TALLINNA TEHNIKAÜLIKOOL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Tallinn October 15, 2026 no 3

Start of the meeting 18.00, end of the meeting 18.40

Chaired by Rain Samarüütel
Minutes secretary: Kirke Piiskoppel
15 out of 15 were present: Roosi-Mari Kivi, Elis Ulla, Michel Viana Smykalla, Pert Salundi, Joonas Teder, Andris Taal, Emma Pallase (MS Teams), Mari Kiviselg (MS Teams), Maria Fedulova (MS Teams), Nils Erik Eisen (MS Teams), Kert Kaarel Veskus, Emma Arabella Jõgeva, Mirtel Migur (MS Teams), Dumitru Ciobanu (MS Teams), Hanelle Kaugerand.
Absent:
Invited: Adeele Maria Rosenberg, Adanna Kull, Ander Mägi, Laur Leemets, Renee Maripuu, Karoliine Orav, Kristin Liias, Maksim Dolinin, Emili Järv, Hanna Savolainen.

Agenda

I Elections

1. Election of the Board Member in the Field of Student Life.

The agenda was approved unanimously.

1. Election of the Board Member in the Field of Student Life

Rain Samarüütel: Good evening, everyone! Let us begin today's election. I will explain in more detail how the process will work. First, I will give a brief introduction to the role of the Board Member for Student Life. Then both candidates will have 3–5 minutes to introduce themselves. After that, there will be an opportunity to give speeches in support of or against either candidate. The Representative Council will then have the opportunity to ask questions, followed by questions from those present in the room. After that, we will proceed to the vote. Hopefully, we will find ourselves a new Head of Student Life today. Now, a brief introduction to the role. What are the main responsibilities? Representing the TalTech student body, attending all major events, and sometimes also being the public face of the student community. Coordinating student life events, such as the opening orienteering event. The student community's birthday celebration and all sports events organised by

the Student Union also fall within this area. Funding is also part of the role, including organising project competitions together with the Chair of the Funding Committee. The role also includes membership of the Funding Committee. This person is the main link between student organisations and the Student Union. They lead meetings with organisation boards during the summer. They also lead the Student Life team, which consists of nine people. In addition, they develop cooperation with various structural units of TalTech. Adanna Kull will be the first to introduce herself.

Adanna Kull: Distinguished members of the Student Union Board, members and guests. My name is Adanna Kull, and I am a first-year student of Logistics and Mobility. I am running for the position of Board Member for Student Life because I believe student life plays a very important role in the university experience. It is not just about events and leisure time, but also an opportunity to develop oneself, build connections, and become an active and enterprising person. It is important to me to create opportunities for all students to get involved in university life, including first-year students. When I first looked at the student activities on the university website, albeit rather superficially, I was impressed by TalTech because the institution does everything possible to ensure that acquiring knowledge and skills, as well as student life, is enriching and offers a diverse range of opportunities. The involvement of students in various decision-making processes deserves recognition, as TalTech has many successful and well-functioning organisations and numerous opportunities for extracurricular activities. Although information is shared, it does not reach everyone, especially first-year students. I would like to contribute to activities that help us reach less active students who would also like to participate in organisational activities. This would help students integrate into student life more smoothly. I also consider teamwork and support for student organisations important. Organisations offer opportunities to gain practical experience that lectures do not always provide. I would like to help make cooperation between organisations more effective and make it easier for active students to bring their ideas to life. In addition, I believe student life and studies should complement each other. Student life should not be something separate from academic work, but rather an opportunity to develop leadership, communication, project management and teamwork skills that will also be useful in future working life. I would be interested in organising a university-wide autumn hike, bringing together students from different faculties so they could get to know one another better. I would like to make this physical activity more educational by cooperating with different faculties. This would certainly help foster a sense of unity and belonging to the university. I believe my previous experience has given me good preparation for this role. I have worked as a team leader at a cruise terminal, where I was responsible for guiding people, coordinating the team and solving problems. In addition, during upper secondary school, I worked as a project manager and programme manager for various events and participated in organising and running numerous school events. These experiences have taught me to take responsibility, cooperate, communicate and turn ideas into reality. I believe these skills are necessary for a Board Member for Student Life. Although I am in my first year at TalTech and certainly do not know everything yet, I am confident that I can quickly understand how the systems work and adapt to the circumstances. I know that applying for this position is a bold step, but I believe taking on challenges is part of my university journey. I want to be a Board Member who listens to students, encourages active discussions and helps create a cohesive and developing student community. I believe my experience and motivation will allow me to make a meaningful contribution to this role. Thank you!

