

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Tallinn

May 12th 2026 nr 5

Start of the meeting 18.00, end of the meeting 20.10

Chaired by Karoliine Orav

Minutes secretary Kirke Piiskoppel

14 out of 15 were present: Emma Arabella Jõgeva, Kert Kaarel Veskus, Elis Ulla, Emma Pallase, Michel Viana Smykalla, Dumitru Ciobanu, Mari Kiviselg, Hanelle Kaugerand, Maria Fedulova (MS Teams), Nils-Erik Eisen, Andris Taal, Joonas Teder, Roos-Mari Kivi.

Absent: Pert Salundi

Invited: Kristiina Vene, Leana Jete Korb, Kadri Jürissaar, Kristin Liias, Kristina Keerdo, Lisette Johanson.

Agenda

I Presentations

1. Presentation of the Maritime Academy;

II Approvals

2. Best of the Year Statute;

III Reports

3. Interim Summary of the 2026 Budget;

IV Discussions

4. Summary of the Board's Work;
5. Overview of the Quality of Education Working Group.

The changed agenda was approved unanimously.

1. Presentation and tour of the Maritime Academy

We went on a tour of the EMERA building. Hugo, the Education Manager of the EMERA Student Council, gave the tour.

2. Best of the Year Statute

Karoliine Orav: We have one document that we would like to put forward for approval, which is the Best of the Year Statute. Recognition Events Coordinator Lisette can introduce it, and you can ask questions. Nothing much came from the committee meetings, so I hope you agree to approve it today.

Lisette Johanson: Hello! I am Lisette, and I am the Recognition Events Coordinator at the Student Union. My duties include selecting the Best of the Year, and here, together with the Audit Committee, we decided to make some amendments to the Statute. Mainly, what we changed were the compositions of the committees, to bring in more different opinions and perspectives. Previously, there were only Student Parliament members. We changed it so that the committee chair, meaning the Recognition Events Coordinator, would not have voting rights, so that there would be one neutral person who could guide the discussions. We clarified sentences and made them more understandable. Student Union staff, the Audit Committee, and also the Student Parliament could not be selected as Student of the Year, in order to avoid awarding the title to oneself. Until now, it only stated that Board members could not receive it; we expanded this to all members. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Kristin Liias: We are interested in the opinion of the Student Life Committee regarding the comment “created” and “offered”. Can anyone explain this?

Andris Taal: That was my idea. Previously, it said “pakutud” in Estonian and “added” in English. In my opinion, “offered” also has some value that should be taken into account. If you offer something to the university, then it creates an opportunity, for example, to improve student shadowing; you propose some new system and have worked on it, and the plan has been put in place so that it could be implemented immediately. If the university simply does not accept it, then that is not your fault, because it still has some value. So “offered” could still remain in, so that both would be included. And “offered” should be added in English.

Kristin Liias: This line of discussion also came up yesterday at the Academic Affairs Committee meeting.

Karoliine Orav: In the Academic Affairs Committee, we discussed this point and found that if you use the word “offered”, then you give something, but it is not ready, just as you said — that you come up with something, but it has not been implemented or actually done. So, you still become Student of the Year with the idea that you have already created something of value.

Kristin Liias: We also expected that this would come up. In my mind, “added” and “created” would rather translate as “loodud” and “lisatud”, which are quite synonymous in Estonian. Then it would not work in the Estonian version. I am looking forward to a discussion on this topic.

Mari Kiviselg: I agree with “created”.

Mirtel Migur: “Created” sounds more logical. If there is “created” and “offered”, then it seems a bit like a duplicate entry. I understand the substantive difference that is meant here, but it is still so similar that “created” is sufficient.

Elis Ulla: I think the same. “Offered” is very nice and gives the opportunity to broaden the point, but at the same time, if we are talking about awarding the title of Best of the Year, which is quite specific and is based on what has actually been implemented in reality, then I would rather narrow it down to the word “created”.

Karoliine Orav: Do you want to vote on this amendment as well, or are we all in agreement? Good, we are in agreement. Are there any further questions?

Mirtel Migur: I have a question about 10.6, “the competition manager has the right to collect additional information” — what kind of information is meant? Does this then affect the nomination? Is so-called secret information requested?

