

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' UNION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OSLO.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPORT – APRIL 21ST – 23RD



WHO WE ARE

ISU Oslo is a branch of ISU Norway, a non-profit organization run for and by international students. On a national level we work in cooperation with the Norwegian Students Union. Here at the University of Oslo, ISU collaborates with the Student Parliament to represent international students. We understand that being a student is challenging enough in itself. It is even more so far away from home, away from friends and family, in a new country with a new language.

To sum it up, we aim to serve reliably as a practical, social and cultural resource, an academic supporter and foremost as a moral support base. With your help we will continue to foster a spirit of co-operation and understanding between the international students and the greater university community - and have a bit of fun along the way :)

WHAT WE DO

But what does this mean in practical terms?

- As a practical resource we provide information, help with orientation and do general problem solving.
- We are the creators of the first general academic journal in English which has recently been established: *The Academic Review of Norway*.
- We organize social events such as Halloween parties, Trips to the *Freia Chocolate Factory* and themed Quizzes Friday afternoons at the International Café in Bokkafeen in Chateau neuf.
- We organize sporting events such as Basketball and Volleyball challenges at the Domus Athletica Facilities for the University
- Mainly we are involved with as many international issues as possible.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE THIS LAST SEMESTER?

This past semester a new Board was elected for the term. These new Board members are the following:

President	Ricardo Duque	Press Editor	Sabina Sirbu
Vice-President	Inia James Nicholls	Secretary General	Gwendolyn Sheldon
Financial Secretary	Alexei Motlokhov	Sports and Academics Secretary	Anna Feigum
Social Affairs Secretary	Niveditha Rajadevan	Webmaster	Antonio Monroy

As you can see, it was a custom again for the president to stay over while a completely new Board was elected except for our dear Secretary General – Gwendolyn Sheldon whom very faithfully stuck with us!

This last semester has been one of great successes for the University of Oslo branch. We have engaged in our three pillars of activity (Academic, Political and Social) like never before and have accomplished great things.

- The Universitas Project.
 - o Passed on from the Board of 2004-2005 we continued the project which insured publication of articles in English in the Student Newspaper Universitas (translated from the original Norwegian) and during its evaluation this term all the parties involved (Student Parliament, Universitas and ISU) agreed to the success of the Project.
 - o Throughout the evaluation, the feedback from the Newspaper was so positive, they have improved the availability of the articles and are considering hiring a native English speaking journalist among their ranks to have original material done in English.
 - o After the evaluation, the project was assured further financing for the next year.

- The Academic Review of Norway
 - o Ever since our branch committed itself to the publication and creating of the Review, we have constantly worked to garner forces and make it run. It has been a slow process but we are happy to say we have completed two editions with the Third edition half-way through editorial work.
 - o We faced a lot of challenges such as Budget and time constraints. We finished the first version towards the end of last semester and we sent a couple of copies to all the branches. We finished this version just recently (due to our political commitments, we couldn't do any better) and have decided to deliver it to the branches personally. As well, the third edition will be finished before the end of the semester. A formal report is done in another occasion.
 - o We have acknowledged the importance of the Review and are creating another position within our Board to further on the efforts to publish. We wish it to become a cornerstone of the ISU at the University of Oslo.

- Our political cases.
 - o **The self-financed bachelor degree seeking international students Case** (SFB case) at the University of Oslo was a high priority for us this semester. IT involved the Administration trying to cut down financial support for an admission process for International students who do not know Norwegian and apply to the University of Oslo directly. These students usually have the option of taking Norwegian for a year and are allowed to begin their courses for a bachelor's degree at the University.
 - The administration tried to close the admission process for these students without consulting with neither the faculties directly, nor with the Student Parliament or ISU.
 - Together in Strong cooperation with the Student Parliament, we managed to pass an evaluation period of one year and committed the authorities within the University to do some research on the consequences shutting such an admission process would have on the University.
 - It was a victory that showed once more that wherever possible, ISU branches in cooperation with their Student Parliaments can make a difference at their institutions for international students.
 - o **The Student Residence Case.** With the Help of the welfare council we have constantly emitted hearings to the administration and to the government regarding financing for more student residences in Oslo. The purpose behind this has mainly been the desire to improve the price levels to offer more possibilities to the international students in Oslo and to avoid the "ghettoization" of the cheaper residences.
 - o **The Integration Case.** We have constantly been involved with the University Newspaper making statements regarding the integration of International Students within the University. Both within the international committee of the student parliament, as well as within the Buddy Group Organization (Fadder Ordningen) we have transmitted ideas that have improved integration one step at a time. A joint and mixed buddy group (introduction groups of students during the first days on campus) between international students and Norwegian students is one of the aims and goals for the enhancing of integration. Smalls steps always add up to major distances being traveled.

- Our Social Activities
 - o This semester we enjoyed the reputation of the party kings. In what seemed to be a snowballing effect, we threw 3 major parties that grew in size and reputation at every turn. From our St. Valentine's day party with turnout of 200, our St. Patrick's day party with 230 turnover, to our Black/White party with a spectacular 400 give or take turnout.
 - o We have continued to enhance our sports activities with an interactive setting. This semester we broadcasted the film "Dodgeball" the week before a sports event regarding Dodgeball which made the sports event an even further success. The sports activities have therefore remained traditionally at the sport facilities with three major events every semester

- Our also traditional Freia Factory Tours have been held, and this semester we held one at the beginning of the semester and next week another one will take place.

We look forward to seeing all of you guys this coming Assembly and hope to be able to work further in the area we are concerned with the most: The interests of the International Students in Norway.

Lastly, we present our budget for this semester.

PROJECTED BUDGET
International Students' Union at the University of Oslo
Spring 2006

Income	Budget	Expenses	Budget
ISU National Membership	0,00	ISU National Membership	2 000,00
Operating Incomes	0,00	Operating Expenses	
		- Office Supplies	500,00
		- Candy for social event	172,50
		- ISU Uniform and operational expenses	3 000,00
		- Board Dinner	400,00
Sport Events	0,00	Sport Events	
		- Booking	2 475,00
		- Awards	800,00
		- Food and Drinks	500,00
Social Events		Social Events	
- St. Valentine's Kringsjå	0,00	- St. Valentine's Kringsjå	2 000,00
- St. Patrick's	2 000,00	- St. Patrick's	4 000,00
- Coming of Spring Event	2 000,00	- Coming of Spring Event	4 000,00
- Freia	540,00	- Freia	540,00
Academic Review	0	Academic Review	
		- Printing (two editions)	5 000,00
		- Post Service	500,00
Cash Leftover	300,50	Bank Charges	75,00
Studentparlamentet	10 000,00		
UiO	5 000,00		
Rest on account from last semester	7 102,81		
Central ISU-Support	0,00		
SAIH	0,00		
Total	26 943,31	Total	25 962,50

Balance	980,81	- Amount of money available on the 1st of August, 2006 (Income - Expenses)
Monies at the account	680,31	- Amount of money available on the account on 1st of August, 2006 (Balance -Cash leftover)

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<http://foreninger.uio.no/isu/>