

Letter from the chair 3/2019

October 4, 2019

Dear member,

on the eve of World Teachers' Day I am writing to You with recent news and tidings. Different regional associations of OAJ organize different World Teachers' Day events that I encourage you to attend. You may have received information on these events from your regional association.

### **Collaboration with the Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers**

OAJ has struck a new collaboration arrangement with the Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers. The collaboration will cover both contract negotiations and supervision of interests in education policy and cooperation in the elections of Akava and JUKO. The collaboration will bring a new level of effectiveness in the supervision of interests in the middle group represented by members of YLL. I personally am happy that the collaboration has been achieved, and I am sure that it will be reflected also on the local level. The elections and work of shop stewards will not be affected by the arrangement—as before, the procedures will follow the JUKO practices and guidelines.

### **Negotiations, organizational readiness and OAJ strategy**

The negotiations for a new collective bargain will commence again this winter and it is time to set goals for negotiations. OAJ will organize a set of events in each region to this effect. Each event will cover negotiation goals and maintenance of organizational readiness. Some of the events have already taken place and some are still to happen. You can check the date of your regional event below, your regional OAJ association will communicate the precise times and locations:

<https://www.oaj.fi/ajankohtaista/uutiset-ja-tiedotteet/2019/oajn-jasenillat-starttaavat-sopimusneuvotteluista-ja-strategiasta-puhutaan-ympari-suomen/>  
(in Finnish only)

The events will also include a section concerning the OAJ strategy, which is scheduled to be introduced to the OAJ Council in the spring of 2020. OAJ very much wishes to hear your opinion in which direction the organization should head in the coming years.

### **YLL 50 years**

In the 50th anniversary celebration of YLL, the minister for science and culture Hanna Kosonen brought us the greetings of the government and the permanent secretary of Ministry of Education and Culture Anita Lehtikoinen the greetings of the ministry. Minister Kosonen touched upon the role of teaching and teachers in universities and the permanent secretary highlighted the role of YLL as a partner in collaboration.

Acatiimi's issue 5/2019 was an issue dedicated to YLL with plenty of interesting content. Especially I would like to highlight the article by the University Advocate of OAJ Hanna Tanskanen on the career development of teaching faculty in universities and the joint article by Hanna and the economist of OAJ Mika Väisänen on the salary development of teaching positions.

At the same time YLL's 50th anniversary volume *50 vuotta YLL:n poluilla* was published. The book was edited by the former chair of YLL, Dr. Tuula Hirvonen. You may access the book in the following address:  
<https://yll.fi/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/YLL-juhlakirja.pdf>

### **Budgetary negotiations and admission numbers**

The debate on the funding of universities between the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Finance was resolved with a successful outcome for universities: universities received the 40 million euros of extra funding and the universities of applied sciences 20 million euros. In addition, the indexical raises were returned after having been frozen for many years. However, we have also received the news that the Ministry for Education and Culture is currently planning to increase the number of annual

admissions by 8000 students in the higher education. The negotiations between the Ministry and the universities and universities of applied sciences will decide which institutions and which sectors will receive the extra study places. It is clear, however, that without extra resources the increased admissions will mean funding cuts.

### **A communications strategy for YLL**

YLL has initiated a process of creating a strategy for internal and external communications in order for us to interact better with You, dear member, and our stakeholders in the most optimal way. We will be asking you later this autumn/early winter which are the communications channels through which you would like to receive information on the supervision on your interests and your organization.

### **OAJ theme year on well-being at work 2019–2020**

The current academic year is labeled the theme year for well-being at work in OAJ. Each month has a particular theme relating to well-being. In addition, members are eligible for a number of benefits and discounts for services. I warmly recommend that you avail yourself of these services. You can access information in the following link (in Finnish only):

<https://www.oaj.fi/arjessa/tyohyvinvointi/#info-lukuvuosi-tuo-tietoa-ja-jasenetuja>

### **OAJ University Seminar**

The traditional university event in OAJ will now be organized under a new name, University Seminar, and it will be organized November 8–9, 2019, in Helsinki in Akavatalo. The topic for this year is "Towards the new decade—universities in the 2020's". The invitations will be sent out later this month and I encourage you to participate—the program promises to be very exciting!

### **Nenäpäivä**

OAJ is again this year the main partner of the annual charitable campaign *Nenäpäivä*. You can read more on the charitable work of OAJ in the following link:

<https://www.oaj.fi/oaj/teemmehyvaa/>

(in Finnish only)

Best regards,

Santeri Palviainen

chair, The Union for University Teachers and Researchers in Finland