Lisette Johanson: This additional information is information that helps make the decision. For many candidates, it is written that they are cool, nice and helpful, but that does not help in making a decision. Then I ask for clarification from the recommender or from the Board members.

Kristin Liias: In practice, it has also been used to break a tie.

Leana Jete Korb: As a member of the Student Parliament two compositions ago, we selected in the same way. When selecting Organisation of the Year, we had two essentially equal candidates, and we sent both of them the same questions, for example, what events they had organised during the year, how many people participated, and so on. We used it as a tie-breaker.

Karoliine Orav: Are there any further thoughts or questions, or do you agree to approve it? Raise your hand if you are against approving this document. If you agree, then do nothing. Great, thank you!

IT WAS DECIDED:

- 1.1. Approve the Statues of the Best of the Year.
- 1.2. The decision takes effect upon adoption.

VOTING RESULT: 14 votes in favor.

3. Interim Summary of the 2026 Budget

Kristiina Vene: I will briefly tell you about the budget implementation period so far, from 1 January to 30 April. There will be one more interim report like this in October. Basically, I highlighted the planned volumes for both sources: 01CV and SCV2. 01CV is for the Student Union’s own activities, such as labour costs, overhead costs, projects, and so on; SCV2 is solely for support to student organisations. I highlighted the planned amounts for the current period and what the actual implementation was. For the most part, expenditure is still low, since the year has only lasted four months. The amount received is exactly the same as I planned. Other income is significantly higher, because it is difficult to forecast in advance, for example student cap sales, and also internal settlements related to the Winter Games. We initially paid the accommodation costs to the Rectorate, and later we were compensated. In that way, the money was received as income. First, I will talk about 01CV and then SCV2. Costs: as you can see, less has been spent on office costs than planned. The difference in labour costs comes from whether there have been sick leaves; there have not yet been any holidays. The former Chairman did not submit a contract report, and therefore the money calculated for remuneration remained unused.

By month, remuneration has seemingly been calculated for the members of the funding competition, but in reality it is paid for half a year, which is where these small differences come from. In general, we are moving along nicely. Regarding projects, 17,550 euros have been spent so far. The majority is still to come. More specifically about projects, if anyone has the budgets in front of them, there is a column called “corrected P”; if I see that one budget increases slightly, then I can reduce another budget in parallel. 17,000 euros had been planned for the Lecturer Gala, but it will definitely not cost that much, because even last year 5,000 euros was left over. So if I see that one cost line or one project wants, or has wanted, more money, then I increase its budget and reduce another one. Within reason. So that there would not be wildly large positives and wildly large negatives. The Quality of Education Working Group: activities have not yet taken place, or if they have, then scholarship payments have not yet been made. Less was spent on the Student Parliament elections. The Lecturer Gala has not yet taken place. In the Mental Health Project budget, Sleep Week has taken place; the larger project, Mental Health Month, will take place in October, so the larger expenses will occur at that time. Voice of Students and decorations of merit have not yet been done. Best of the Year — it can be seen that 3,300 euros is the corrected budget; I increased it slightly, while the initial budget was 3,200 euros.

Kadri Jürissaar: If the Student of the Year scholarship is 500 and the organisation is 1,500, what is the 268?

Kristiina Vene: Some gifts and picture frames went under that. Small things like that. Costs related to awards. Scholarship competition – I paid out the scholarships. The development programme has not taken place. The Kick-off Event and Initiation are all autumn events. There is a small surplus from the Student March to Toompea. EASL, one training has taken place, the rest are still to come. Three sports people from our side are participating. The Summer Games project is ongoing. The first invoice has been paid. With the Winter Games, some invoices come at the end of the year and some at the beginning of the year; it is rotating. So this 1,027 euros was spent on the previous Winter Games, and we will try to spend the remaining 973 on next year’s Winter Games. Ylipall and the SELL Games are coming. Indoor sports have ongoing costs. External projects have not taken place; costs related to championships, for example, go under that. Studioosus is coming; it is published once a year as the freshmen special issue. TURKOM costs — this is the budget line of the TURKOM specialist, platform fees, advertisements.