Rain Samarüütel: Adanna, you can remain here at the front. And now, Renee, it is your turn.

Renee Maripuu: Hello! Dear Student Union Board, Representative Council and everyone else present in the room. My name is Renee; it is a pleasure to meet you. I am currently in my fourth year of studies. I could have graduated in the spring, but unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond my control, that was not possible. I had planned to begin studying Leadership and Management this year so that the position in student life and my studies could go hand in hand. However, I now plan to graduate in the autumn and then enrol in the Leadership programme in the summer to expand my knowledge and apply it in the field of student life. Why do I want to become Head of Student Life once again? The reason is simple. I have observed student life at TalTech for approximately four years. I have seen the work of the Student Union from both the inside and the outside — from the outside for half a year and from the inside for three years. I know very well that visibility remains one of the Student Union's biggest problems. I believe the Student Union Board has made a major effort this year to improve its visibility, and I want to contribute significantly to that effort myself. I also have a very good overview of what is happening at TalTech and would like to optimise these processes further. In addition, my ability to cooperate with different departments, types of people, student organisations, cultural groups and employees is broad enough that I could continue contributing to the development of the student community. Thank you!

Rain Samarüütel: If anyone would like to give a speech in support of or against Adanna, now is the time. Would anyone like to? It seems not. Would anyone like to give a speech in support of Renee?

Laur Leemets: There are few people who do not know Renee Maripuu. She is always busy somewhere, organising something or helping someone. The position of Head of Student Life requires solving many problems at once, decisiveness and adaptability. I can confidently say that Renee possesses these qualities. Since arriving at the university, Renee has been an active student, organising countless events and bringing people together. There have certainly been both successes and mistakes along the way, but by learning from them, she has grown into someone who anticipates problems and resolves them. I believe that as Head of Student Life, Renee will use her experience to make student life at TalTech even better. Renee does not do things out of obligation, but out of passion. And that is exactly the kind of person we need to lead our student life. Thank you!

Rain Samarüütel: Would anyone like to speak against Renee? All right, then we ask both candidates to come back to the front and prepare themselves for the Representative Council's questions.

Andris Taal: I would like to mention in advance that we prepared a document with the Representative Council containing a collection of questions. I will ask the questions on behalf of everyone. We will start with Adanna. My first question to you: this role involves many responsibilities and a substantial workload. Are you prepared to give up or reduce the amount of free time you currently have?

Adanna Kull: My summer job was working with the team. I am no longer doing that because I had to give up the job due to an injury. I am currently looking for activities to fill my free time anyway, and I have wanted to devote myself one hundred per cent to the university, whether through the Student Union or another organisation. I have taken this into account very carefully.

Andris Taal: All right. Renee, a question for you: looking back on your time on the Board, what could you have done differently? And what, if anything, do you plan to retain or change in your working principles?

Renee Maripuu: I have learned a hard lesson that sometimes even three pairs of eyes are not enough, and sometimes an email should be reviewed by as many as nine pairs of eyes. That is the main thing.

Andris Taal: Thank you! Adanna, you mentioned in your motivation letter that you see room for improvement because there are currently not enough informal events where students from different institutes can meet. Do you already have any concrete ideas for such events, besides the autumn hike you mentioned in your motivation letter?

Adanna Kull: At the moment, that is the only idea I have come up with, because I have not yet had the opportunity to see everything. However, I have also been in contact with INSÜK, and it bothered me somewhat that all the faculties seem to be rivals to one another. My goal would be to help us cooperate. We are one university.

