



TYU Mid-year report 2024

1. Introduction

The mid-year report consists of two parts: plan of action projects and mid-year reviews of the sectors. The part dealing with plan of action projects includes measures with which projects have been implemented as well as an assessment on the realisation of the goal state. The mid-year review of the sectors deals with activities outside the plan of action of the sectors.

2. Projects in the plan of action

2.1. Influence and promotion of student interests

2.1.1. Feedback on competence and return feedback

Implemented measures

We have participated in the discussion with university actors in the feedback team, Teaching Council and OHO. Teaching and feedback practices have been discussed both with faculty leadership and related working groups. The importance of feedback has been emphasised and particularly the quality of the feedback has been called for.

In addition to advancing Master's feedback in the spring in the Developing of evaluation at the University of Turku working group, in Opetuki, the aim during the summer is to review all feedback provision instructions in detail while updating them. In addition, the working group has discussed the more effective utilisation of the collected feedback and the possibility to provide return feedback; for the latter, the HowULearn learning environment used at the University of Helsinki is also reviewed for Turku. In addition, the impact of AI on the assessment of teaching has been discussed, together with related instructions for the teaching staff.

Communicational campaign to raise the feedback percentages has not been made by the Student Union, since the timing of the questionnaire remained unclear. It has been discussed with the university management, communicational staff and academic affairs representatives of organisations on how communications and feedback practices could be brought closer to students.

Reaching the goal state

The university has piloted Master's feedback in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The development of teaching and counselling practices takes into account the role of feedback and the development group for counselling has prepared new minimum requirements for counselling.

2.1.2. Creating a service guide

The Sector for Social Affairs started together with the Communications sector a project in January. The target group and purpose of the Service Guide were formed and the contents were written in the form to be finalised. The project will be ready in the new term, when the guide is adopted.

2.1.3. Familiarising with student services

Events related to the equality theme were organised in April during the national students' mental health week. The events were organised together with the university On my mind activities and Student City Turku granted funding for TYU's part for the event plans. A well-being market was organised during the week, inviting different organisations to present services supporting the university students' well-being. In addition, Key Note speaker Dakota Robin talked about inclusivity and experiences of being different.

During the week, an accessibility working group was organised together with the university Well-being Services in Arcanum, Rauma well-being day was visited and a day trip to Kurjenrahka national park was organised.

2.1.4. European Parliamentary Elections and Europe Forum 2024

Before the European Parliamentary elections, we distributed campaign material produced by SYL. We aimed to organise a panel, but it was cancelled due to lack of participants.



Europe Forum will only be organised after the preparation of this document and discussed in the Annual Report.

2.1.5. Determining the carbon footprint of TYY and setting responsibility objectives

During the spring, the Environmental Sector has discussed biodiversity calculation with the university and TYY's possible participation therein. At the same time, measuring TYY's own carbon footprint has been prepared, but the actual measurement has waited for the progress of the biodiversity project due to their possible connections.

Responsibility objectives have been set as part of the update of TYY Environmental Programme. The update will be more specifically discussed in the other activities of the sector.

2.1.6. Increasing student influence in Unica restaurants

Several discussions were held with Unica restaurant chefs on the activity of the restaurant committees and ensuring student representation in the restaurants of the entire campus area. Not all restaurants have restaurant committees but the aim of the project is to have permanent student representation in the committees.

2.1.7. Improving the services of the doctoral researchers

A meeting was organised with organisations representing doctoral researchers in April. In the meeting, TYY presented its activities and it was planned how the Student Union and the organisations of doctoral researchers could better cooperate in the future. The objective of the plan of action project is extending occupational healthcare to all doctoral researchers is challenging in the current economic situation of the university. However, upholding issues related to the well-being of doctoral researchers and making new openings is important promotion of the group's interests.



2.1.8. Updating the Equality Programme

The regular Student Union Council discussion on the Equality Programme was scheduled in autumn meetings. The actual preparatory work of the programme was, however, started in the beginning of the year, when perspectives and wishes for the topic were requested in the social affairs council and the meetings of the Equality Wing.

2.2. Promoting communality

2.2.1. Student representatives at the heart of the university

Realised measures

We have created a Discord channel for the student representatives in administration for informational and discussion purposes.

In the spring, meetings have been organised with each faculty coordinator of the student representatives in the administration. As a result of the change of the Specialist for Academic Affairs, trainings were not organised in the spring.

TYU has organised academic affairs councils regularly. They have discussed topical matters, such as the update of the University Strategy, facility issues and the reform of the funding model.

Reaching the goal state

Discord channel has been created and contents have been produced but the activity of the channel is low.

Meetings have been held but trainings have not been organised in the spring.

