

International Students Union (ISU) - Ås, Norway.

The report provides an over view of the activites of the old ISU board 2003-04 and indicative activities for the academic year 2004-05 by the new board.

The new ISU board at NLH-Ås was elected on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2004 and its composition is as below;

Ashaba Hannington	President
Osman Ali Osmanelmakki	Vice President
Tabasum Noorjamal	Social Secretary
Progress Nyanga	Treasurer
Geofrey Khwarae	General Secretary

In the 2003-04 academic year the ISU board achieved the following,

Organised a sports Gala. This sports gala attracted many international students who participated in various sports and games on that day. It was an exciting experience for the international students. A party was also held after the Gala and it was enjoyable.

Christmas and New Year parties: Since most of the International Students don't usually go to their respective home countries during the Christmas break, the ISU organised two parties during this period. They were well attended and indeed acted as an alternate form of merry Christmas away from home.

Organised an Eid party. This was organised largely for the Islamic community after the holy month of Ramadan. Invitations were also sent to the colleagues from other religious denominations. It was an excellent gathering for the international students.

Several other get-together parties by various groups of students were supported by ISU as long as they were open to all students and represented a positive way for students to learn about other cultures. These for example included the French party, Hindu-Holi party and Easter gathering.

Field Work experience sharing. This gathering attracted most masters' students who were preparing to go for their fieldwork. Most PHD students with vast experience in Fieldwork were requested to share their experiences with the masters' students. The event was held in Holmenkollen away from the main campus to avoid disruptions from any other activities. It was moderately attended.

A get together for second year students doing Masters in Management of Natural Resources, Development Studies and Development and Resource Economics. This was an excellent event for the finalists to say bye to each other and a good official send off from the ISU board.

The above plus effective political representation by the ISU board especially in the student parliament, liaising with the International Office and Academic departments, constitute the boards numerous achievements in the Academic year 2003-04.

The Vision for the New Board 2004-05

The new ISU board will continue to champion the creed for student's social welfare but will also do the following especially on the political front;

Improved representation of international students especially in the student parliament.

We also hope to work more closely with the departmental boards so as to keep a breast with the issues at hand especially in the field of academics,

To work closely with the PHD students who have hither too not been actively participating in the ISU activities and yet they form a critical resource to the International community,

Close cooperation with the international office is also earmarked in order to be able to create synergies for smooth running of our work at the University,

ISU is closely looking into the possibilities of starting a FORUM for the International students where they gather to air their views, interests and to share experiences,

Most students have in the past had housing problems especially with StudentSamSkipnadeen (SIAAS) which provides most international students with accommodation. They are sometimes overcharged, evicted at will, not given priority especially the continuing students among other problems. We have already initiated talks aimed at harmonising the relations between the students and SIAAS.

Most literature at NLH-ÅS is in Norwegian. This creates a language problem for most International Students who predominantly use English. We hope to advocate for more translation of such literature into English without creating any diminishing returns for the Norwegian students.

In addition an introductory course in Norwegian is earmarked for all the new international students in the coming spring semester.

Cognisant of the need to socialise as international students but also to get integrated with the Norwegian students outside class, we shall continue to work very closely with the International Committee in organising such events as get-together parties, concerts, shows among others.

We hope to design a Web page for ISU-ÅS so as to enhance our profile and visibility to the international community here. The Website will also help us disseminate relevant information to the students.

The Financial health of the ISU-ÅS is currently standing as below;

Summary of ISU-ÅS Financial Report 2003/004			
Balance C/F	In	Out	Date
30 343,50	43 622,50		17.Oct .2004
		41 202,08	As at 08.09.2004
Final balance at bank			As at 08.09.2004
32 763,20			
Cash			
0,5			

Ashaba Hannington  
 President International Students Union,  
 Agricultural University of Norway,