Andris Taal: All right, thank you! Renee, the role involves a lot of work and responsibilities. Are you prepared to give up or reduce the amount of free time you have had until now?

Renee Maripuu: My free time is essentially the work I do for the Student Union. The rest of my time goes towards studying and sports. I have not had any problems finding time for meetings or other Student Union responsibilities.

Andris Taal: Adanna, you have a lot of experience from upper secondary school and before that, but do you understand the differences between organising events in upper secondary school and at university, considering the scale, workload, number of events and budgets?

Adanna Kull: Everything is certainly many times larger. Financially, the amounts are much bigger, and the preparatory work is definitely more extensive. I have come to understand that if I come from a school with approximately 300 students to a university where we are talking about thousands, the workload is many times greater than what I have done previously. I have taken that into account.

Andris Taal: Thank you! Renee, during this couple of weeks of rest, have you started regretting or reconsidering your decision to run?

Renee Maripuu: Do you mean running now or previously?

Andris Taal: Now.

Renee Maripuu: Absolutely not. It has been a good break to gather my thoughts and return with positive energy.

Andris Taal: Thank you! Adanna, have you spoken with former or current Board Members?

Adanna Kull: Unfortunately, I have not had any contact with them.

Andris Taal: Is there a reason for that, or do you plan to do so?

Adanna Kull: I have mainly asked Renee about the position. That has been my entire contact with the Student Union Board. I think the reason was also that my university studies began with me being unable to attend classes for two weeks, so my start at university was somewhat disrupted. My main goal was to get back on track as quickly as possible. As for why I considered coming here in the first

place, I like trying things. Even if it goes badly, it goes badly, but I enjoy the process, and it has already been a very positive experience so far.

Andris Taal: Thank you! Renee, what do you think are currently the biggest problems or shortcomings within the student community?

Renee Maripuu: A major problem is communication between different departments. To a large extent, this was the reason for creating a position such as Administrative Manager, who could help address this problem.

Andris Taal: Adanna, do you think being a first-year student is more of an advantage or a disadvantage, and why?

Adanna Kull: It is certainly a disadvantage to some extent, because I am not yet familiar with everything university life has to offer. However, as I mentioned, there are certain shortcomings in how first-year students are introduced to student life. Since I have just experienced this myself, it is an advantage when it comes to understanding how they could become involved in student life more easily.

Andris Taal: Renee, do you already have some concrete ideas for achieving your goals?

Renee Maripuu: Of course. One example is increasing the Student Union's visibility. I already started working on this during my previous term by organising more public events rather than only closed events. This gives people a genuine opportunity to see the Student Union instead of merely observing from a distance that the Student Union is doing something somewhere out of sight.

Andris Taal: Adanna, in your opinion, how does this position differ from your previous experience?

Adanna Kull: Previously, I was very involved in events. From what I have understood about the responsibilities of this position, the main difference is that the work is continuous rather than project-based. You have to support organisations and solve their problems. The biggest difference is the amount of communication, particularly with student organisations.

Andris Taal: Renee, what would you consider your weaknesses, and why?

Renee Maripuu: I am a very ambitious person and take on many different ambitions at once. Perhaps I should focus on one thing at a time and finish it before taking on something new.

Andris Taal: Do you plan to work on that?

Renee Maripuu: This has been improving steadily. I no longer say yes to everything. After becoming a Student Union Board Member, I stopped being involved in other organisations and units at TalTech that I had previously been part of.

Andris Taal: Adanna, the same question to you. What are your weaknesses, and why?

Adanna Kull: I think my weakness is that I want to do many things at once. It is somewhat similar to Renee's situation: I want to do a lot of things and accomplish a lot.

Andris Taal: Renee, you mentioned wanting to reduce bureaucracy for student organisations and provide practical support. How do you plan to achieve this?

Renee Maripuu: We have a useful budget line intended for training the boards of organisations, but it has not been used very much. There is a lot of potential to organise training sessions and bring organisations closer together. This would also encourage cooperation and develop competencies, making the bureaucratic side of things simpler and easier to understand.

Andris Taal: Do you have any specific training sessions or ideas for how to use this funding?