2.2.2. Developing the activities of EC2U alliance

In 2024, at the start of the new funding period, the alliance student activities and participation has improved. An official Student Council was

established in the alliance, and TYY Executive Board Member for International Affairs has participated therein. In addition, members of the Student Council also participate in the meetings of the steering group of the alliance. Along with the Student Council, a student representative also participates in the alliance "Working Package" and thus the voice of students becomes more vocal in different levels of the alliance.

In addition, TYY has actively participated in the alliance events, including student week organised from 15 to 17 May in Iac, in which two members of TYY Executive Board participated.

2.2.3. The integration of international students as a united part of the Finnish society

The integration of international students has been promoted in many different fora. The theme has been actively present at Rector's lunches and in the meeting of the International steering group. The Executive Board met university working life services, and the event also discussed the employment of international students.

The importance of integration has also been communicated towards the organisations and they have been trained, among other issues, to bilingualism in the meetings of the International Council.

2.2.4. Developing volunteer activities

Implemented measures

Wing actors have wished for more cooperation between the Wings. In the autumn, in connection with the recruitment of new voluntary Wing actors, a Wing reform is conducted, combining TYY Wings into one big volunteer group. This new structure is internally divided into themes in the manner purposeful for the activities. The Wing reform will be developed in late spring and early summer on the basis of the feedback collected from the Wings.

Reaching the goal state



The new core team to be recruited in the autumn 2024 will develop and establish the reformed activities. The purpose is that the roles of the Executive Board Member for Volunteers and Executive Board Members responsible for other sectors relevant for volunteering are developed in acting with the volunteers in order to make the cooperation more fluent and the support for volunteers clearer. The objective is that increasing cooperation adds communality and facilitates work with more actors. The Wing reform includes a plan of connecting the projects of the traditional projects of Wings and an annual planning cycle helping with the coordination and scheduling of the activities.

2.3. Services for the members and organisations

2.3.1. Establishing the organisational survey

Implemented measures

A questionnaire was conducted for the organisations in late spring, the main theme of which was TYU communication to organisations. In the same questionnaire, also other topical matters were reviewed and feedback was collected on TYU trainings and services. 41 organisations responded to the survey.

2.3.2. Adapting the training to Satakunta

Realised measures

During the spring, discussion has been held with relevant people on how TYU services would best work for organisations in Satakunta. At the same time, a review has been launched on more active visits at Satakunta campuses and future visits have been planned. Hybrid trainings have been the norm in trainings.

Reaching the goal state

Reaching a better and permanent change still requires a more specific

review and the creation of a cross-annual model. Review on possible monthly visits will be made in the autumn.

2.3.3. Developing the communication platform for organisational actors

Realised measures

During the year, we have promoted the communication targeted at organisational actors alongside many other channels also at the Discord channel of the Student Union of the University of Turku. We have actively promoted the use of Discord for organisational actors and clarified the purpose of the server for the representatives of the organisations. The entire Office has been encouraged to adopt Discord as part of the sector's communication in order to make the application useful and attractive channel for the organisational actors.

Reaching the goal state

By 3 June 2024, 174 persons have joined the Discord server and the number has moderately increased after the start. It was assumed that the use of Discord among organisational actors starts delayed, but the introduction was a while ago and despite the measures supporting its use, it is still very little used. However, for organisational actors, the use of Discord has been very rare. Centralising progressively TYY communications in Discord as the main communication channel has not worked as hoped. The simultaneous use of many communication platforms has made communication laborious and unclear, although the adoption of Discord was aimed to centralise TYY communication channels in one platform and to create one unified and clear communication channel to work in all sectors.

The unclarity has been aimed at reducing by sharing the same messages in all channels - email, website, Telegram groups and Discord. However, this has caused additional burden for those communicating without significant improvement in the outreach of the messages. In order for the use of Discord to become established, communication should mainly focus in Discord.

Based on the feedback from Communication and the little use of Discord it seems that it would be good to focus on other communication channels preferred by the organisational actors in the future.

2.3.4. Promoting the Premises Plan

Implemented measures

The project has not progressed as plans during 2024 due to staff changes. There is no longer a Specialist for Premises and Community, but the tasks have been divided between the Specialist for Academic Affairs, the Member Service Coordinator and the Secretary General.

Main emphasis for the premises has been in the University Facility Programme, which, if implemented, will significantly impact also the premises of the organisations operating in university facilities.

In accordance with its Facility Programme, the university established two working groups to prepare plans especially for lower campus facilities. The tasks of the first working group was to review the possibility to move Turku Teacher Training School from Varissuo to Educarium - this working group submitted the final report by the end of April. The other working group will continue until the end of August, and its task is to wider plan the use of the lower campus facilities if the Teacher Training School is moved to the area. TYU has also been represented in both working groups. The University Board moved the decision-making on the transfer of the Teacher Training School to its June meeting and requested statements from the faculties, the City of Turku and TYU for its additional review. TYU provided its statement in late May.

