

National Assembly Minutes

16.09.2014

Day 1

- **13.00 – 15.00** Team-building activities with the delegates.
- **15.00 – 15.10** Opening speech by NP Abbas Sharif. Points out that ISU`s strength is teamwork and diversity and that we as a group have the ability to make changes.
- **15.13 – 15.53** Frode Eika Sandnes, Pro – Rector for research & internationalization speaks about Norway as a nation of knowledge (and how it should facilitate integration of international students in higher education). Talks about the mobility of Norwegians students that go on exchange. Mentions a few positive effects of internationalisation and the negative effects of the proposal of introducing tuition fees.

A few minutes is set aside for questions.

- **15.55 – 16.19** Karl Norli, senior advisor at HiOA international office talks about cooperation with international office and what the international office does at HiOA, and how they cooperate with student organisations.

Comments and questions from the delegates.

- **16.20 – 16.37** Tord Øverland, HiOA student parliament leader. Talks shortly about what the student parliament does and how to cooperate with the student parliaments at their local institution. Encourages the delegates to participate in their local institutions.

A few comments and questions from the delegates.

- **16.40 – 17.05** Rune Bugten will present LO (the Norwegian confederation of trade unions). Talks a bit about how international students who work in Norway part-time can benefit from joining LO with a student membership. Also mentions that Los local chapters can be contacted by ISU local branches if they have issues or problems with their working environment.

Comments and questions from the delegates.

- **17.05 – 17.15** **Break**
- **17.15 – 17.30** Anders Kvernmo Langset, NSO leader gives a greeting to the delegates.
- **17.30 – 17.57** Kristoffer Kinge from SAIH. Talks about the cooperation between SAIH and ISU and the campaigns they have lead the last couple of years.

- **18.00 – 18.20** Leah Hayward presents the continuity handbook and goes through the chapters.

Suggestion: add a sample letter to send to potential sponsors for the local branches.

- **End of day 1.**

DAY 2

- **08.30 – 09.50** Registration at Frivillighetshuset. People are late and therefore registration takes longer than scheduled.
- **09.55 – 09.00** Voting of the Agenda and the chairpersons and the vote counters. Both votes are more than 50% and both passes.
- **10.00 – 10.21** NB Annual Report by NP Abbas Sharif. Goes through the main events of the National Board of the last year, for example the introduction of tuition fees in 2013 and how the protest against it was formed, information about the meeting with the minister of education, NSO and other partners, the closing of ISU OIBC, financing reports and logo competition, frifond reports, SEDAI (discrimination against Iranian students), quota scheme evaluation and full-time secretary employment.

Question about the schedule, it seems that it has only been allowed time for speaking and not for questions and comments.

Answer: the chair will be strict regarding time and it is emphasized that we have to start on time.

- **10.25 – 10.40** Arvid Ellingsen special advisor from LO speaking about “Knowledge Society, Norwegian companies, International politics and tuition fees”. Speaks about the history of the LO and other unions and history of students in Norway after WW2. Talks about the Danish productivity reform that rewards students who chooses a program that will give you a high paying job. Mentions that LO supports us in the fight against tuition fees.

Q: What is the statistical number of non-Norwegian members of LO`s 900.000?

A: 100.000 and increasing.

- **10.50 – 11.00** Stian Seland, leader of LNU, greetings from LNU. Talks about what LNU is and what LNU does for their members (among other things distribute funds and offer courses to educate members).
- **11.00 – 11.10 BREAK**

- **11.10 – 11.22** Votes for 3 people who came in late. Recount when all people are not present in the room. In the end, 40 people are present and 2/3 of that is 26 people needed for a majority vote.
- **11.22 – 11.25** ISU constitution amendment proposals, discussion and voting. A proposal to abolish the VP of Academic Affairs and Welfare position and make 2 VP's of Union of Development. The reason being that that the Union Development is a big position that requires a lot of work and that the VP of AA & W is made irrelevant since all official documents and media is in Norwegian.

C: Comment, Q: Question, A: Answer.

C: NS is not elected and the responsibilities should be transferred to someone else in the board.

Q: Why is there not a requirement for a Norwegian B – level understanding in the NB? There should not be only 1 person who can translate things.

C: This year Daniel have been very active, we should look at it but think more on this proposal.

C: In 2-3 years it local branches might increase, the workload is big, better to have 2 positions.

C: We have tried changing it like this before

A: laws, policies, documents come in Norwegian, the political language is difficult and the document and the purpose. Some of the responsibilities are added to the first vice president. Having a requirement for knowing Norwegian at a high level is difficult, most people are only here for a short time.

