

1 OYY's Action Plan 2019

2 Executive Board's Proposal for the Student Council Meeting 6/2018

3 1. To the Power of Elections

4 Student Council elections will be held in April 2019 and the European Elections are held only six weeks later,
5 in May 2019. The first County Elections will be held in connection with the European Elections. OYY's goal is
6 to improve the social status of young people and students, and to increase voter turnout among them.

7 The National Union of University Students in Finland (SYL)'s Political Platform in the Parliamentary Elections
8 is called "Our Time is Now", and in their platform in the European Elections is "Building the Future of Europe –
9 the Student Movement's Methods of Reforming the European Union". We aim to promote the goals of these
10 platforms in cooperation with SYL and other student unions. They provide the basis for OYY's influencing work.

11 The societal influencing efforts of the OYY are long-term and year-round endeavours and, as such, not only
12 focussed to the pre-election period. Instead, we also use our influence in the government programme
13 negotiations through e.g. the National Union of University Students.

14 On local level we influence the county elections according to the OYY's Policy Regarding Regional and Urban
15 Politics that was approved in 2018. Representatives of the Student Union meet with candidates as well as
16 elected officials to promote the students' standing in the City of Oulu and in the coming County Councils.

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18 Goals

- 19 • High turnout of students in Spring elections 2019
- 20 • Student Union's lobbying is impressive and effective before and after the elections
- 21 • The elected representatives are familiar with the political policies and are prepared to
- 22 promote them.

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24 Measures

- 25 • We analyse our interest groups
- 26 • We organise lobbying training for the Executive Board of OYY
- 27 • We monitor decision-making regarding student life on both the city and the regional/county
- 28 level
- 29 • Before elections, we communicate with candidates, and after elections with the elected
- 30 representatives. Our goal is to promote SYL's goals for the Parliamentary and European
- 31 Elections as well as the government programme. We will promote and visualize the elections
- 32 for university students and thus encourage higher voter turnout among them
- 33 • We organise the election and EU presidency term events mentioned in SYL's action plan.

34 2. Advantageous Alumni Activities – UO and OYY 60yrs

35 In 2019, full 60 years have passed since the University of Oulu started operating and since OYY was founded.
36 The foundation day is celebrated on the 15th of October 2019. The project will be executed in close
37 cooperation with the OYY's Alumni Club, Rauhala-klubi. Alumni members of the Rauhala-klubi will mentor
38 new OYY operators.

39 Goals

- 40 • Building Alma Mater¹ -spirit in cooperation with the university and Rauhala-klubi and boosting alumni
- 41 activities in collaboration with the university
- 42 • Increasing the number of Rauhala-klubi members

¹ Alma Mater (lat.) the higher education institute in which the person has graduated from with an academic decree.

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- Increasing and developing mentoring activities based on feedback
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- The jubilee year is made visible on campuses

45 **Measures**

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- Cooperating with Rauhala-klubi ry and promoting the university's and Student Union's alumni activities better
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- Organising joint events at the start of the academic year
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- Promoting stories of alumni and everything that the Student Union has achieved over the years on all our communication platforms
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- Organising an event sometime around the anniversary of OYY's founding, October 15th, in cooperation with Rauhala-klubi
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- Preparations for the 60th anniversary jubilee year and the organizing of Annos60 Jubilee in Spring 2020
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- Making Rauhala-klubi mentoring available also for members of the Student Council
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56 **3. Campus Development 3.0**

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58 The move of the University of Applied Sciences of Oulu to Linnanmaa has caused changes in the
59 University facilities. In the beginning of the year 2019, the faculties of Education and Humanities will
60 have relocated to new premises. A need for small teaching premises for 15-20 people has been
61 recognised at the University. The efforts of the working group responsible for the teaching premises
62 project of the ATK-katu will bear fruit during the year 2019. The new TellUs at Kontinkangas campus
63 will be ready by Autumn 2019.

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65 One of the biggest challenges of the shared campus project is organising dining services. The Student
66 Union will have an impact on how smoothly the dining services operate through working in
67 Restaurant Committees and meeting with the University Facility Services regularly.

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69 As the new campus is being built, our focus must be on e.g. sustainable development and student
70 wellbeing. Since 2013, the university has used sustainable development practices increasingly in the
71 administrative end of the Linnanmaa campus according to the WWF's Green Office programme. Now,
72 our goal is that also the students start implementing these practices thus to making the whole
73 campus Green. A Student Union representative started working in working groups related to the
74 green campus in 2018.

75 **Goals**

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- by 2020 the learning facilities at the University of Oulu are safe and operational
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- The amount of teaching premises and spaces for independent study is adequate.
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- The Student Union abides by the principles of sustainable development and spreads them to students
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- Linnanmaa and Kontinkangas campuses have free sports facilities and equipment for the students to use.
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- Student Societies have enough storage room.
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- A Quiet room also at the Kontinkangas campus
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83 **Means**

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- Monitoring the sufficiency and functionality of facilities on both campuses
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- OYY representatives meet with the University Facility Services regularly.
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- Influence the university, so that the student societies are provided sufficient and safe storage space
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- The Student Union monitors its own operations from the point of view of sustainability and, if need be, changes the way it operates.
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- The Student Union trains student societies in taking the principles of sustainability into account in their actions and produces informative content for students and student societies.
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- OYY does influencing work in its interest groups to get more sports facilities on campus
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- OYY works to bring more unisex restrooms to both campuses
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4. Curriculum 2020-2022 – Smooth-Running Quality Education

The Ministry of Education's *Vision for Higher Education and Research in 2030* sets ambitious goals for e.g. raising the education level, continuous learning, and furthering ease of studying. Following the action plan based on the *Vision*, laws regarding universities and universities of applied sciences have been renewed, and the financing model is to be revised in Autumn 2018.