A facility working group will be established in autumn 2024 and its tasks will also be to reform the rent support system together with organisations.

The equipment of the Q House is aimed to be maintained at least as it is, meaning, for example, the purchase of new tables in the premises. The rent conditions of the premises will be updated during summer 2024.

2.3.5. Developing the activity support



Implemented measures

The spring of the Support Committee has gone in checking applications and thinking preliminarily about new criteria.

Reaching the goal state

The Support Committee will create the following criteria by the end of September, and they will be used for the next two years. The criteria will be distributed to organisations once they are ready, that is, in the beginning of October.

2.4. Stakeholders

2.4.1. Students at the heart of City and regional policy

Implemented measures

R40k cooperation has been developed. Meetings have been organised and communication channels created. The activities of the group have been planned for the autumn.

A municipal survey has been realised and extended to partly also cover the services of the Well-being County. Preconditions have been created to realise the questionnaire also at Satakunta campuses.

2.4.2. Developing company cooperation activities

Implemented measures

During January, possible cooperation partners in accordance with TYY values were reviewed. A preliminary schedule for contacts was created, in the framework of which companies were contacted in the beginning of spring, around May Day and after it.

The clarification of the cooperation instructions has been planned and possible price list prepared, but a new template for the media card has not



been completed. The aim has been to prolong the duration of the agreements with companies, but many appeal to the annual basis of the visibility budget. For example, the agreement with Turun Sanomat increased from one to two years.

The visibility campaign has been reformed to make it more flexible and located instead of a fixed month into a two-week period in a free time period. The cooperation partners have been positive towards flexibility, which is more reasonable also for them.

Sector funds have been allocated for a brand video but the implementation has not yet been started. We have contacted the video producers and preliminary plans have been discussed.

3. Mid-year reviews of the sectors

3.1. Leadership

In 2024, actors in the main sector were Chair of the Executive Board Katie Astin, Vice-Chair of the Executive Board Josefina Tuomala as well as the Secretary General of the Student Union Petra Peltonen. After Peltonen resigned, the Executive Board elected Specialist for Organisations and Administration Lauri Lahoniitty as the substitute of the Secretary General for August-September.

3.1.1. Internal activities and its development in the organisation

The Executive Board of the Student Union decided, in its organisational meeting, to divide the areas of responsibility as follows:

- Katie Astin: Chair
- Josefina Tuomala, Vice-Chair, Academic Affairs, Municipal Affairs
- Antti Hakamaa: Social Affairs, Tutoring
- Shashika Harshani: International Affairs, Development Cooperation, Working Life
- Saimi Herlevi: Communications, Equality, Environment
- Victoria Luovikari: Organisations, Communications, Volunteers
- Jimi Mahonen: Academic Affairs, Municipal Affairs, Company Relations
- Vilppu Tolvi: Organisations, Support Committee, Student Culture, Satakunta campuses

The introductions of the Executive Board were organised during December and January. The opening cottage house visit of the specialists and the Executive Board was organised between 16 and -17 Jan 2024 in Kunstenniemi. The agenda of the cottage visit was to agree on common rules for working, to review spring schedule, to work on the implementation plan of the plan of action, to consider sector funds and to plan the implementation of the strategy. The objectives were reached and the visit was a very successful package.

The implementation plan of the plan of action was completed in early spring and was presented to the Student Union Council in its February



meeting.

In April, a quarter review was organised for the entire Office, repeating the rules of the Office, planning the rest of the spring and instructed on the writing of the mid-year report. In June, a common mid-term review of the entire Office was organised, examining the situation with the implementation of the Strategy and the projects of the plan of action, autumn schedule and the issues to be prepared in the spring.

Two development discussions were organised for the Executive Board during the spring, reviewing the responsibilities of the members of the Executive Board, the activities of the Student Union and the setting of objectives. Occupational well-being was followed with an occupational well-being survey, the results of which were reviewed in the late spring. In order to support the work of the Executive Board, a mentoring programme was re-launched in cooperation with the alumni of the Student Union. The Executive Board also participated once in work counselling with the lead of university priests.