Joonas Teder: Are these marketing costs the advertising costs of all projects?

Kristiina Vene: It is both yes and no. This line belongs to the TURKOM specialist, but since project marketing and the organisation’s general marketing go through them, some costs go under that line and some under project lines.

Karoliine Orav: The simplest comparison is that if we order posters for an event, then it goes under the project, but if we order Facebook ads, then it goes under the TURKOM line.

Kristiina Vene: The mascot went to dry cleaning. Branding and merchandise costs are coming. Costs related to freshmen bags fall under that – procurement and design. We are working on that. This is a new cost line, with 4,000 euros allocated. The summer off-site for student representatives is coming; the Student Parliament off-site has been done. The staff summer off-site is coming soon; the thank-you evening means a thank-you evening for Student Union members. Internal trainings: otherwise, we have planned one training per semester, but we will not manage it this semester; it will probably take place in the autumn. Team events: that line is solely for Student Union events. We have a motivation

event every month, organised by our members. February, March and April have been organised. May is coming. Student Parliament team events have not yet taken place for you. Moving on to SCV2, the annual plan is 208,000 euros. Support has been allocated in the amount of 110,882 euros. Less has been paid out, because many projects are still ongoing. For the most part, the practice is that the support is received after reporting. This also includes allocations from the Rector's reserve and project competitions. Previously, we had an agreement with Formula Student that we acted as intermediaries for the money, but since the university created central funding under which the larger organisations were placed, that funding moved away from us, and next year I will not plan this cost. Base funding was what we allocate to all faculty student councils for the current year. 2.4 Rector's reserve – 3 have been paid out, 2 are pending. The Rector has their own wallet, a separate buffer. They cannot pay out money from there themselves; we act as intermediaries for the Rector. The Rector issues an order, I receive input from the accountant, and money from the Rector's reserve comes to us, and we pay it to the organisation. These are balanced to zero. Annual support – the initial budget was 70,000, and 39,000 was allocated. The Chairman of the Funding Committee is responsible for allocating this. The remaining funds are in the reserve fund. Five organisations have withdrawn their support on the basis of a letter of guarantee. The January big projects competition has ended, and the May big projects competition has also ended, but it has not yet been evaluated. The budget was 30,000, and less was allocated. The remainder moved to the reserve fund. The March projects have also been completed. A new competition was introduced – the mobility competition. The aim is to support organisations' study trips. And that is actually all from my side. Are there any questions? Okay, then that is good.

4. Summary of the Board's Work

Karoliine Orav: As of today, the Recognition Events Coordinator has completed the Student Union scholarship competition; we awarded 3 scholarships. The thanking of graduates is about to begin. Amendments to the Best of the Year Statute. The nomination of decorations of merit was also launched. The Student Parliament Coordinator has been working on your hoodies; the order has been placed, and you will receive them soon. Updating the Student Parliament ABC is also in progress. The Mental Health Project Coordinator found that, because of other organisations, the ADHD event was pushed far ahead, so we decided to postpone it to the autumn. Maybe it can be held as part of Mental Health Month. Agreements have been made, but we are simply moving it to the next semester. We finally received a positive response regarding the mental health survey. We can now start working on it. Mirtel will also give you a summary of the Quality of Education Working Group. Updating ÕIS feedback. Other activities – Board meetings, Academic Affairs Committee meeting, and we set a regular time, 1:1 meetings. Various cooperation development activities, for example with the Office of Academic Affairs, faculty student councils, and the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs. I am still in NOP and am also trying to work on education marketing. External web steering committee, monthly meetings. Helping with the ÕÕHT campaign. I attended the AI advisory board in place of Sirely. I went on a learning mobility trip to Brussels with EÜL and attended the general meeting. Participation in the work of the Senate and the Academic Affairs Committee. At TUNNE, I was nominated as a nominee for the development of the quality of education in Estonia. What did not go according to plan? Student Parliament Coordinator – the joint event of the old and new Student Parliament, but it will happen; it has been delayed. In the case of the Recognition Events Coordinator, unexpected and urgent tasks have come up. In the case of the Quality of Education Working Group Coordinator, the reports written by members. Comical and creative. For me, people do not reply and do not fulfil their duties, which is

