



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' UNION OF NORWAY

MINUTES ISU NATIONAL ASSEMBLY University College of Oslo 21-23 April 2006

International Student's Union (ISU) is an independent, student-run interest organisation which seeks to represent international students in Norway politically, academically and socially. The highest deciding organ of ISU is the National Assembly (NA), which is held twice a year.

The first NA of 2006 took place in Oslo, at 21-23 April. The meeting was held at the university college of Oslo, and included three days of meeting, socialising, inspiration and even a tour of the Norwegian parliament.

1.0 Reports and Orientation Cases

1.1 – 1.4 Approval of meeting plan, agenda, chair person and minutes from last NA

ISU President Eton Williams welcomed the delegates and the observers to the first ISU National Assembly of 2006, and thanked the Oslo Branches (HiO and UiO) for hosting us. 18 branch delegates were present, along with three representatives from the prospective ISU branches in Bodø and Telemark. In addition, the president of NSU and the international officer of StL were present, as well as the ISU national president and secretary and two chairpersons. Representatives from the international committees of NSU and StL were also observing parts of the assembly. For the complete list of participants, see *appendix 1*.

To open the assembly, the delegates approved of the meeting plan, the agenda and the minutes from the last assembly in October 2005. The chairpersons; Eivind Vad Petterson and Eirik Nedreliid, were introduced and accepted with applause.

1.5 Brief Presentation of ISU

On Friday afternoon, when most delegates were present, Eton made a brief presentation of ISU, as several participants were new to the ISU assemblies. His introduction included our structure, aims and past achievements.

1.6 Branch Presentations

All the local branches had submitted reports of their organisation and activities of the past year, and these were presented during the assembly, three or four each day. They were asked to focus on challenges and solutions in particular, and this provided a forum in which the branches could share their experiences and gain input and inspiration. For the full branch reports, see *appendix 2*.

1.7 Introduction of HiBodø and HiTelemark

Two representatives from the university college of Bodø and one from the university college of Telemark were present at the NA, and these presented their prospective branches at Saturday morning. Bodø is already a functioning branch, while Telemark is in the establishing phase. Their reports are included with the other branch reports in *appendix 2*.

1.8 President Report

The president's report was originally scheduled for Saturday, but it was postponed to Sunday due to time constraints. Eton Williams elaborated on his work and achievements since he was elected president at the last NA, and this included in particular contact with branches and extensive networking for ISU. His entire report can be found in *appendix 3*.

1.9 Secretary's Report

The national secretary, Hanna Holmelin, presented her report on Sunday morning. She focused in particular on her organising role, as she is hired and not elected. Since the last NA, she has focused mainly on improving the ISU financial routines, organising the NA and worked on the Quota and Norad student situation. For the full NSec report see *appendix 4*.

1.10 StL report

The international officer of StL, Katrine Elida, presented her organisation to the NA, and told the assembly that StL is representing students at 30 university colleges in Norway. She then focused on the relationship between ISU and StL, and informed the NA that StL have decided to fund ISU with NOK 50.000 for our expansion project. As ISU already have branches at the six universities in Norway, we now work closely with StL to include new branches at the StL member colleges. Katrine Elida informed the assembly about the requirements for identifying new potential branches, and urged us to be modest; if we are able to include two new branches each year, that will be great. Katrine Elida also gave Eton, Ricardo and Hanna a small present from StL with thanks for the good cooperation.

1.11 NSU Report

Jørn Henriksen, the leader of NSU, told the NA about his organisation, and elaborated on NSU's cooperation with ISU. NSU is guaranteeing our existence, by granting us the remaining sum if we receive less than NOK 200.000 from the ministry. Still, however, they support us in our wish to become financially independent.

2.0 Organisational Cases

2.1 Consideration of Bodø as a future branch

The two representatives from Bodø, Chamara Kuruppu and Upendra Napit, presented an impressive report of the activities and structure of their already existing branch on Saturday morning. Later that day, in a grandiose venue inside the Norwegian parliament building, the NA voted unanimously in favour of their inclusion as the 10th local branch of ISU. Congratulations Bodø!

2.2 National Constitution

The NA of October 2005 decided to appoint a committee to revise the ISU national constitution. The committee members were Susana (UiS), Abar (UiS), Anna (UiB), Sally Ann (UiO) and Anastassia (UiT), and with the help of Eton, these delegates have spent the winter preparing their suggestions for changes. Their suggestions were presented at the Saturday, and a discussion of the various editions followed. About 30 new proposals for changes came in

during the Saturday, and the with the great discipline and overview of our two chairpersons, all the voting was finished by Saturday evening. ISU now have an updated and relevant constitution document, and this is quite an achievement which we all should be proud of! For the Committee's proposals, additional proposals, voting results and the new constitution with all the changes, see *appendix 5,6,7 and 8*.

2.5 Financial Report and Budget

Hanna presented the financial report for 2005, and the budget for 2006. ISU ran with a deficit of NOK 25.159 in 2005, but since the last NA of October 2005 decided to introduce a participant's fee of NOK 1000 pr delegate pr NA, the financial result for 2006 is likely to be balanced. For 2006, ISU has applied for NOK 250.000 from the Ministry of Education and Research, and if we should actually receive this amount, we would be able to start repaying our NOK 30.283 debt to NSU. For the complete financial report and budget, see appendix 9.

In addition, Hanna told the NA that she has worked on improving and formalising the financial routines of ISU, since this has to be in order if we want to present ourselves as a serious and responsible interest organisation.

2.6 ISU Plan for 2006

In addition to continues work for the political, academic and social interests of international students, the main goal for ISU in 2006 is to continue our expansion project. We now count 10 member branches, and hopefully we will be able to welcome more branches into the ISU family at the NA next term.

3.0 Political and Academic Cases

At Sunday afternoon, each branch was given time to present their local cases to the NA. Some branches had forwarded their issues in writing in advance, and some presented their concerns orally. Debates followed and the NA agreed on writing a number of resolutions concerning quota students, information in English from Samskipnaden and Lånekassen, work permit fee, the academic review, grade point average and Norwegian exam information course. The full list of proposals for resolutions is included in appendix 10.