During the summer, the Executive Board redivided the sectors to better respond to the topical events of the autumn and rush peaks:

- Katie Astin: Chair
- Josefina Tuomala, Vice-Chair, Municipal Affairs
- Antti Hakamaa: Social Affairs, Tutoring, Volunteers
- Shashika Harshani: International Affairs, Development Cooperation, Working Life
- Saimi Herlevi: Communications, Equality, Environment
- Victoria Luovikari: Organisations, Academic Affairs, Volunteers
- Jimi Mahonen: Academic Affairs, Company Relations
- Vilppu Tolvi: Organisations, Support Committee, Student Culture, Satakunta campuses

3.1.2. Activities of the Student Union Council

Year 2024 is the first operational year of the Student Union Council. The Student Union Council held its organisational meeting in November 2024 and convened four times during the spring: in February, March, April and May. In addition to rules-based issues, the Student Union Council has updated the Political Agenda, started the update of the Environmental

Programme with a preliminary debate and discussed the resolution proposal submitted in November 2023 meeting on making the employment contract of the Editor-in-Chief of Turku Student Newspaper half-time. Evening schools were held before meeting and in March, sitysiti was organised for the members of the Student Union Council to get to know each other.

3.2. Academic affairs

3.2.1. Those responsible for academic affairs and student representatives in the administration

We organised two educational councils in the spring. The February council was visited by the university Quality Manager and member of the Strategy Team and the topic was the update of the University Strategy. In April, the topic was current issues in academic affairs and a workshop where the participants discussed student representatives in administration, feedback and studying methods.

We met actors responsible for the EXAM system of the University of Turku and discussed the preparation for possible rushes due to the overburdening of the system in December 2023. Solutions were found in the situation, tested by the university in spring and to be used also in the future if the spring test succeeds.

In early spring, we conducted a strategy questionnaire together with the university strategy team. The questionnaire was distributed to TYY subject and faculty organisations. TYY made a compilation of the responses used by the university in the strategy work.

Regular contact has been held with the University Collegiate Council and the student representatives in the Board of the university. Student representatives in each have been active and in a central role when the Facility Programme of the university have been discussed during the spring.

During spring, TYY organised one supplementing call for student representatives in the administration. New representatives have been found in the supplementing calls, but the number of applicants has not been high.

3.2.2. Working groups and meetings

TYU Sector for Academic Affairs met during spring faculty deans from all faculties. The meetings were agreed with the student representative coordinators of the faculties, who also participated in the meetings.

In the spring, TYU participated in the SYL academic affairs days and has been actively involved in the meetings of the academic affairs representatives of Student Unions.

The members of the sector for academic affairs have participated during the spring in the following meetings of university working groups:

- Teaching council
- Study administration steering group
- Student feedback team
- Digital steering group
- Education section team for internal guidance
- Good academic leadership working group
- General administrative steering group
- Counselling development group
- Curriculum work team
- Working group for societal interaction
- Planning team for food technology teaching

In the educational council, key themes during the spring were the admission exam reform and Teacher and Counsellor of the Year, new degree programmes and admission numbers as well as the results of the First Year, Bachelor's feedback and Career follow-up surveys.

3.2.3. Statements and comments

Statements on the extent of doctoral degree

In January, the university requested a statement related to the extent of a doctoral degree. The purpose of the statement round was to examine the view

of the university community on the needs for changes and the extent of the doctoral degree in the future. Statements were requested as extensively as possible from different parties. In addition, TYY separately contacted organisations representing doctoral researchers. The university asked those providing statements to comment particularly proposals 1) the extent of the doctoral studies in a doctoral degree in all faculties from 1 Aug 2024 would be 40 credits, 2) doctoral dissertation is no longer measured in credits, and 3) another change proposed in the statement would be made to the extent of doctoral studies. TYY considered the first proposed change possible. In addition, the harmonisation of the number of credits between faculties was to be supported or at least considered.

In addition, it was considered possible to abandon the credits provided for a doctoral dissertation. In such case, it should be taken into account that for some doctoral researchers, the progress of the work needs to be reported, for example, to grant donors, and study register entries could have been a key part in this. In addition, it is good for actors outside university should know what is included in the extent of the degree and how much work doctoral research includes even though not measured in credits. Generally, related to the flexibilization of doctoral degrees, the statement notified that flexibilization should not be made by endangering the quality of research. In addition, they hoped for more extensive debate on issues supporting research, such as the availability of services or funding for doctoral researchers.

Statement on the funding model of universities

The Ministry of Education and Culture requested statements on the draft Government Decree on amending the Government Decree on Universities and the for a Ministry of Education and Culture Decree on the calculation criteria for the basic funding of universities. SYL was involved in the working group reviewing the provision changes, but left a dissenting opinion to the result of the working group. The working group's proposal leaves a lot to criticise from a student perspective. More central than the amendments is what was not done, since the model itself should have been reformed. TYY would have wanted to see less profit-centredness in the model. The profit-centred model is also a hindrance for university cooperation. Internationality was also abandoned, as it was not returned to the model. TYY statement, inter alia, notes that there are other means for guidance than performance: the Ministry, however, does not seem to believe in their ability to guide with other than pennies.

