



International Students' Union University of Tromsø



18 April 2006

Members: Around 700 students at all levels.

Spring 2006 Board members:

Gemechu Jemal (Ethiopia)..... President: gemechuj@gmail.com
Anastassia Lonenko (Russia).....Vice-President: anastassyk@yandex.ru
Julia Shevtsova (Russia)..... General-Secretary: julietta_sh@mail.ru
Abdul Hoque (Bangladesh)..... Treasurer: abdulhoque_bd@yahoo.co.uk
Marek Zakrzewski (Poland)..... Web master: marek@zakrzewski.pl
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Autumn 2005 and spring 2006 Activities Report.

In October, the ISU had undertaken three major activities. On the 30th of September 2005 the ISU has organized a party in the Old Café Bodega. This was organized for two reasons: farewell to the former ISU board members and also welcome to the new board members and all international students. Even if the party was organized by the ISU, many Norwegian students also took part. This emphasizes one of the tasks for ISU, which is the creation of the understanding and cooperation between the Norwegian and the international students at UITØ. It is also an indication that all ISU activities are wide open for all the other student communities at the University of Tromsø.

The ISU has also started the Host Family Program, in which case voluntary Norwegian families will pick up voluntary international students as their 'family' until the student complete his/her studies. For this purpose, the ISU had dispatched a letter demanding international students to respond if they wanted to have a 'family' here. Many students responded and expressed their eager interest in the project. Their names have now been compiled and the Union will soon start discussions with the Counseling Center at the university to plan the next move.

The President and the Vice-President of the Union also attended the ISU- National Assembly in Oslo from 7-9 October. Here some important decisions were made. Some of these are payment of 1000 NOK per delegate on each ISU-National Assembly, revision of the ISU-National Constitution, establishment of new branches and Cooperation between the different branches of the ISU. The Vice-President was delegated to be member of the Revision Committee.

In the end of October, Kätlin, the board member of ISU, organized an African party. Almost 70 people from different countries attended and had a really good time all together.

On the 29th of October, the ISU organized the Good Bye Summer Party in Old Bodega, where more than a hundred Norwegian and international students gathered to celebrate the event. It was mainly organized to celebrate the readjustment of the time - one-hour back. It was a

fantastic event. But due to some inconveniency, we failed to clean the Bodega the next day and we were fined by 1.000 NOK.

In November, the ISU had undertaken three basic activities: the Good Bye Summer Party, the Eid celebration, and the Hugin's Report.

On the 7th of November, the ISU organized the Eid celebration in Ardna to share the experience of the month of Ramadan with fellow Muslim students. There were also guest students who came from Bangladesh and Finland to take part on the event. Abdul and Marek, the treasurer and the web master of the ISU consecutively had taken an active part in organizing this event. A total of 44 students had come to share the experience. Delicious Bangladeshi cultural food, snacks and soft drinks were served for the participants.

The other major event of the ISU in this month was the Hugin's report. Priscilla, the former president of the ISU worked hard to make it a success. It was organized on the 10th of November in Driv. This event was unique from previous events because more than five Norwegian students took part. This shows the strengthening of the process of integration and understanding between Norwegian and international students. These Norwegian students also promised to perform on every cultural event, which will be organized by the ISU. The ISU will continue to work hard in the direction of strengthening the relationship between the Norwegian and international students and will continue to organize cultural events to increase the cultural competence and understanding of both parties.

In the month of December, there are five major activities the ISU has undertaken. The first one was the monthly Hugin's Report organized by Priscilla at Driv. As usual many performers and audience has taken part.

The ISU football team has also taken part in the Coca Cola Cup indoor football competition. Although the team was not properly prepared for the tournament because of the short notice, it has managed to draw one game and scored four goals in three games.

The ISU has also organized Bowling tournament at the Tromsø Bowling and Squash Club in which few students has taken part.

On the 24 of December, the ISU also organized Christmas lunch for international students who did not go home or their Norwegian Christmas families due to various reasons. 35 guests participated from 22 different countries and most of the students' prepared traditional food from their home countries.

On the 31 of December, New Year's Eve party was organized at Hawk Club in which free entrance was given for interested international Students.

In the month of January and the last two weeks of February, the ISU strengthened its weekly sports activity every Sunday between 3:00-6:00 PM. During this time, International students went to Kraft and played games such as football, volleyball, and basketball. The number of students is increasing each week. On the 11 of February even some Norwegians joined us and played football together. This is a big step towards the development of dialogue and understanding between international and Norwegian students.

The other event was the "sunny party" on the 27th of January in the Old Bodega. This was the last party organized by the former ISU board. It is organized for three purposes. First, it is a kind of welcome for the new international students who joined the university in the spring semester. Secondly, it is to remind the coming back of the sun after more than two months disappearance. Thirdly, it is organized to farewell members of the former ISU board who

finished their term at the union. Finally, it is organized with the intention of advertising the ISU for the new students and to attract new people to join the board.

The last but not the least event is the election for new board members of the ISU for the spring semester. The General Assembly met on the 3rd of February to undertake the election and evaluate the activity and financial report of the ISU during the autumn semester. The GA approved the financial and activity reports of the ISU and undertook the election.

Accordingly, the President(Gemechu Jemal), the vice-President(Anastassia Lonenko), the General-Secretary(Julia Shevtsova), the treasurer(Abdul Hoque), the web master(Marek Zakrzewski), the PR officer(Alberto Parada), and the Organizing officer(Charity Mwape Namukoko Salasini), were re elected again. The election brought four more organizing officers in to the board. These are Glen Thesslin, Ioannis Agouridakis, Nicole Baeten, and Carlos Verge.