C: The key points of the VPAA&W have not been transferred (regarding the welfare of the students). Thinks we should transfer them to the NP before this proposal is approved.

Q: Why not 2 Union development AND have the AA&W position.

A: The positions becomes irrelevant

C: Does not think that the position should be cut before the responsibilities of that position is transferred to someone else.

C: 26 branches for one person is difficult. We in the NB want to be there for you.

C: Suggests to add one Vice President or other position if we are to abolish the AA&W.

C: Thinks we should rather cut the First Vice President instead of the AA&W.

C: Needs to move the responsibilities to someone else (AA&W). Daniel has worked more than he was supposed to.

A: Your first priority is to your own degree, what you came to Norway for. ISU should not be a full-time position for anyone.

C: No-one opposes the idea of 2 union development positions,

Vote: Keep the AAF&W or abolish it. In favour of abolishing: 16. Wants to keep it: 25.

Vote to keep the position passes.

Since we are running late further voting will be postponed until after the next key speaker.

- **12.30 – 13.00** Margunn Instefjord, senior advisor for SIU. "What is SIU, role and importance of internationalisation in Norwegian education and the impact of tuition fees". Explains the history and how SIU works. Talks about the evaluation published yearly by SIU where international students have responded on how they view Norway as a study destination. She comments shortly on the tuition fee issue.

Questions and comments from the delegates.

- **13.00 – 14.10 LUNCH**
- **14.18 – 14.42 Voting in NB positions**
 1. Vote: Create a second Union Development Vice President.
For: , Against:
 2. Vote: Eliminate 1st Vice President position and create 1 Union Development
For: , Against: .

A little confusion about if there was a quorum for the last vote, chair decide after discussions that 2/3 were not needed, only 50% plus 1 since it was not something that was put into the constitution (were a 2/3 majority is needed).

Chair decides to follow the original plan and vote and discuss on the above mention scenarios.

C: thinks that a lot will be missed if the 1st vice is eliminated.

C: Thinks that financially we can afford another position and keep both positions.

C: 1st Vice President takes over for president if they resign

Q: Can we carry the cost if the extra UD position is created (6 board members).

A: We then have to cut in the LM budget.

If neither proposals above goes through, the constitution stays as it is.

1 Vote: Create a second Union Development Vice President.

For: 23 , Against:

2 Vote: Eliminate 1st Vice President position and create 1 Union Development

For: 9 , Against: .

Last proposal falls away. We now need 26 to keep the first. Vote again to see if the first proposal goes through.

1 Vote: Create a second Union Development Vice President.

For: 24 , Against: .

We will not have a second Union Development position.

- **14.43 – 15.05** Johannes Kvam from ESN Norway holds a presentation about what ESN does. (Erasmus Student Network). Gives information about different projects operated by ESN. Explains how ISU and ESN can join forces, for example they support our fight against tuition fees.
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- **15.06 – 15.10** Energizer!!!
- **15.10 – 15.29** Tuition Fees. Missed some of the discussion since the national secretary had to be away.
C: Thinks it wrong to say that non eu students are discriminated, the Norwegian government pays for your tuition as well as the Norwegian students.
C: Thinks it is discriminatory in the fact that education should be free to all.
C: Free education is an opportunity, not a right. Feels it is Important not to mix this with the quota scheme scholarship. Wants ISU to come up with a strategy to deal with this.
Q: What are the strategies for the quota scheme?
A: We are preparing an input to the ministry about the quota scheme.

- **15.30 – 15.40 VP of Union Development** gives a presentation about the state of the local branches in ISU. Mentions the importance of continuity. A few local branches are still dormant, but a few have been opened (Hønefoss and Vestfold). Also mentions internal problems in UIO, HLT, Volda, Kjeller, Drammen and Agder.
Some comments on the reasons for the problems and some comments emphasize that the new boards in some of the local branches that have had problems have been doing a lot better than the previous boards.

- **15.51 – 16.00** Voting in the new ISU local branch in Lillehammer. Rikke Andersen introduces ISU Lillehammer. They are not here because of a cabin trip arranged long ago. The general assembly went ok, students cooked the food themselves.
Vote: 46 in total. 44 are for, ISU Lillehammer is now part of the ISU family.