The key views of the statement were, alongside diminishing the share of performance guidance, criticism towards the planned first-timer quota, which is qualitatively poor and whose response to university actions is low or random.

The major part of admitted students are first-timers in almost all disciplines and the limit of unreasonable preference is already close. In addition, the proposal intervenes with university autonomy in organising student admission. Then again, the results are difficult for universities to “produce”, since applicants need to be treated equally. The statement also noted that the ministry should develop possibilities to change field, not to prevent it. In the indicator calculation, the degree coefficients emphasise the target time and decrease the funding received by the university from other degrees of equal value. In addition, it would be more humane to emphasise the target time + 1 year coefficient rather than tighten the target time coefficient. It takes better into consideration the diverse life situations of students and the real possibilities of the university to impact those. All in all, the funding model would have needed an overall renovation, because it has become a burden for our higher education system.

Statement on the draft of the entrance exam entity

The universities' student admission development project requested comments for the national entrance exam entity draft through the statement service. The university of Turku also requested comments for the draft from faculties, joint application systems in accordance with the division of the projects' call for comments. The project naturally made amendments after the round of statements in late spring, send the proposal for an entrance exam reform for universities to decide. The objective of the project is to develop the entrance exams research-based so that in the future, one could apply with the same exam to more application targets and even several disciplines. According to the draft on the entrance exam entity, in the future, nine national entrance exam combining different disciplines would be organised.

In its comments, TYU supported common discipline-specific entrance exams, but was critical towards proposed comprehensive entrance exam entities. The planned scheduling of the entrance exams is primarily to be supported as it makes the application process clearer and decreases the possible costs to the applicant when applying to university. However, the organisation of the entrance exams should pay attention to the accessibility of the exam situations and the ability of the exams to measure applicability in the applied field.

Statement on the move of Turku Teacher Training School to Educarium

The working group on the transfer of Turku Teacher Training School to Educarium published its final report on 30 Apr 2024. As part of the work of the working group, a review on the need for facilities was completed, dealing with

two different alternatives: The entire transfer of Turku Teacher Training School to Educarium and only transferring upper secondary school to Educarium. The working group also conducted a survey for the entire university community, including students, doctoral researchers and staff. According to the description of the survey results, the majority of the responded students opposed transferring Teacher Training School to Educarium, whereas the approach of doctoral researchers and staff was more positive. The responses of the staff working in Educarium were critical. According to the review on the need for premises, the transfer of the entire Teacher Training School, the university would save ca. 12,680 square meters and in annual rental costs ca. EUR 2.1-2.4 million. These savings would not be reached by transferring only the upper secondary school.

The University Board discussed the final report of the working group in its meeting in May and decided to continue the review work related to the transfer of Teacher Training School. As part of this decision, the review work was complemented with the statements requested from the Boards of the Faculties located in the lower campus, TYU and the City of Turku. In its statement, TYU considered saving from facility costs as less harmful solution compared to saving, for example, from personnel costs, in the current financial situation of the university. The possible transfer of the Teacher Training School to Educarium, however, creates challenges the solution of which still requires careful planning involving properly the entire university community. TYU statement brought up in more detail the statement of the Student Union on the issues mentioned in the final report of the working group and the public events organised on the university Facility Programme.

3.3. Social affairs

The spring was marked by the cuts made in the income of the students, of which the cuts in housing support entered into force in April. In addition, the decision made by the government in the government discussion on spending limits on transferring students back under students' housing support significantly impacts the economic situation of students. The cuts in housing support were communicated at TYU channels. A statement on the decisions on students in the government discussion on spending limits was written in Turun Sanomat and TYU channels. In addition, a demonstration receiving attention in the media was organised against the cuts against students.

During the spring term, a social policy council was twice organised for TYY organisations. In the council, key themes were cuts to students' support and equality. A WhatsApp group was established for those responsible for the matter in organisations. The student representatives in Macciavelli restaurant committee were updated together with faculty organisations Lex ry, Humanitas ry and Index ry.

3.3.1. Meetings and working groups

In the spring, participation at SYL social affairs days in Helsinki. In addition, spring included SYL weekly information events in the social policy sector, dealing with e.g. cuts concerning students and updating of FSHS strategy.

Turku Student Village Foundation (TYS) and the well-being services of the University of Turku were met. Participation in Seta support member event. In addition, meeting in May with church social workers providing different forms of food aid, university priests and SPR and cooperation was considered for the autumn and the future operational year.

Cooperation with the researchers and students in Psychology at the University of Turku at the course "Change in behaviour and selection-architecture-interventions" related to loneliness and communality at the University of Turku. During the project, TYY met course leaders and course members twice. The questionnaire made as part of the course work was distributed in different TYY channels. Based on the questionnaire, students prepared development targets to support communality in the activities of TYY and the university.