Renee Maripuu: The first training session is definitely going to be about funding. Later, perhaps something related to event management.

Andris Taal: Adanna, you mentioned that your work experience taught you how to resolve situations and respond quickly. Could you give a concrete example of how you did this?

Adanna Kull: When working with cruise ships, the weather is unpredictable. You never know whether a ship will arrive today, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow or not at all. We had a situation where a ship decided to arrive three hours later than planned. Our entire system, schedules and timings had to be shifted by three hours so that people could get to work at the right time. We had to solve the problem quickly. We found out at five in the afternoon, and by nine o'clock, it was clear what would happen the following day.

Andris Taal: Renee, you mentioned in your motivation letter that TalTech should provide top-level higher education supported by a sense of belonging and strong student life. What does a sense of belonging mean to you?

Renee Maripuu: Within TalTech, it means that lecturers treat students humanely and students treat lecturers humanely. It means mutual understanding that everyone is human and that we are all working towards a common goal.

Rain Samarüütel: Have any questions come in through Teams in the meantime?

Andris Taal: Adanna, one of the values in the student community's development plan is a sense of belonging. What does that mean to you?

Adanna Kull: Similar to Renee's answer, it means that lecturers and students get along and do not feel uncomfortable around one another. Students genuinely want to come to university to study, enjoy the experience and have people at university with whom they want to achieve something. Everyone supports someone.

Andris Taal: One more question. Being on the Board involves a great deal of teamwork. How would you assess your own teamwork skills, and can you give any examples?

Adanna Kull: My greatest strength is that I really enjoy communicating with people. Since I have worked as a project manager and assigned different tasks to people, I have had to communicate a great deal. The same applies to my work as a programme manager. My main responsibilities have involved coordinating a team.

Rain Samarüütel: Have any questions come up from those in the room? I will also check in with the Representative Council to see where everyone stands. Would you like to ask anything else, or are you ready to vote?

Elis Ulla: A question for Adanna. You are in your first year at university. For many degree programmes, the first year involves studying core subjects, and the workload can sometimes feel greater. If you were elected and suddenly had two new things on your plate — a new position in the Student Union and a new degree programme — which would you prioritise?

Adanna Kull: I would prioritise the Student Union, because I have always enjoyed more interesting projects, and I have always managed to keep up with my studies as well.

Andris Taal: The same question for Renee.

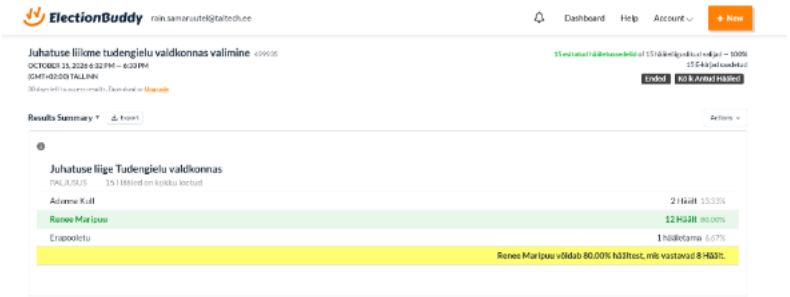
Renee Maripuu: I would put it this way: neither the Rector's Office nor any other university unit aims to create a situation in which someone has to delay graduation beyond the nominal study period because of student life responsibilities. I would prioritise my studies, but that would not mean neglecting my work in the Student Union, because I have fellow Board Members and staff. It is only human to go through periods when things are more difficult.

Rain Samarüütel: Is the Representative Council ready to vote?

IT WAS DECIDED:

2.1 To elect Renee Maripuu as the Board Member in the Field of Student Life, mandate from october 15 2026 until June 30th 2028. 2.2 The decision takes effect upon adoption. VOTING RESULT: Renee Maripuu - 12 votes in favor, Adanna Kull – 2 votes in favour, 1 impartial.

An excerpt from the Election Buddy platform:



Rain Samarüütel

Kirke Piiskoppel

TALLINNA TEHNIKAÜLIKOOL

Chairman of the meeting

Minutes secretary