sad. Off-sites and events are taking place at the same time, and there are a lot of responsibilities and activities. Because of that, time planning and coordinating all responsibilities, so that everything gets done. I will also talk about Anna's part. Preparations for the Summer Games, waiting for the Summer Games sports to be announced. Two championships took place: fitness challenge and padel tournament. Beach volleyball, swimming, and updating the athletes' database are coming up. In indoor sports, the student tournament took place, with 14 teams participating. Slip and Flip and Yliramm are coming. The sports monthly newsletter also came out. The Coordinator of Internal and External Relations prepared the summary of the registers. Would you also like a summary about student organisations?

Student Parliament members want a summary of the register data collection.

Karoliine Orav: The Drone Club was approved. We are waiting to see how the Golf Club's first paid event goes. Work is being done on Discord, and office inspections took place.

Mirtel Migur: What are the criteria? How bad does the condition of an office have to be for you to take the rooms away?

Kristiina Vene: The point is that sometimes organisations do not understand that the university does not charge money for utilities or cleaning, but the space still has to be maintained. If it is disgusting and not maintained, then there are consequences. I cannot tell you the exact criteria.

Karoliine Orav: Warnings are usually issued instead.

Hanelle Kaugerand: How often are these inspections carried out?

Karoliine Orav: Once per semester. Then there is the Events Coordinator, who prepared summaries of the Student Parliament and Student Union off-site. The search for a location for the Student Union staff off-site is ongoing. Preparatory activities for the Student Body are slowly underway, as well as preparatory work for the Kick-off Event. Funding: the mobility competition and the May big projects competition were launched. Anna is handling the general management of the field. The golf club drama. We are waiting for Mäering's application. Storage rooms are available and have been allocated. Cooperation with units. Anna is also leading the work on the ÜHIS indicator. Handover to Renee. Meetings with the Student Development Centre. What did not go according to plan? The athletes' database does not work in its current form. Ylisport delayed announcing the sports, making it difficult to put together representative teams within a short period of time. Discord is not yet up as planned. Chairman of the Funding Committee – some concerns with organisations, money, and sustainability. Events Coordinator – the location for the Student Union off-site has not yet been set. For Anna herself, she has not yet had time to deal with the Kick-off Event. The Internal and External Relations position needs to start being reviewed.

Kristiina Vene: A bit less administrative work; in their case, internal and external relations and secretary-assistant duties run in parallel. The idea is that the Internal and External Relations person would deal more with strategy and be more directed towards organisations. The administrative side, which is already handled by the Secretary-Assistant anyway, should be arranged so that the duties form a better unified set.

Kert Kaarel Veskus: What does sustainability and financial concerns among organisations include?

Kristiina Vene: What I have heard is that finances are limited. The quality of applications submitted to competitions is poor. For example, they do not know how to bring in income, and expenses are higher than income.

Kert Kaarel Veskus: So the specifics are not known?

Kristiina Vene: This topic is rather fresh; Anna mentioned it recently. For example, you can ask next time. She is more familiar with it, since Maksim is in her field.

Karoliine Orav: This same topic will probably come up at the next meeting as well. I will try to separately highlight the Chairman's duties as well. Board and staff meetings. I am also helping the new Chairman settle in and involving him. Also involving the new Board. I brought Renee along to the Academic Affairs Committee meeting to introduce the work of the Board. We have slowly also been working on the ÜHIS indicator. Today, I went to defend the Statutes at the Rectorate. They will go to the Senate for approval next Tuesday. Student Union recruitment has also been ongoing. I represented the Student Union at the birthdays of TiVo and MTÜK.