The members of the social policy sector have been in the following working groups:

- Campus Sport Management Board
- Crisis situation mental support group
- Steering group of study counsellors (ONO)
- Review group of the report on the healthiness and check of the student environment (OPY)
- Accessibility working group
- FSHS western region management board
- FSHS health working group

3.3.2. On my mind activities

Cooperation was conducted with On my mind activities throughout the spring especially in organising students' mental health week. The theme of the week was equality. The week had wide-ranging programme from Monday to Friday.

In addition, during the spring, two-part Mental health first aid 2 course for new support students was organised. TYU academic and social affairs specialists were trainers in the course.

3.3.3. Equality

In the February organisational forum, TYU harassment contact persons trained organisations on addressing inappropriate behaviour and harassment. In spring social affairs councils, organisations were trained on the Equality Guide and Programme.

In April, an anti-racist campaign was conducted. In addition to this, the Equality Wing has organised an anti-bullying campaign including a survey. The Wing planned training related to accessible communication for the organisation forum and conducted equality monitoring during May Day.

Promoting equality was also one theme on TYU's responsibility in the spring tutor training. The university equality committee convened twice during the spring, in February and May.

The updating process of the Equality Programme has been started in the social policy and equality sectors. We planned an equality survey.

3.3.4. Tutoring

Tutor council was organised in the spring for those responsible for tutoring in TYU organisations. TYU communicated on the University of Turku student tutor call.

Tutor training was organised and planned together with study counsellors in accordance with the agreed distribution of labour. In the tutor training, cooperation was conducted with Unica and CampusSport. In the spring, TYU organised five Finnish-language tutor training, two of which were



separately targeted at Pori and Rauma. Three trainings were in-person trainings. Plenty and mainly good feedback was received from the training.

3.3.5. Finnish Student Health Service (FSHS)

TYY communicated on the payment of students' healthcare fee.

TYY has met actors in FSHS western region together with other Student Unions in the region.

FHSH health working group and board convened both twice during the spring.

3.4. International affairs

3.4.1. Orientations

In early January, orientation was organised for exchange students arriving in spring. Specialist for International Affairs and Executive Member for International Affairs presented TYY activities for exchange students.

3.4.2. International Council meetings

In the spring, two International Council meetings have been organised. The first meeting was organised 1 Feb and its topic was introduction to international affairs at the University of Turku and in organisational activities. Another meeting was held on 27 Feb and its topic was the integration of international students and bilingualism.

3.4.3. Meetings and working groups

The international affairs sector has actively participated in different working groups and meetings at the university and in the Ec2u alliance. In addition, the sector has participated in information events organised by SYL, which were approximately every other week during the spring.

The members of the international affairs sector have been in the following working groups:

- Coordinators for international degree programmes
- Mobility working group
- Language working group
- International degree programme working group
- Grant committee
- Ec2U-student council
- Ec2U execo

3.4.4. Cooperation with Kievi

The international sector has cooperated during spring with Kievi, among other issues, in the meetings of the language working group. In addition, the international sector met Kievi on 4 June to exchange news.

3.4.5. EC2U

TYU international sector has actively participated in the activities of the Ec2u alliance. The Executive Board Member for International Affairs has participated in the activities of the student council of the alliance and in the student week activities. In addition, ec2u pop up was organised during Europe week at the university together with the local coordinators.

3.4.6. Tutoring

TYU organised two English-language tutor trainings for tutors in the international programmes. In addition, TYU presented their activities and Starting package warehouse for the tutors of exchange students.

3.4.7. Statements and comments

In the beginning of the year, TYU stated both for the university and in the statement service on the changed amendments to the Universities Act related to international students. The contents of the amendments were discussed at SYL lead in the preparation phase of the statements.

3.4.8. European elections

European elections campaign was conducted during spring mainly in social media. In addition, a panel discussion was tried to be organised during spring, but it was challenging to recruit panellists and the panel had to be unfortunately cancelled. As part of the campaign, TYU Executive Board went voting.

3.4.9. SYL sector days

TYU international affairs sector participated at SYL-organised sector days from 23 to 24 May. In Helsinki. The themes of the sector days included topical matters, Student at Risk and parliamentary visit.

3.4.10. Other business

During the spring, Pop Up bank was organised together with Osuuspankki. Bank day was organised on Monday 18 Mar.