16.00 – 16.20 Break

16.20 – 17.00 Short 5 minute presentations of candidates

Edith: Academic affairs

Kenneth: Union development

Gagan: Academic affairs

Anup: PR

Venkatesh: PR

Sri: PR

Kiran: Union development

Judita: Union development

May: Vice president

Mai Liis: Vice president

Abbas speaking for Natalia: Vice President

Daniel: President

Rikke: President

- **17.00 – 21.00** Presentation from the Local Branches. They get 6 minutes each.

HLT

NHH

HiOA

Ålesund

MF

Bodø

UiB

Drammen

Harstad

Hønefoss

HiNT

Gjøvik

Kongsberg

Narvik

NMBU Ås

UiO

Stavanger

Tromsø

Vestfold

Agder

Volda

Trondheim

Day 3,

09.50 – 10.19 Tuition fees (Eton was supposed to present, " ISU: best practises", since the issue has been raised last week this is important).

The national president explains to the NA about the meeting with LO secretary, Rune Bugten and Arvid Ellingsen. Also explains about cooperating with NSO on International Students Day 17th of November.

C: there are a lot of people in the LBs that would like to protest and a good way to do it is to really make a big statement on the 17th of November. SAIH has a lot of money and would like to cooperate with ISU.

C: Do we have someone to talk to the financial committee.

A: Anders Leader of NSO goes to both this and the educational committee.

- **10.20 – 10.28** Tally of people with voting rights. 46 people present, 50% is 23, 2/3 is 31.

Re-tally since people arrived during the voting. New count is 48. 50% is 24. 2/3s is 39. Quorum is now 80% and not 2/3s.

- **10.30 – 10.51** Leah Hayward presents the ISU logo and the idea behind it and some of the benefits of having a united ISU logo. Talks about the logo competition that ran from March until April in 2014.

C: The committee of the Logo competition consisted of 3 in addition to Leah but were hard to reach after April.

Q: Will we have to make the ISU LB name to the Logo or will the NB do it?

A: We had a professional make the logo and have it in 7 different formats, we will not do it for every local branch. If you want to add the local branch to the jpeg format we will not stop you.

C: You can ask the student parliament to do it.

C: Maybe we should make some standard for the addition, so that it will not be different styles to the added text (font, size, color etc).

C: We had some problem printing the logo because of gradient, can we use solid color?

A: yes

Q: I thought we already had this vote in LM, what are we voting for now?

A: LM are for discussions and to bring it forth to the NA, but for the Logo to have an effect it has been decided by the NA since it's the highest decision making body.

Q: What is the theme color?

A: Blue and white

Voting: A majority of 50% is needed to adapt the Logo for the national and local level.

For: 31. The vote passed.

- **10.52 – 11.30** Merethe Henne, advisor from LNU has a presentation about LNU (the Norwegian children and youth council) and Frifond. Talks about where the funds for Frifond comes from, how it is divided and who is eligible to get it. Talks about what the money can be and cannot be used for, and the administration of the finances in the LBs. Mentions points of interest when LBs are carrying out the activities.

C: Is it ok to print out the transaction of the bank if you lose the receipt, forget to ask for it?

A: if the transaction shows that the money has been spent on what it is supposed to be spent on. You can go back to the store and ask for the receipt as they are supposed to keep it.

Q: Can you shed some light on the other funds distributed by LNU. Also, do you have information in English?

A: There is a goal to translate information within 2015.

Q: Can you use it for local travel expenses?

A: Yes

Q: Why can you not use frifond money for NA and the LM.

A: Because it is not a responsibility of the LB it is the responsibility of the NB. (and LM).

C: Anything that is based in your constitution falls outside the Frifond use.

Q: How far is local activity? Inside the Fylke, the Kommune?

A: No. That depends on the local branch. Where do you overlap for the local branch. National travel is not allowed is the key, but there is no geographical limit per se. A trip from Trondheim to Bergen is not considered local activity.

- **11.30 – 12.05** Resolution regarding the Iranian students (SEDAI). National President explains the situation of the Iranian students who have their visa revoked and their right to study in Norway removed. The NB did not hear anything from our local branches of any Iranian students. We propose that in the NB budget give them a symbolic sum of 1000NOK in support of their cause.

C: We did do something. But they decided to work with SEDAI and be united instead of doing different things in different local branches.

C: Explains some of the history of this since 2009.

A: This issue went away for a while and came up again recently.

C: I have a list of the studies that they cannot enter.

A: Some universities have adapted a blank policies.

Q: What power does the NB have? What mandate do we have?

A: There is a system in place and a process we have to follow, we cannot expect results in a few weeks or months. If it is within the limit of ISU we pick it up, we take it up with our partner organisation. We made a press release.