Kristiina Vene: The Executive Manager was on holiday for 3 weeks. I was present less. Immediately before that, I was a member of the scholarship competition committee. Ordering the Student Parliament hoodies was mainly handled by the Secretary; I supported it. A lot of energy went into recruitment. The job advertisements received a new, more professional design. I wrote a blog post and an information letter. Recruitment went live on 13 April. The positions of Juulius Tipikas and IT Coordinator are still unfilled. Yesterday, we extended the recruitment for the third time. Ongoing tasks. The other Kristiina, the TURKOM Specialist. Student Union marketing activities, projects, all marketing materials go through her. Our first branding survey also went live; she prepared the survey. The point is to understand how students perceive the Student Union. Her goal was 250 responses, and she received over 300. We are analysing the responses. We will definitely get ideas about what to work on next academic year that would be more connected to our strategy. If we can improve our reputation, then we will also have more applicants. Freshmen Bags project: we gave students the opportunity to submit cool ideas. The rounds have been completed, and one has been selected. Small design adjustments are ongoing. The Advertising Coordinator has done a great job advertising both us and the projects. What did not go according to plan – we had to extend recruitment too many times, but at the same time, it is nice that some positions received more than one candidate. That is all from my side.

Hanelle Kaugerand: What happens if a position remains unfilled?

Kristiina Vene: That is a very good question. In the case of Juulius Tipikas, if there is no way, then somehow there will still be a way. In the case of the IT Coordinator, I do not know. We will see what happens. Whether we talk with the current person or come up with something else. We have had our members promote it in the School of Information Technologies. The downside is that we are a volunteer organisation, and there are very specific requirements. Our good fortune has been that we have had an IT person with a degree who actually works in the field.

Karoliine Orav: I will ask you, and I hope you have thought about this. What do you think: do you want to continue with monthly Board summaries? Do you want them every 2–3 months? Do you want us to send the presentation? Or is there some other suggestion? How do you want the Board to report to you?

Elis Ulla: In itself, once a month is very good, especially because it provides an opportunity to highlight problems that have been relevant during the month. They come out very clearly and might not otherwise come out. The same goes for positive things. It gives a good reference point and allows us to analyse which groups are doing well and where things are going worse, and so on. It really helps me orient myself.

Andris Taal: I agree, but I would suggest making the presentation part shorter. Keep the information on the slides the same, but if we have looked at it beforehand, then there is no need to talk about it in such detail.

Dumitru Ciobanu: Once a month would be very good. It genuinely improves understanding of what is currently happening. I support presenting it once a month.

Kert Kaarel Veskus: If we moved to every 2–3 months, then those presentations would become too long. If we continue with Andris's suggestion, then maybe it could be done every couple of months, but I think that if they are as extensive as this one, then I would recommend keeping it once a month.

Karoliine Orav: Understood, then we will keep it once a month.

5. Overview of the Quality of Education Working Group

Mirtel Migur: Hello! I will talk about the work of the Quality of Education Working Group. It has been quite a long-running project. The aim is to help improve the quality of education through constructive feedback and to develop a culture of giving, receiving and implementing feedback at the university. The nature of the working group's work has changed. A few years ago, students prepared a report based on ÕIS feedback. In other words, it was simply duplicating information, which did not add anything new. The aim is to raise awareness among students of the importance of feedback. The main focus has not yet gone there. It takes place in cooperation with the faculty student councils, more specifically with the education managers, who mainly help disseminate information. The working group consists of 12 members – the Project Manager and students from all schools. The change compared to previous semesters is that the main content of the Quality of Education Working Group is conducting interviews and writing reports. Input on curricula comes from the Vice-Deans for Academic Affairs. We write reports, which then go to the Vice-Deans for Academic Affairs, the Office of Academic Affairs and Programme Directors as input. The aim is not to duplicate ÕIS, but to provide additional input from students. We can ask broader questions that would otherwise not come out of ÕIS. On average, 6 interviews were conducted per curriculum. Last semester, 3 interviews were conducted. Even then, it was difficult to find interviewees, so the new target was optimistic. But surprisingly, most schools managed to reach 6. We worked on this for two months. Usually, the activity takes place more towards the beginning of the semester; the Office of Academic Affairs organised interview training for us this year, which is why we started later, but that is bad, because everyone's studies started. Summaries were written for 20 curricula: 3 from the School of Business and Governance, 1 from the School of Science, 6 from the School of Information Technologies, 8 from the School of Engineering, and 2 from the Estonian Maritime Academy. Only in the School of Business and Governance were we unable to find enough interviewees. What do students value? Clear structure – curricula where basic courses support later specialised courses. Transparent course organisation – a clear Moodle environment, deadlines and assessment criteria communicated at the beginning of the semester. Supportive lecturers – lecturers' flexibility towards students, explanations, and connecting