3.3. Organisations

3.3.1. Trainings and meetings

During the year, TYU organises trainings and planning events for organisational actors in order for Board work to go well and the activities of the organisation to develop. Organisational councils were organised three times, including the December so-called first organisational council. In addition to traditional annual trainings, the fora have also had new trainings such as crisis communication and influential communication. The training for financial secretaries was this year organised so that the record of the previous year financial secretary training was shown in the organisation forum and the record is also available afterwards at TYU trainings Moodle platform where the material for other training and councils can be found. In addition to organisation fora, there are also sector-specific councils for organisational actors, the latest of which is the communication council started this year.

Chair councils were organised three times in the spring, including the December so-called first Chair council. In the spring, also Chair sitsit at Q House were organised, in addition to a joint council of Chairs and those responsible for events at Night Club Marilyn. An organisation cruise was also organised for organisational actors in the spring, which was quickly sold out.

The organisational sector has collected feedback from organisational actors on single events and generally TYU activities and developed activities on



their basis, for example, by implementing training on new topics and adjusting communication to make it more accessible and to reach actors better and on time. Restoring the organisational letter sent by email has been especially appreciated.

3.3.2. Satakunta

Functional communication channels have been created between Satakunta campuses and TYY for mutual communication. In Rauma through the student secretary and in Pori through student organisation Pointer ry. TYY was represented at Rauma as part of the well-being week. During the spring, a review has been started on improving the financial situation of Pointer ry.

3 Jun Student culture

20 Feb On TYY and TuKY merger anniversary, an introduction and networking event was organised to celebrate the anniversary of the merge. The event was organised at TuKY Park.

30 Apr and 1 May Traditional May events, that is, punch at university area and TYY flag procession to the Art Museum Hill and placing the student cap on Lilja statue. In addition, TYY participated in placing the student cap on Paavo Nurmi. TYY organised again TYYlikäs flag hunt at University Hill. Involved in the hunt were Kesärauha, Turku City Theatre and Turku Student Theatre. 1 May TYY First of May picnic at Vartiovuori Hill. There was more people than a year ago, the weather was pleasant and alumna Matti Vähä-Heikkilä held a toast to the spring.

At the moment, carnival and anniversary are being planned.

3.6.1. Cultural Wing

The activities of the cultural wing during the ended term has been silent. The activities of the Wing will be developed as part of the Wing reform.

3.7. Environment



3.7.1. Working groups and meetings

TYY environmental sector participates in the sustainable development steering group of the university, sustainable everyday life at the campus working group, sustainability in research working group, sustainable development education group and Fair Trade working group. The Fair Trade working group was involved in the university spring cleaning day. New applications for Fair Trade organisation have not been received.

We organised the year's first environmental council in February. In the council, we told about the activities of the environmental sector and provided the organisations with an opportunity to discuss matters they had pondered and to receive peer support from other actors responsible for environmental affairs. We participated in SYL sustainable development sector days.

3.7.2. Environmental Wing

During the spring, TYY Environmental Wing has, inter alia, organised an environmental training in the organisational forum and Neat First of May campaign. In addition, the Wing has met with Unica when planning the autumn sustainable student meal week.

3.7.3. Sustainable news

Sustainable news were issued twice during the spring. These were communicated both in social media and as news in the website.

3.7.4. Plan of action project on the carbon footprint

During the spring, the Environmental Sector has discussed biodiversity calculation with the university and TYY's possible participation therein. At the same time, measuring TYY's own carbon footprint has been prepared, but the actual measurement has waited for the progress of the biodiversity project due to their possible connections.

3.7.5. Updating of the Environmental Programme

The Environmental Programme was largely reformed before the preliminary debate held in the May Student Union Council meeting. When updating, Unica was met, discussion was held with different sectors of the Executive



Board and a workshop intended both for the Student Union Council and wider audience.

3.7.6. Sustainable development events

The environmental sector organised together with Eetti ry an event dealing with textile industry. We planned a bicycle tour for the autumn and cooperation with KY-KeKe on organising an anniversary second hand market.

3.8. Development Cooperation

3.8.1. 0.7 %

The 0.7 call will be opened in the last spring meeting.

3.8.2. Cooperation with Huussi ry

Cooperation has not been conducted with Huussi ry during spring, but the development of the organisation's situation has been followed. Huussi ry filed bankruptcy during spring and the common project thus ended.

3.9. Communication

On 4 Mar 2024, the Communications sector organised the first communications council for the organisational actors responsible for communication. About 20 persons responsible for communication participated, and the feedback was mainly positive. The communications council will be organised in the future with varying themes based on the wishes of the organisational actors responsible for communication.

In the organisational forum on 9 Apr 2024, we held a crisis communication training based on the wishes of the organisations. The training received good feedback.

European parliamentary elections were communicated on Instagram in accordance with SYL European parliamentary style and by preparing a news piece on voting at the website.

