

Meeting of the Representative Council of the Student Union Kaakko

Date: 18.12.2025 at 17:00

Place: Teams

Present:

Agenda:

1. § Opening of the meeting

2. § Granting the right to speak and attend

Proposal: Grant the right to speak and attend to all participants.

3. § Confirmation of legality and quorum

Proposal: Confirm that the meeting is legal and has a quorum.

4. § Organization of the meeting

Proposal: Elect the president of the board of the Student Union Representative Council as the meeting chair and the Student Union Executive Director as the secretary. Elect two reviewers of the minutes, who will also act as vote counters if needed.

5. § Approval of the agenda as the meeting's working order

Proposal: Approve the agenda without changes.

6. § Announcements

- Updates from the student representative on Xamk Oy's Board
- A joint meeting between Xamk and Slice regarding the Peppi interface has been held. Work on modifying the connection form has begun.

7. § Updates from the Student Representative on the Board of Xamk Ltd

Presenter: Nelli Kortelainen

Proposal: To acknowledge the updates from the Board of Xamk Ltd for information.

8. § Board updates

Presented by: Team leaders

Decision: Noted for information.

9. § Financial review and investment monitoring (Attachments 1–8)

Presenter: Sauli Sarjus

Proposal: Note the financial review and investment monitoring for information.

10. § Approval of new members and membership status (Attachment 9)

Presenter: Sauli Sarjus

The Student Union membership count as of November 17, 2025, was 3 764. In 2024, the membership count was 4 005, which represents a decrease of 6.40% (241 members). In 2023, the membership count was 4 246, meaning the decrease compared to that year is 12.81% (500 members). The downward trend in membership remains concerning.

New members joined:

- August: 628
- September: 243
- October: 53
- November: 21 (as of November 18)

Proposal: Record the membership review for information.

11. § Student representative for Mikalo

Presenter: Laura Laakso

Mikalo's student representative, Terppa Kuismin, has announced that they will complete their studies at the turn of the year.

According to the Student Union's regulations (Regulation on the Selection of Student Representatives), Section 3 states:

"All students enrolled as present in degree programs at South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences are eligible for election. A student representative must remain eligible throughout their term, and no person known to lose eligibility during their term should be deliberately selected for the position."

Section 5 of the regulations states:

"If a student representative loses eligibility during their term, they are considered to have resigned from the position. Loss of eligibility must be reported to the Student Union in good time so that the Student Union can initiate the process of selecting a new student representative. The conditions for eligibility may be verified by an employee appointed by the Secretary General if necessary."

However, Section 14 of the regulations states:

"If a student member's position becomes vacant between semesters, the selection may be postponed until the beginning of the next semester if the Board considers it to be in the students' best interest. The Student Union must reopen the application process for the vacant position if the Board considers it necessary for the students' best interest. Until a new student member is selected or the term ends, the position will be filled by a possible deputy representative."

Due to the nature of the position and the fact that the student housing foundation is an external body to the university, the Board concludes that the recruitment process for Mikalo's student representative will begin in spring 2026. Terppa Kuismin will continue in the role until the spring general meeting.

Proposal: Recommend to the Representative Council that Terppa Kuismin continues in the position until the spring general meeting. Begin the recruitment process for the position in early spring 2026.

12. § Board size for 2026

Presenter: Sauli Sarjus

The Student Union's financial situation has weakened, requiring cost reductions. Reducing the size of the Board will lower expenses related to allowances, payroll processing, and other costs. Based on estimates, this change supports the Student Union's goal of adjusting operations to current financial realities without compromising the Board's functionality, while maintaining sufficient representation. Starting in 2026, the Board size will be reduced by two members. The new composition will include a total of 8 people:

- President of the board
- Three vice-presidents of the board
- Four board members

Proposal: Approve the new board composition.

13. Meeting fees and compensation for board members in 2026

Presenter: Sauli Sarjus

In 2026, no meeting fees will be paid. The proposed monthly remuneration for the eight-member Board is as follows:

- President of the board: 450€/month (11 months)
- Vice-president of the board: 200€/month (10 months)
- Board member: 100€/month (10 months)

Total estimated cost: 16,000€, including payroll costs (average).

Proposal: Approve the compensation plan for 2026.

14. § Membership fees for 2026

Presenter: Sauli Sarjus

The Student Union's financial situation has weakened, which threatens its operations. Due to the deteriorating financial situation, the Student Union must review the membership fee amount. The proposal is to increase the semester price by 5€. The Student Union membership will therefore consist of a 20€ semester fee plus a 5€ processing fee. Multi-year membership is based on the 20€ semester price. For example, a 2-year membership would be calculated as follows: 20€ + 20€ + 20€ + 20€ + 5€ = 85€. For multi-year memberships, the processing fee needs to be paid only once. With

the increased membership fee, the Student Union ensures continuity of operations and the quality of services.