theory with real life. Specific names could be highlighted separately. Nowhere was it the case that there were no great lecturers, which is very positive. Students do not want “easier” studies, but a well-managed and supported learning process. They did not want workload to mean struggling alone. Concerns: uneven distribution of workload across the semester and between semesters. Mismatch between ECTS credits and workload. Some courses could be moved around. It was even suggested that there could be courses worth 2 or 7 ECTS credits. I had a meeting with the Office of Academic Affairs this morning; ECTS credits are not adjusted by number, but the content/workload of the course is adjusted. Therefore, this is an unrealistic wish. The lecturer is responsible for the ECTS credits. A lack of guidelines for using AI came up in quite a few reports. In the School of Information Technologies, it came out that lecturers use AI excessively when giving feedback to students. It is problematic from both sides. Lack of shared communication channels; there could be a communication channel between different year groups of the same speciality, and also with the Programme Director. Ago Lundberg’s Discord channel was mentioned. Students would very much like this and would also like to see initiative from the Programme Director. Lack of practical training and not being prepared for working life. This is very sad, since TalTech itself promotes this. Deficiencies in the learning environment and materials, Soviet-era slides. Lack of clarity regarding the aim of the course. Critical problems also emerged: there is a wish to replace lecturers. Problematic courses, for example Fundamentals of IT I and II, require restructuring. In geodesy, there are Soviet-era study materials. There are more courses and lecturers, but these were mentioned the most. A question for you. Students proposed the idea of a break week, because in certain weeks, for example week 8, the workload is very high. Kersti was fully in favour and said, go talk to the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs about this; it helps students graduate within the nominal study period. The positive side is that students can rest and catch up on assignments, but the negative side is that both semesters would become longer.

Kert Kaarel Veskus: I know that in one of our programming courses, there is such a week where no new material is taught. You can catch up on things, but I do not know how the workload is distributed there. Other courses continue, but in one course you do not have to do anything. I have heard that, for example, EKA has something like this.

Mirtel Migur: TLÜ also has it.

Hanelle Kaugerand: I especially find that this would be needed in spring, when there is no Christmas before the exam session. Sometimes so many tests pile up in the middle of the semester that you essentially have something like an exam session in the middle of the semester, while also having to study other things at university. This is a very good idea.

Mirtel Migur: We will look into it and start pushing it gradually. But the fact that one additional week would be added, and we would instead start university earlier in August — does that not bother you?

Elis Ulla: In my field, law, we already finish quite early. There are three exam date options, and none of them go beyond May. They want international students to be able to go home earlier, but I believe that one week would not make anything terrible happen in other fields. Especially if it removes the situation where you have so many things to do that you cannot take the exam on the first attempt because there is so much other coursework at the same time.

Leana Jete Korb: In my own field, I do not feel that this break week would help. If project deadlines are at the end of the semester anyway, then the workload inevitably falls at the end of the semester. I see that a break week could also make things worse, also from the lecturers’ perspective. Maybe, in the

case of smaller courses, it would be better to popularise the idea that they last 8 weeks. They would end halfway through the semester. This would reduce the workload at the end of the semester. I think that would soften the situation more than giving one additional free week. Knowing students, the fact that they are busy at the end of the semester will not change.

Elis Ulla: Do you mean a situation where the planned classes in a course end 4 weeks before the exam takes place? Move the graded assessment closer to the moment when the planned classes end, so those could be completed earlier, and then the assignments for longer courses would follow.

Leana Jete Korb: I will clarify that, for example, we have 3 ECTS courses where there could be 3 hours of classes per week during the first 8 weeks. As an engineering student, I have a lot of project-based courses, meaning that projects could be handed out earlier. The time for completing the project would remain the same, but the number of projects being worked on at the same time would decrease.

Kert Kaarel Veskus: I agree with the idea regarding 3 ECTS courses, but I think that most people are still busy at the end of the semester. In my opinion, that is not the point of the break week. The point would be a reduction in pressure; if needed, they can catch up. A brief rest, rather than full speed all the way and then being completely exhausted by the end of the semester.