We communicated on Student Union Council meetings regularly and with a regular look in order to make decision-making in the Student Union Council more transparent. Student Union Council meetings were communicated in Instagram and by writing a piece of news on the website on the contents of the meeting.

Instagram reels "The everyday life in the promotion of student interests" was published regularly every month and the videos reached viewers well.

In addition, we communicated campaign-based on spring events, such as well-being week, the visit of the mayors in the university, May Day and demonstration organised by TYY against government cuts against students. In addition, we communicated in a multi-channel manner on different calls as well as statements and comments written during the spring.

During the spring, possibilities provided by different newsletter services were reviewed to reform TYY's weekly newsletter. At the same time, the university has an ongoing newsletter reform, and we will wait for the completion of the university reform and see how we progress.

In late spring, a term calendar was realised, which will be printed 3,500 pieces in 2024. The cover will be realised by Vanessa Luovikari and the contents compiled by the Communication Specialist and the Specialist for Organisations and Administration.

In the autumn, TYY will also start communicating on Instagram Threads and its adoption has been planned during the spring.

3.10.1. Event communication and campaigns.

Event communications were conducted in cooperation with several sectors. Communication was mainly realised through the website, Instagram and email. TYY's verified Jodel user has also been used for event communication, but not much.

Communications related to May Day, in particular, reached viewers well. The communication of May Day was started in February-March. Save the Date, punch and picnic maps, safety posts, schedules, sponsor advertisements, overall badge and cocarde advertisements etc. In addition to these, the cultural and communications sector had lighter May Day

communications in social media, such as stories and Instagram reels videos, the aim of which was to create May Day feeling and bring TYU closer to students. Organisations' own events were not advertised this year in TYU's Instagram to clarify communications, but organisations were encouraged to add events to the calendar on TYU website.

Anti-racist campaign: The campaign was visible both in the campus and in social media. We distributed to the student cafeteria codes and corridors in buildings the table triangles created last week and posters on bulletin boards. Both had QR codes with information on racism. The table triangles defined terms related to racism.

During the well-being week, we communicated together with On my mind actors. In the communications, events of the Well-being week were promoted, such as visit to Kurjenraha, marketplace and talker and Rauma campus well-being stands. In addition, we took Instagram Stories of the events.

TYU's Wing events were communicated, in addition to TYU Wings own Instagram user, on TYU Instagram.

Other event communication in the spring was also realised concerning the following events: TYU's organisation cruise, mayor visit in the university and TYU's demonstration against cuts targeting students. In addition, we communicated events organised by TYU's cooperation partners, such as Turku Craft Beer festival and Kesärauha and events by other parties such as the Climate march.

3.10.2. Accessibility and diversity

All communications also ensured that the important contents were found on TYU website in addition to social media due to accessibility. All TYU communication was primarily conducted bilingually (Finnish and English). In the communications, special attention was paid to clarity and readability.

The Equality Wing conducted review on TYU's Instagram May Day communications from the perspective on equality and submitted a report for the communications, equality and culture sector to examine. The report mainly included positive feedback, but the lack of subtitles in the video contents and their at times difficult readability due to font etc. was brought up as something to be developed.

3.10.3. Communication on the promotion of student interests

Together with the Chair of the Student Union Council, we reformed communication on the promotion of student interests, increasing news on Student Union Council meetings. We also developed the reels concept on the Everyday life in the promotion of student interests and news on the work of the Executive Board.

3.11. Volunteers

TYU volunteer groups, Wings, are five: International Wing, Development Cooperation Wing, Equality Wing, Environmental Wing and Cultural Wing. The members of TYU Wings are volunteering students of the University of Turku. The Wings operate independently and organise their own projects relate to the theme.

3.11.1. Development of wing activities

See 2.4. Developing volunteer activities

3.11.2. Own activities of the Wings

The Wings have continued their activities started in the autumn independently with the help of Executive Board members responsible for the sector.

At the turn of the year, the Equality Wing organised an anti-bullying campaign. As part of the campaign, a Webropol survey was organised to collect experiences related to bullying and loneliness at the University of Turku. In the spring, the anti-racist campaign material of last year were reused. The Equality Wing also participated in the well-being market. In spring 2024, the Equality Wing conducted equality review as part of TYU May Day events and their communication based on TYU's Equality Programme.

The Environmental Wing organised Neat First of May campaign, including social media posts and garbage collection at May Day picnic. The



Environmental Wing also organised an environmental training in the organisational forum.

3.12. Company relations

Company relations sector has reviewed and created contacts with several potential cooperation partners, but new main cooperation partners have not been found. Challenges have included the hurry of other sectors and the scarce resources of potential partners.

3.13. Additional questions

3.13.1. Presidential elections 2024

TYU Executive Board went voting together at Natura and the elections were communicated on TYU channels.