and Answers

Sander Roosimäe: A question regarding the English-language section. Was the Estonian translation included there intentionally?

Maksim Dolinin: It has not yet been translated.

Arqum Shahid: How will the best nominees be selected from among all submissions?

Maksim Dolinin: It depends on the thoroughness of the application. A scoring system is used based on how well the application meets the criteria.

Arqum Shahid: Would preparing surveys help more people get noticed?

Maksim Dolinin: The response rate to surveys is very low.

Annemari Riisimäe: What kind of input can a staff member from the academic department provide?

Maksim Dolinin: When selecting a dedicated lecturer previously, the academic office representative gathered input for the entire year. The input comes from the student feedback collected throughout the year.

Hanna Savolainen: So, we are assessing the ability to supervise, not the thesis result?

Maksim Dolinin: Yes, we only assess the ability to supervise.

Maksim Dolinin: In response to Arqum – the criteria have been coordinated with the university. Three individuals will receive the award. The main committee will receive the Top 5 applications from the pre-selection committee and will choose from among those. Our goal is to identify the best supervisors from across the university, regardless of their background. Program directors are selected in the same way.

Annette Vihar: This is the first version of the document. If you wish to propose changes, this can be done at a meeting of the Student Parliament.

IT WAS DECIDED:

4.1 To approve the Statute for the Thesis Supervisor of the Year award.

4.2 The decision takes effect upon adoption.

VOTING RESULT: 11 votes in favour.

5. Confirmation of the guideline for drafting public messages

Student Union representative Nora Eensalu was given the floor to introduce the guideline for drafting public messages. The members of the Student Parliament have reviewed the submitted candidacy documents.

Questions and Answers

Hanna: Shouldn't "business day" be used instead of "calendar day" in all cases?

Nora: The timeframes differ intentionally in different sections — this has been carefully considered.

IT WAS DECIDED:

5.1 To approve the guideline for drafting public messages.

5.2 The decision takes effect upon adoption.

VOTING RESULT: 13 votes in favour.

IV Reports

6. Semi-Annual Report of the Audit Committee

Audit Committee member Karl Pikner was given the floor to present the Audit Committee's semi-annual report. The members of the Student Parliament have reviewed the submitted candidacy documents.

Questions and Answers

Hanna Savolainen: What could have been the reason for the failure to establish contact with the Student Councils?

Karl Pikner: I'm not sure. Most likely it was an internal communication error. The contact information was taken from the TalTech website, where it might have been outdated.

Karolina Perv: The Student Union conducted inspections of student organizations' premises. Why did you not have information about this?

Karl Pikner: Every year when inspections have taken place, the Audit Committee has been present. We did not receive an invitation during the reporting period.

Mark Toomsalu: We were not aware that the Audit Committee needed to be informed about the room inspections. Next time we will invite them along, so everyone has a better overview.

7. Spring 2025 Report of the Quality of Education Working Group (QEWG / HKT)

Karoliina Rebane, Board Member in the Field of Education, was given the floor to present the Quality of Education Working Group's report for the spring semester of 2025. The members of the Student Parliament have reviewed the submitted candidacy documents.

Questions and Answers

Maksim Dolinin: You presented the same topic to the Academic Affairs Department. Were they also in agreement that the issues you raised are indeed concerns?

Karoliina Rebane: They were very concerned and already started thinking about how to address these problems.

8. Mental Health Promotion at the University

Karoliina Rebane continued her overview.

Questions and Answers

Karolina Perv: You mentioned that you spoke at a higher level. Why do we have only one psychologist for students, while in Tartu there are 6-7?

Karoliina Rebane: They also have more students.

Karolina Perv: One is obviously too few. This creates a problem where students might not receive help from the university. What is the university's stance on this?

Karoliina Rebane: We have discussed this with the Student Counselling Office and our psychologists. They share the workload among themselves. Our maximum waiting time has been one month. In Tartu,

it is sometimes two months. Tartu has an online booking system. TalTech's situation is better, although a one-month wait is still long.

Karolina Perv: Has there been discussion about the booking system? The current email system may discourage students.

Karoliina Rebane: Yes, this has been discussed. We wanted a more transparent system. Their justification is that if appointments are canceled, slots remain empty. It is easier to rearrange things via email.

9. Annual Report of the Student Union Board

Members of the Student Union Board Annette Vijar, Mark Toomsalu, and Karoliina Rebane were given the floor to present the Board's annual report. The overview covers the year's activities, supported by the action plan. The Student Parliament had not reviewed the file beforehand and will review it on site.

V Discussions

The Student Parliament decides to postpone the following meeting topics:

- Proposal for taking a position
- Amendments to the Statutes
- Regulation on Symbols

10. Representation of the Student Parliament at the Kick-off Event, image of the Student Parliament

The Student Union member Leana Jete Korb gives an overview and states that she wishes to involve the Student Parliament in the Kick-off event during a final point with the goal of introducing the Student Parliaments's activities to freshmen. Leana Jete wishes to involve at least three people from the Representative Council to further develop the topic.

Sten Unt, Ander Mägi, Annemari Riisimäe, and Sander Roosimäe express interest.

Leana Jete Korb: Is there anyone who wants to come on-site but does not want to organize? Markus Käpp will attend. Leana will create a *Messenger Chat* to discuss matters. If anyone else wishes to write an article, they may also inform Jete.

Hanna Savolainen: Could this information also be sent via email so that all Student Parliament members are informed?

Leana Jete Korb: Yes, I will send emails so that everyone can join the organization.

11. Informing Students about the Possibility of Taking Various Elective Courses

Sten Unt says that when choosing courses, students may not know which curricula fit their skills and interests. How could this problem be solved?

Annette Vijar: How much does the Student Counselling Office know about such matters?

Karoliina Rebane: No one knows that thoroughly. This topic requires a separate discussion.

Maris Kortel joined at 22:33 via Teams.

Markus Käpp: Would a tutor program help solve this problem?

Kristin Liias: Do you mean free-choice courses or subject-specific selection?

Sten Unt: Rather the latter.

12. Student Parliament ABC

The members of the Student Parliament have reviewed the submitted candidacy documents. Karoliina Rebane thanks the representative body for their questions as input collection.

Annette Vijar
Chair of the meeting

Ingrid Kirp
Secretary of the Meeting

Extras

1. Statute of the Year's Thesis Supervisor
2. Supportive Contacts and Materials for the Public Messaging Guideline
3. Public Messaging Guideline
4. Audit Committee Report SPRING 2025
5. Education Quality Working Group (EQWG) Feedback Report
6. EQWG Project Report and Thesis Supervision
7. Promoting Mental Health at the University
8. Student Parliament ABC