The goals set in the *Vision* and the renewal of the financing model bring pressure and a need for change to the education the University of Oulu offers. For the University of Oulu to continue scoring high ratings in education, the university must take measures to ensure funding and high-quality education.

In Autumn 2018, only curricula for the academic year 2019-2020 are developed. Academic Affairs drafts and the Education Management Group goes through the principles for improving curricula for 2020. The curricula development efforts are to be done in cooperation with the Oulu University of Applied Sciences. A kick-off event for the cooperation is to be held in December of 2018.

Goals

- All working groups relating to curricula reform have student representatives.
- Curricula consider the diversity of students and their varying life situations.
- Course evaluation is not only based on written exams, but instead on varying and flexible performance and evaluation methods.
- The principles of continuous learning, such as introductory courses aimed at upper secondary school students and digital study opportunities that are not tied to time nor place, are considered in all planning work.
- Study exchanges made possible in degree structures
- Sustainable development integrated into learning outcomes of every degree

Means

- The Student Union sets clear goals for curricula development work
- Training student society actives and student representatives in curricula work and influencing
- Organising workshops relating to learning outcomes and evaluation methods in cooperation with the university's operatives

5. Student Council Elections and Student Representative Selections <3

The Student Union's Student Council elections are held in Autumn 2019. In addition, all application periods for student representative positions from the university administration to the faculty levels open in Autumn. OYY aims to increase both the number of candidates in the Student Council elections and voter turnout. We will find more interesting ways of informing students about representative positions so that as many of them as possible take an interest in influencer work in the university community so that all positions can be filled already in the first application round. Special attention to the participation opportunities of international students must be paid to ensure equality and non-discrimination.

Goals

- Improved participation opportunities for international students
- Student voter turnout in the Student Council elections is at least 40 %
- Students apply actively to be student representatives and run for the Student Council
- All student representative positions filled

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Means

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- All content that is published regarding the elections is inspiring and in both Finnish and English

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- Creating or commissioning a coherent graphic aesthetic for the elections

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- Influencing the university so that non-Finnish speakers can also act as student representatives without problems.

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- Creating education and communication content about the elections for student societies to use.

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- Engaging current student representatives and members of the Student Council in the application process.

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- Efforts are made to create team spirit in the Student Council and a special attention will be paid to internal interaction of the whole organisation

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6. OYY Finance\$ and M€mber Services – The Money or the Tricycle?

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OYY's current investment policy was approved in 2018, and its implementation will be monitored. The aim of this project is to extensively deliberate on the Student Union's finances. The Student Union's Management Group, the Executive Board, and the Committee for Economic Affairs work in close cooperation. The Student Council gets training in economy related issues, especially after the new Student Council starts operating after the 2019 elections. After this project comes to close, the investment activities of the Student Union are profitable in the long run and the finances of OYY have a solid basis as per strategy.

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The support service help@oyy.fi launched a couple years back is an example of a very successful OYY member service. In the process of this project, all other member services the Student Union provides are made just as well-known and visible, so that students would become more familiar with our member services. The services will be improved, and service design will be utilized in the concept developing process. The project will utilize OYY's membership survey conducted in 2017, the 2018 survey about service needs on campus conducted by SYK, as well as a survey about the service needs of Kontinkangas students.

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Goals

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- Even more solid and firm financial basis for the Student Union's finances

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- Profitable investment activities

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- All parties benefit from the Student Unions commercial collaborations

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- Students and student societies are well acquainted with the Student Union's membership services and they utilize them actively

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- OYY offers better services either alone or in collaboration with other operatives

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Means

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- Developing a back-up-plan for possible economic upheavals

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- Providing training on the Student Union's financial matters, especially for the Student Council

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- developing an ownership steering strategy and a medium-term financial plan

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- Managing advertising sales together with Oulu Student Magazine

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- Developing member services in cooperation with members, societies, and interest groups.

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- organising a member service design workshop

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- Making the Student Union more visible on the Linnanmaa and Kontinkangas campuses

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- regular service hours at Kontinkangas campus

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7. Better Study Ability 4real

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A new law regarding the health care of higher education students enters into force in the beginning of the year 2021. The preparation process for the reform has already begun.

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Student mental health problems have been on the rise in the 21st century and as many as 30 % of higher education students regularly suffer from psychological symptoms (Health Survey 2016). Mental health issues cause decreased study ability, and thus students need to be able to get help in mental health troubles early enough.

Since the University of Oulu's organisation reform, it might be difficult for the students to know where they can get support for their studies.

OYY is one of the partners in the EHYT ry and Nyyti ry's "Students reforming substance use culture" - project (KUPLA), that supports the well-being of university students and their ability to study, improves the abilities of university communities to prevent harm caused by substance use, and promotes communality and an accessible student culture.

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Goals

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- The process of bringing students of the Universities of Applied sciences into the same student health care system goes smoothly and does not decrease the quality of the services.
- Sufficient study support services and the low-threshold group activities the FSHS offers support preventively the students' study ability
- Two regular study psychologists and one study psychologist trainee work at the University of Oulu
- The mental health service chains function smoothly and collaboration between the different operatives is seamless.
- OYY aims to erase the stigma that remains attached to mental health issues and encourages mental health related discourse within the university community

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Measures

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- Active involvement in the procedures with which the Oulu branch of the FSHS prepares itself for the influx of UAS students
- Having discussions with our interest groups regarding the impact of the legal reform and the changes in higher education student's health care
- Advocating for sufficient funds for study guidance and other study support services in the university's personnel plan.
- Continuing informing students about where they can get help if they struggle with their mental health
- Collaboration with KUPLA in e.g. organising training and communications
- OYY continues their work in preventing harassment and bullying according to the updated Equality and Diversity Plan