

Dear Dipoli,

You are more beautiful than ever on this Aalto Day One 2017-2018. In the 1960's, you were born to serve the students in their everyday lives, but that was never meant to be your destiny. Instead, you inspired, empowered and gave trust to the creators and leaders of the past and today, and continue to do so tomorrow.

There seems to be no limits to how many get-togethers you can shelter at a time. At the dawn of the new academic year, you remind us of how diverse we are and how ambitious we need to be.

Dear President, esteemed guests and our dear Aalto community,

The most shining building does not in itself make a university – it embodies it. The most fantastic structure does not create the future – it searches for it. The best of communities does not exist alone – but what is it then?

The Aalto community stems from the new ideas of its members, and it is never fully complete. A university should not be a pipe through which water merely flows through. Rather it be a pool, kept fresh and enlivened by currents of water. We recognize the need for lifelong learning and belonging. By offering for example mentoring, light courses, open research data and free-time activities, regardless of one's graduation status, the university can take a role in developing the competitiveness and knowledge of both new and old alumni. And that benefits the individuals, the university and society alike.

The Aalto community can afford to be multi-faceted. It is formed from many small communities, which we are unable to totally control. We don't know where the best ideas are brought forth at different times. On the other hand, many members struggle to find a place of their own in the community, for example after graduation. The university and the Student Union can support the creation of small communities and their upkeep also in places where they don't yet exist. At the same time, we need to guide and encourage people to create new, multi-field, international and innovative contacts, to broaden the knowledge of opportunities. The strongest bridges are built between people, not orchestrated with standardized PowerPoint presentations.

The Aalto spirit reaches for passion, competitiveness and well-being. To find our own direction we might need a lot of guidance and a boost to our confidence. Successful achievements spur us forward, and the individuals who flourish are worth celebrating. When we however stop and look around, we see a severe problem. A fifth of the students of the Aalto University are severely exhausted or right at the brink. Only students that are feeling well are useful to anyone, including themselves. We need to take a closer look on how we can support, encourage and care for each other, because succeeding together is more valuable than succeeding alone.

Dear President,

I am especially glad that our ability to develop the Aalto University is based on doing things together. You've promised us that the students will be the focus of things and that hopefully there won't be a problem that we can't solve together. Experience has shown that different views create the most educative, and, in the end, the funniest of stories.

It requires courage to discuss and decide openly. But it is needed for us to find the correct questions and goals. We have so many of them in the making. Don't fret, however; we are planning a whole host of shenanigans to honor your escapade from provost to President.

After all, we have it very well in Aalto. Renewed Dipoli highlights how the community have exceeded all expectations, decade after decade. What wisdom the students, professors, alumni, personnel, supporters and partners hold, will change the world, should we choose to do it together.

Aalto University students wish the whole community all the best for the new academic year!