

Dear VMU students!

I want to take this opportunity to talk about the most important VMU SC issue of the presidential election: why do we need student self-government?

During the interwar period, Lithuanian students were engaged in such active and strong activities, which we now find difficult to realize. Students participated in various protests, organized movements, raised relevant social and political issues, built student houses, organized social care. All this and much more allowed more than one student to finish his studies, and after studies to continue to contribute to the creation of human heritage in Lithuania and the world. Student initiatives are typical not only to the interwar history of Lithuania. In current European countries such as Belgium or Germany, similar student initiatives and activities are still cultivated. I have no doubt we can achieve the same by shrugging our shoulders together at Vytautas Magnus University.

The student movement “Šauksmas” only confirms this. With the student movement, we have done a lot to achieve a different kind of student self-government. In addition, today we are happy about the regular meetings of the Student Parliament, its greater independence from other representative bodies, more active parliamentarians and lively debates. Furthermore, during the life of the student movement “Šauksmas”, the student turnout in the elections tripled to a record 12 percent all VMU students, and the Student Representative Council more often informs and reports about its activities. Meanwhile, the student movement “Šauksmas” have raised issues such as mass student work and inadequate living loans for the first time – among the priorities of the new Government. And it’s all done just in two years.

There is still a lot to be done. We must strive for the best possible material conditions for our students. In this way, we will create a favorable environment for them to study and engage in extracurricular activities. We need to reform the Student Representative Council so that it is more transparent and open to everyone. The fact that I address to all VMU students at the beginning of the letter, but only a handful of them will elect the president, is the clearest sign of the problems to be solved. That is why I am running for the presidency of VMU SA.

Yours faithfully,

Member of Vytautas Magnus University Student Parliament “Šauksmas” faction

Žygimantas Menčenkovas