Proposed membership prices for 2026:

Period	Price
Semester (0.5 yr)	25 €
1 academic year	45 €
1.5 academic years	65 €
2 academic years	85 €
2.5 academic years	105 €
3 academic years	125 €
3.5 academic years	145 €
4 academic years	165 €
4.5 academic years	185 €
MEMBERSHIP + PLASTIC CARD	
Period	Price
Semester (0.5 yr) + card	40 €
1 academic year + card	60 €
1.5 academic years + card	80 €
2 academic years + card	100 €
2.5 academic years + card	120 €
3 academic years + card	140 €
3.5 academic years + card	160 €
4 academic years + card	180 €
4.5 academic years + card	200 €

Student card: 15€

Handling fee: 5€

Postage: 5€

Supporter membership:

- Individual: 50€
- Organization: 250€

Proposal: Approve the membership fees for 2026.

15. § Budget for 2026 (Attachments 10–11)

Presenter: Sauli Sarjus

Proposal: Approve the 2026 budget.

16. § Action plan for 2026 (Attachment 12)

Presenter: Laura Laakso

Proposal: Approve the 2026 action plan.

17. § Agreements for Board members 2026 (Attachments 13–19)

Presenter: Sauli Sarjus

Proposal: Approve the agreements for board member for 2026

18. § Selection of the audit firm and auditor

Presenter: Sauli Sarjus

The Student Union Kaakko has used BDO Ltd as its audit firm for several years. For 2026, it is proposed that BDO Ltd continue as the audit firm and that HT Tuomo Sirviö be appointed as the responsible auditor.

Proposal: Approve the proposal for the audit firm and responsible auditor for 2026 and submit the matter to the Representative Council for approval

19. § Selection of student representatives for the Education Management Group

Presenter: Sauli Sarjus

Proposal: Elect one regular and one deputy member.

20. § Selection of student representatives for the RDI Management Group

Presenter: Sauli Sarjus

Proposal: Elect one regular and one deputy member.

21. § Election of a Deputy Representative for the Ingenium Student Advisory Board

Presenter: Laura Laakso

Proposal: Elect a new deputy representative (1) for ISAB for the current term (10/2025–10/2026).

22. § Appointment of the Central Election Committee

Presenter: Sauli Sarjus

The President of the Central Election Committee, Terppa Kuismin, has announced that they will not be eligible as of 1 January 2026. The Representative Council must appoint a new Central Election Committee for the remaining term. According to the Student Union rules, the Central Election

Committee consists of three to six (3–6) regular members and up to six (6) deputy members.

Proposal: To appoint the Central Election Committee for the remaining term and elect its President.

23. § Representative Council Initiatives (Attachments 20–21)

Presenter: Sauli Sarjus

Representative Council member Anne Halinen (Mikkeli Engineers' Electoral Alliance) has submitted two initiatives. The initiatives are signed by Anne Halinen (Mikkeli Engineers' Electoral Alliance) and Nelli Kortelainen (Kotka Students).

1. Data Protection Training for the Student Union Board

The board members of Student Union Kaakko handle members' personal data while working in the offices, processed through the student union's membership register. To ensure proper and lawful handling of personal data, the board must organize training on data processing, data protection, and data breaches. In 2023 and 2024, the student union board was trained in cooperation with Xamk and Xamk's Data Protection Officer. Xamk provides a data protection training course for its staff, implemented as an independent online course, which has also been used to train student union representatives to familiarize them with the basics of personal data processing.

Obligations and Actions:

1. The student union board will organize data protection training for the 2026 board in cooperation with Xamk as part of the new board's orientation.
2. The continuation of data protection training must be agreed upon with Xamk's Data Protection Officer and included as part of the annual orientation for each new board term.

2. Renewal of the Student Union Website through Student Collaboration

The Student Union Kaakko website has been listed as a development target for several years, but actual renewal has not been possible due to resource constraints. Although the website is functional, it has been found that maintaining and updating it is challenging when personnel change and instructions are lacking. The website should serve members and potential members in the best possible way, while also being easy and effortless for board members and staff to update. During the renewal, it would also be good to create a short guide for general functions. Websites at Xamk are often developed as student projects. One option is to offer the renewal work to a student, for example, through Xamk's "Koodariverstas" (Coder Workshop).

Obligations and Actions:

The student union will explore opportunities within Xamk for the website renewal project and initiate collaboration for the renewal.

24. § Other matters

25. § Next meeting

Proposal:

26. § Closing of the meeting