



# How to influence

Association trainings 2020  
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ayy  
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# My background

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Why did I go into student advocacy?

I have been...

- AYY Academic Affairs Specialist since today
- HYY: eg. representative council member (2012–2018), board member (2014), election and (halloped) selection coordinator(2019, 2020)
- OLL (Finnish Student Sports Federation): vice chair 2015, substituting a specialist three times
- Halloped (student representative) on departmental and faculty level and in the UniSport board

# Where your association can and should affect?

- Student Union: what does AYY offer for associations
  - Board angel (AYY board member dedicated for your association)
  - People in charge of that issue
- Studies
  - Course arrangements – feedback for teacher in charge
  - Programme arrangements – Programme Director, programme committee
  - School – *Vice Dean of Education, Head of Learning Services*, School's Academic Affairs Committee, Dean's lunch with associations
- Study Spaces
  - School building – school's people
  - Other buildings – AYY or ACRE

# Types on influencing

- I want something totally new
  - I want to develop a better system/process
  - I want this to remain as they are
  - Things have changed, everything is terrible and I want to take it all apart
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- Top-down or bottom-up?
  - Choose your battles
  - Be early

# Define your goals

## **Example 1: AYY should buy a pony for the associations**

- Is it the pony you want, or a solution to some problem?
- Oftentimes there are many different solutions.
- If you want **the** solution, hold on to it. If you want **a** solution, give space.

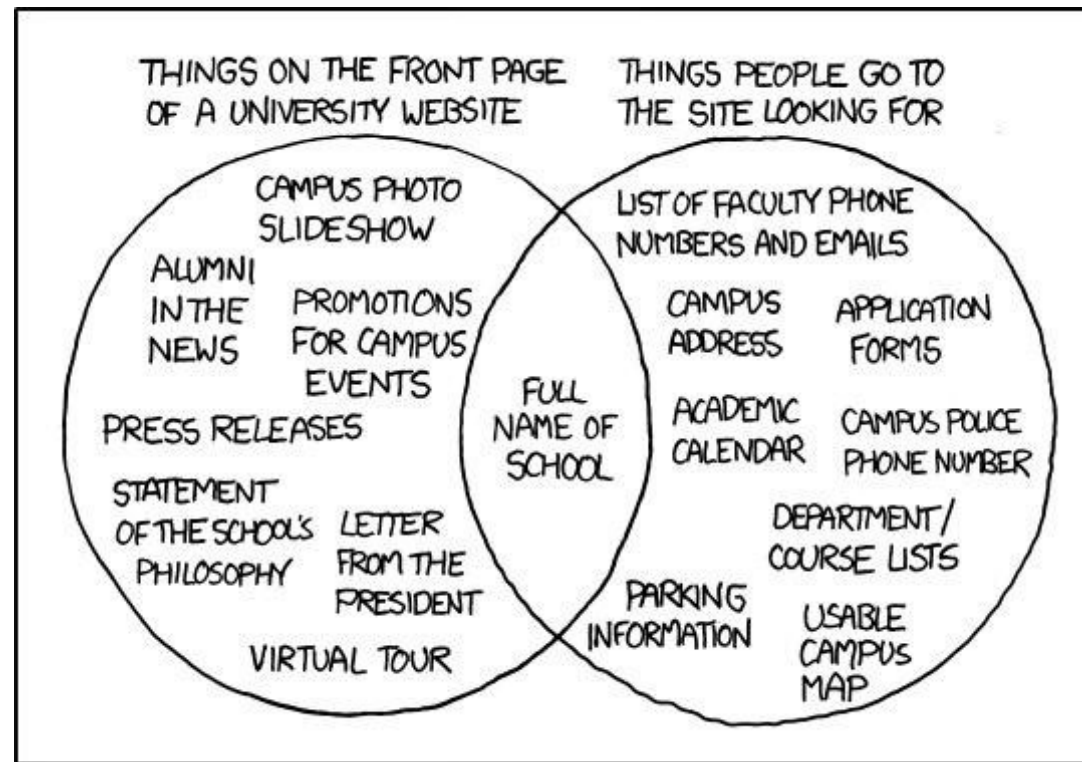
## **Example 2: Aalto communicates poorly, it should do better**

- What is the problem? Who does it affect? Is it a large problem? What does the problem cause?
- Better communication is a wide thing to make happen, but a request to communicate more frequently/via a specific medium/faster, is a simpler task.
- Big issues made concrete and split to smaller bites can make getting results easier.

# Minimum level advocacy checklist for every association

- Do you have a communication channel for communicating about advocacy and problems in your own field?
- Do you have a channel for communicating with all your school's student representatives?
- Who is your Programme Director? School's Vice Dean of Education? Head of Learning Services? When do you meet them? ...you do meet them, right?
- Are you represented in the Study Council (OPN)?

# Finding information is not always easy – ask for it!



# “Imaginary” advocacy situations



# Lecturer speaks out

- Your associations messaging channel: a student tells about a lecture where the lecturer has verbally attacked the competence of international students and the lack of trying of Finnish students
- When you open the chat, there are 50+ messages organizing an address to the president of the university demanding the lecturer be fired
- What will you do?

# Lecturer speaks out

- Take a deep breath
- *Instructions for investigating suspected cases of misconduct and disruptions of student learning* (päivityksessä)
  - You can contact the academic affairs manager of your School
- Above all: there's a process for these things, and you can ask the Student Union about it

# Assessment methods & criteria changing mid-course??

**You are hanging out at the association room and hear that the assessment methods & criteria of some course are changing mid-course.**

At the beginning of the course:

50 % exam, 30 % exercise, 20 % attendance

Now:

30 % exam, 30 % exercise, 30 % attendance, 10 % presentation

Attendance mandatory, no exceptions, even with a note from doctor

# Assessment methods & criteria changing mid-course??

- Verify, if it's actually happening: ask the teacher
- Find out, what the curriculum says – basically the evaluation methods etc. should be known beforehand
- Academic affairs manager
- Again, also: you can ask AYY