Voting: We need a majority of 50% +1. For: 48. The resolution passes.

- **12.05 – 12.40 ISU policy paper 2014 - 2018**

NP goes through the policy paper of 2014 – 2018. The last one lasts until 2016, but the NB thought it would be better to make a new one now as there will be a new administration and the NB have experience and therefore the new board doesn't have to start from nothing.

C: UDI might be reluctant to give a 4 year visa as students can "disappear", hard to see if they are still studying.

Q: Visa extension is a long process, is there any way that we can bring this up?

Voting: To keep the document as it is. 47 people in the room now. A Simple majority is needed, 24 people is needed to pass the policy document. For: 43. The policy paper is passed.

- **12.40 – 12.46** Some people were late today, stand in front of the others and say why they are late. Voting to see if they will get their delegate cards. Vote passes.
- **12.46 – 13.08 LUNCH**
- **13.08 – 13.11** Leah feels that the reasons to come late were not good. Asks people to please respect each other and the National Assembly.
- **13.11 – 13.15** Counting votes, 46 people. 23 votes for a majority,
- **13.15 - 13.40 NP goes through the organisational statement 2014 – 2016.** The O.Statement does not take precedence over the work program. Mentions especially the targets for the next two years, the goal of getting a membership database and keeping the full time position of the national secretary etc.

C: Since we didn't get the extra Union development, we can add that we work for more funding for the existing UD so that that person doesn't work so many hours above what they are supposed to.

A: If it is a necessity to increase the salary it should be addressed by the NB.

C: Will some of the members not want to be part of ISU if they have to pay, will they get more rights?

A: We provide the same for paying and non paying members.

Vote: To pass the organisational statement, For: 47. The document is approved by the NA.

- **13.40 – 13.50 The Work program 2014 - 2015.** NP goes through the work plan for the next year. If this is approved, it will be binding for the new national board to follow the 3 points mentioned in this document.

Computer restarted, time from 13.50 to 14.10 was lost. (break, waka waka roll call etc).

- **14.10 – 15.03** NP goes through the final accounts of 2013 and other documents sent to KD (auditor's report etc)., and the draft ISU budget made for the actual funds received from KD, not the amount we applied for.

There is a proposal to use 1000NOK of the carry over money from last year to SEDAI in support of their cause.

Voting: To see how many people is in the room. 49 people, need a simple majority, 26 people is needed for a motion to pass.

Vote: To give 1000NOK to the SEDAI cause. For: 49, motion passes.

Vote: To set aside 5000NOK to the start up of new local branches. For: 43, motion passes.

- **15.04 – 15.30 ISU best practises presented by Eton Williams.** Eton gives a brief history of ISU from 2003 up until 2014 and some causes they have worked with over the years.
- **15.35 – 15.55 Enzo Rossi from Internationalista.** Enzo is the founder, and he and Barbera explains what Internationalista is (a political list for the international students at the University of Oslo) , what their values and core principles are, and what they want for the international students at the university of Oslo. They now have 2 representatives in the student parliament after getting 8% of the votes in the election at UiO.

Q: Do you always have discussions in English (from Stavanger parliament, who don`t)?

A: We do several things, and our representatives speak money. Also UiO have paid a translator to do it for us. Parliament is against doing it in English and that is our biggest issue right now.

More people ask about what can be done to get a student representative at their own institutions.

- **15.55 – 16.00 Greetings from previous ISU Presidents Eton, Farshad and John.** Farshad talks about ISU leadership in general and Leadership as a though. John points out that a leader must draw of the experience of those who came before, “Less talk, more action”. Eton. Abbas also emhpasises the importance of drawing on the experience of those who came before.
- **16.00 – 16.05 BREAK**
- **16.05 – 18.50 Candidate presentations**

Presidents go first. Each candidate can get 6 questions each.

Rikke holds her presentation first.

Daniel holds his presentation. Chairs open the floor for questions.

First Vice President each candidate gets 4 questions

Natalia

May-liis

May, chairs open the floor for questions.

Union Development Because we are short of time, no questions are asked from the floor to the last two positions.

Kiran

Judita

Anup

Academic Affairs and Welfare

Venkatesh

Gagan

Edith

PR

Sri Sudha

Kenneth

End of Day 3.

