

Member letter 1/2019

Dear member,

2019 marks the 50th jubilee of YLL. YLL was entered into the association registry on July 30, 1969. Before that date several individual lecturer unions had been founded in different universities. The first ones to have been registered were the Turun yliopiston opetusalan paikallisyhdistys (January 4, 1969) and Lektorsföreningen vid Åbo Akademi (January 30, 1969). We congratulate both member associations from Turku on reaching this important milestone! Later in 1969 Helsingin yliopiston lehtorit was registered (May 8, 1969) as well as Lektorsföreningen vid Svenska Handelshögskolan (June 3, 1969), Oulun yliopiston opetusalan paikallisyhdistys (September 17, 1969) and in January 1970 the Jyväskylän yliopiston opetusalan paikallisyhdistys (January 3, 1970)

To celebrate the 50th jubilee, YLL will publish a history edited by the former chair of YLL, counsellor of education Tuula Hirvonen.

The performance evaluation of spring 2019

Following the signed collective agreement, the performance evaluation will change. The changes and raises were described by Hanna Tanskanen, university ombudsman in OAJ, in the previous letter. It is recommended that you be active and ask for the evaluation of your performance already in the first half of 2019 because the universities have 0,85% of the total pay sum to be used to rewarding for performance. If you have questions relating to the performance evaluation in your university, please turn to your local shop steward.

Membership query

The deadline for YLL membership query has been extended till March 1. I kindly ask you to reply to the query in order for us to gain as comprehensive a picture as possible of our members and their work. This information will not be otherwise available to us. You will need your most recent pay slip and work plan. The information will be used in supervision of interests.

Science, research and innovation policy program for OAJ

Together with OAJ actors, YLL's science policy task group has been preparing a science policy program for OAJ. This task will be completed during the spring of 2019. As a central part of the program we have brought up the following topics to be included:

- predictable and sufficient level of funding
- strengthening the basic funding
- open science

A central part of higher education policy is building community wellbeing. An essential part of science policy is the career development of teaching staff so that teachers in universities could advance in their careers with teaching merits. Judging by the feedback from our members, having time for research and including research in the work plan have been considered important. Our solution is to have a separate research period that would be in use in all universities in all fields; various local solutions are already in use.

The new funding model

The new funding model for universities will take effect in 2021. YLL and OAJ have been critical of the new model. The main weaknesses are above all the lack of predictability of funding and disproportionately large share of strategic funding.

OAJ Council

The OAJ Council convened November 21–22, 2018. The members of YLL were represented by Inkeri Ruokonen, Mirkka Ali-Laurila, and Outi Ylitapio-Mäntylä. The Council passed a motion to promote the membership for those who are employed in a research-focused position such as doctoral student, post-doctoral researcher, and university researcher. The OAJ rules already

currently make it possible for individual in these positions to join, but in order to sharpen the focus in membership management and acquisition, the Council passed the motion in question. It is increasingly more common that an individual in a university career works in different positions in different times with varying foci on teaching, research, and administration. These foci may be reflected in their respective titles. We strive to make all members feel that YLL is their union regardless of their current duties or titles.

Materials in English

The Ministry of Education and Culture has published a number of translations of its papers on steering of universities. I invite you to get acquainted with them. Unfortunately, still, many of the materials are only available in Finnish and possibly in Swedish. The Ministry now seems committed to making more available in English as well.

<https://minedu.fi/en/steering-financing-and-agreements>

<https://minedu.fi/documents/1410845/12021888/Vision+2030+roadmap/6dfddc6f-ab7a-2ca2-32a2-84633828c942>

Best regards,

Santeri Palviainen

chair, The Union for University Teachers and Researchers in Finland (YLL)