This month the ISU had undertaken two major activities. It organized the St. Valentine's Party on 14 February in the Old Bodega. More than one hundred international and Norwegian students took part in this, which was one of the most successful events organized by the ISU. Different entertaining games were organized by the board members such as speed dating and the arrow of Amour.

The other event is the Hugin's report that took place on 23 February in collaboration with Priscilla and Driv. This event took place in Driv and numerous Norwegian and international students took part both as participants and observers. It was also proved to be a success in terms of the number of people it attracted.

In addition to these two events the sports activities in Kraft every Sunday afternoon are taking place.

This is one of the most successful months for the ISU. There are four major events during this month.

On 17 March, ISU organized an international cuisine in the main canteen. It was a big success for the ISU. Students from South Africa, Bangladesh, Zambia, and Poland cooked food from their respective culture. More than 130 internationals and Norwegians came and tasted the delicious food.

On 2 April, ISU in collaboration with Interinfo organized an Ice fishing trip to Laksvatn, a place 45 kilometers away from Tromsø. It was a wonderful experience for the 28 international students who took part in this event. Three of the students even managed to catch a fish.

The ISU also organized a cabin trip to Brenshollmen from 7-9 of April. 16 Students had taken part on this event.

One of the most successful and important events organized by the ISU this year was the trip to Kautokeino during the Sami Easter Film Festival. The trip took place from 12-16 April. 26 Students had taken part in this event.

During the whole semester two students from the Visual Cultural Studies, Kätlin Roovik (the ISU board member) and Dithunya Lekoa were documenting most of the activities with the film camera. They hope to get the access to the editing facilities at the institute to edit the material into a short documentary about ISU events later on.

Cooperation with other organizations:

ISU Tromsø has a strong tradition of cooperation with the Norwegian Students' Union (NSU) at the University of Tromsø. ISU Tromsø usually gets its annual budget from the NSU. This year, in addition to giving 50,000 NOK to our organization, the NSU showed its support and cooperation by covering the 2000 NOK participation fee of the two representatives to this National Assembly.

ISU Tromsø has one sit in the student parliament as well. It also has cooperation with other branches in more of an informal way. The board members gave accommodation for international students from other branches that came to Tromsø for various purposes on a number of occasions.

Challenges for the future of our branch:

The number of international students joining the University of Tromsø and hence ISU Tromsø is increasing. This means that there has to be enough funds to include many students in ISU activities. Every year ISU gets its budget from the NSU. Even if the number of international students is growing every year, NSU gives the same amount of money every year because of its limited financial capabilities. For instance, last year and this year the funding from the NSU remained the same in the form of 50,000 NOK but this year there are more than 70 additional students.

The possible solutions to alleviate this problem are to ask for an independent funding from the University itself and looking for possible sponsors of ISU activities.

Plans for board election next semester:

The Executive board of the ISU will be elected by the General Assembly at the beginning of the next semester. An election committee consisting of 3 persons shall be elected by the General Assembly. The election committee will be responsible for the conduct of the election.

Any member indicating his willingness to take the post if elected can be nominated for an Executive position. Nominated candidates must either be present or have indicated their willingness to work in the Executive in written form to the General Assembly. All elections for the Executive members shall be by secret ballot.

Three members of the Auditing Committee will be in charge of the election in September. These are:

Katlin Roovik (Estonia)..... katilin.roovik@gmail.com
Richard Kagolobya (Uganda)..... kagolobya2000@yahoo.co.uk
Dragana Shurkaovic (Serbia)..... shurkica@yahoo.com

Best regards,
Gemechu Jemal,
President, ISU Tromsø

University of Tromsø International Student Union

Financial Plan for the spring semester 2006

Started from -13.02.06. Probable end 8th September-2006

Information about income	
Money transfer from previous board	720,82
Money received from NSU	25000
Total amount at the beginning	25720,82
Bank	25625,32
Cash Box	95,5
Total	25720,82

Financial Plan for expenditure

Sl. No.	Approved plan of activities	<i>Proposed plan of Expenditure</i>	<i>Approved plan of expenditure</i>
01.	Sailing Trip/ Cabin Trip/harstad	1500	
02.	Kautokeino Trip	3,000	
03.	Hiking Trip	(500 per trip) 1000	
04.	Talent show	1500	
05.	Valentine party	3000	
	<i>Rent Bodega</i>	<i>300</i>	
	<i>Cleaning Pizza</i>	<i>500</i>	
	<i>Decoration</i>	<i>500</i>	
	<i>Soft drinks and snacks</i>	<i>1700</i>	
05.	Fare well party	3000	
	<i>Rent Bodega</i>	<i>300</i>	
	<i>Cleaning Pizza</i>	<i>500</i>	
	<i>Decoration</i>	<i>500</i>	
	<i>Soft drinks and snacks</i>	<i>1700</i>	
06.	Hugin's report	----	
07.	Participation in Foot/hand/ Volly ball tournament	1200	
08.	Sledging course (200 per course)	600	
09.	International cuisine, 300 per country	3000	
10.	Full moon debates	1000	
11.	Office cost	1000	
12.	Telephone bill	3000	
13.	Meeting-Snacks	700	
14.	Planning meeting	1500	
15.	Incidental cost	1000	
Total		26000	