Mari Kiviselg: The idea itself is good, but personally, and based on fellow students, during the Christmas break you can feel that when the exam session begins, everything is fine for the first week and then the rest runs out. From my own example, I know that the exam session gets very busy. I would rather see it as a positive addition. I do not believe that it would create one additional week of work.

Kristiina Vene: Psychologically, you can think that there is a break week and there is rest, but how much of it is actually rest? When you are on the wheel, it is easier to cope. I cannot speak for difficult fields. You wait for that rest, the rest comes, but at the same time, in the back of your mind, you know that next week everything will continue in the same way.

Leana Jete Korb: I second Kristiina's thought. Even when I have consciously taken days during the semester to rest, it has not worked for me personally. I do not feel that I can rest until the grades are in. I feel that I would not rest during the break week, even if I consciously took time off.

Kadri Jürissaar: From a practical perspective, I would draw attention to where this break week should be placed. If we start the autumn semester one week earlier, then orientation week moves to mid-August. Are we willing to start operating from mid-August, considering that summer in Estonia is short? Does this also mean that the exam session week at the end of the autumn semester would be removed? From an employee's perspective, I would say that graduation ceremonies cannot be moved anywhere anymore; they are already very compressed because they must be completed before Midsummer. Also from another perspective, where would these two weeks be taken from — at the expense of Christmas? I believe we do not want that.

Andris Taal: Personally, I think that spring semesters have been more demanding than autumn semesters. If this were introduced in autumn, then adding a week at the beginning or at the end seems unrealistic. The beginning of spring is the only place where this week could be added. I propose a compromise – this week could be such that deadlines and consultations may still remain, but planned lectures and laboratory work would not take place. Instead, there would be an opportunity to catch

up, a kind of support week. Deadlines for homework would remain, so that studies would continue smoothly, but there would be no attendance at lectures.

Mirtel Migur: I will take one last comment, because I need input on whether to continue working on this.

Kert Kaarel Veskus: I agree with Andris; the spring semester is where this is needed. The idea of the Office of Academic Affairs is that more students would graduate within the nominal study period. I believe that should not be the main point. If students can manage anyway, then great, but they are not really the target group for whom we would create this break week. It would help more those who have fallen behind. Those who would otherwise not graduate within the nominal study period would get this small pause.

Mari Kiviselg: Do not advertise it as a break week, but as a “self-study” week. So that it would not be presented as a rest week, because one week really does not provide rest, but rather: now take things in hand and get them in order. More like an additional support measure.

Hanelle Kaugerand: I find that for those who have everything in order and who come from farther away, it gives them an opportunity to go home.

Nils Erik Eisen: In the autumn semester, many things are in the last two weeks, and you can use the Christmas break for studying and recovering. In the spring semester, there is no such pause where you could go from the last tests straight to the exam with a break in between. There is more continuous studying.

Mirtel Migur: Would you suggest that the break week could be between contact learning and the exam session?

Nils Erik Eisen: It does not necessarily have to be between them.

Andris Taal: One thing that has a much bigger impact on men in spring is Spring Storm. This would provide some relief. For example, I am going on Thursday, and now I have three days to do two weeks’ worth of work. For example, I will come back in a couple of weeks, and by then the exam period will already be underway, and I will miss a couple of exams.

Elis Ulla: I just looked at the academic calendar of TLÜ, for example, and their semesters start and end on exactly the same dates, but they have a break week.

Mirtel Migur: Before moving on, we should also ask other universities how this works. This idea came directly from the reports, so there has not yet been time to do background work on it.

Kadri Jürissaar: I would add a recommendation, since this concerns almost 10,000 students. If someone asks who decided and why it was changed, so that it would not be the case that 15 people decided, then conduct a quick survey in ÕIS to show that students themselves decided.

Mirtel Migur: Moving on, we will now send the reports to Programme Directors. We hope they will take them into account and that changes will come. But those changes may also only come in 3 years.

Regarding the Quality of Education Working Group team, I am collecting feedback and we will also have a motivation event. That is all. Thank you!

Karoliine Orav
Juhataja

Kirke Piiskoppel
Protokollija