Day 4

- **10.00 – 10.15 Registration and counting, 45 present. 3 are late.**
- **10.15 – 11.00 NP goes through revised budget from yesterday.**
Vote on letting the late delegates the right to vote. Motion passes.
Vote on approving the revised budget. Motion passes.
- **11.00 – 13.35 Candidate presentation and election.** NP explains how the elections will be conducted. A candidate will be elected if they have a 50% majority + 1. If they don't get a majority we will have another vote.
Vote: Another one arrives late, votes on letting him get his voting card, motions passes.

5 minute BREAK

Counting of votes: 50 people present, Majority: 26 votes.

All the candidates go up to have their 2 minute presentation.
Presidents go first, then 1.st Vice President, Union Development, AA&W, and Public Relations.

Vote: 1 more person arrives late, voting to get him a voting right. Motion passes.

51 people are present. To get a majority, 27 people are needed for a majority.

VOTE

- **Vote for National President. Rikke: 30, Daniel: 21. Rikke is the new National President.**
- **Vote for the 1st Vice President. May: 18 , Mai-Liis: 20 , Natalia: 12 , 1 cancelled vote.**

2nd vote: Mai-liis: 24 , May:24 . 2 blank, 1 invalid.

Candidates get a chance to swing the votes with a 1 minute appeal.

3rd vote: Mai-Liis: 27, May: 23. 1 blank.

- **Vote for VP of Union Development. Kiran: 20, Judita: 14, Anup: 16. 1 blank.**

Two people went outside and are not allowed to vote.

A break for food, and one person had a medical emergency, we are now 50 people present. We now need 26 people for a majority.

2nd vote: Kiran: 26 , Anup: 21 . Kiran is the new VP of Union Development.

Counting votes, 51 people are now present, we now need 27 people for a majority.

- **Vote for the VP of AA&W. Edith: 21, Venkatesh: 1, Gagan: 27. 2 blank. Gagan is the new VP of AA&W.**
- **Vote for the VP of Public Affairs. Kenneth: 19 , Sri Sudha: 27. 3 blank. Sri is the new VP of PA.**

The newly elected board is presented to the NA. The schedule is shuffled around since we have little time and one local branch didn't get to do their presentation yesterday.

- **13.35 – 13. 40 ISU Telemark holds their presentation.**
- **13.40 – 14.22 Discussion of LM dates and venues.** NP asks for volunteers of the LBs on who would like to co-host the LM`s for next year in February and in April.

Suggestion from NP is from the 13 – 15 of February.

C: What will we have to do? How much can we use? Can we cooperate with other branches?

A: The NB will set the Agenda. Any leftover money after travel and accommodation it will go to the LB from the NA.

NMBU and Bergen will discuss with their board. We will await the answer from them, and Stavanger will be the fall back option. The LB are interested in knowing more about the arranging of the event, NP explains a little bit about what happened in Gjøvik.

UiO, Harstad and Agder offers to host LM2. Ålesund will consider it. Kongsberg will inform the board in January.

The delegates will decide between the 2nd and 3rd week of February, and when to hold LM2 in april 2015.

Vote: 13-15 february: 7, the majority wants the **20 – 22 february for LM1.**

Vote: 24-26 April for LM2. The second choice is **17 – 19 of April**, in case the date is at the same weekend as the NSO annual meeting.

- **14.22 – 14.27 BREAK.**
- **14.27 – 14.43 Brønnøysund-registeret by Rikke.** Rikke explains what is needed to get an organisational number and an ISU bank account.

C: Thinks it is not a good idea to lie and say that only the people who have personal numbers are in the board (even though there are really more people).

Trondheim, NMBU ås , Bergen, vold, agder, narvik, gjøvik, do not have a number or do not know if they have one,.

- **14.43 – 14.44** Addition to the Protocol, written Proposal: that the voting procedure is changed as they take a lot of time, and that the deadline for submitting a candidacy is set earlier to avoid extra work. Candidates can read it before they leave.
- **14.45 – 15.00 ISU inclusion/visibility and strategy by NP Abbas.** Suggestion to actively use the new logo. Can ask the student parliament to have t shirts with the logo on it, put a stand in the office. Most important thing the next few months is the tuition fee issue. The new national board will support you.

C: Everything in a Student parliament meeting is private and no one from ISU can sit in personally, but you can ask them after,

C: You can ask them to discuss it first thing in the meeting so that you can participate.

C: To increase visibility, win cases. Put articles in the newspaper.

C: maybe NB can make a video or even the local branches.

- **15.00 – 15.20 That`s all folks!** NP thanks the chairs, NB, volunteers, previous Presidents and the delegates for attending the NA. Holds a speech to the NA.