

## **Executive Board Report July 2018**

We have started to implement new work processes, review existing guidelines and begin to plan events and strategies for the coming year.

Asana, designed to help teams organize, track, and manage their work, is also a project that was brought on to the table by the NP and, with the help of the UDO, will help integrate not only in the National and Executive Boards, but also across all local branches. It will allow seamlessly integrating ISU Norway in order for it to become whole, a matter that has been left aside by previous boards.

The UDO took the opportunity to call the former NP Daniel Iniesta, to better understand the work previously undertaken by the EB. It proved to be very helpful, as Daniel was able to send us useful documents, reports and contacts from his time serving ISU. He has also offered his help should we need it in the coming year, which is greatly appreciated.

One of our first tasks as a new EB was to draft a proposal to increase the EB salary from a 25% position to a 50% position. This would better reflect the amount of work we do, allow us to spend time on new projects and be a step towards having full time positions for the ISU EB.

ISU Stories will be a big project for the year. It consists of powerful stories told by International Students all over Norway. It is our hope that with this project, we can change the way our students are seen through the public eye.

We sent out an introduction to the new EB board to all local branches where we highlighted our goals for the year and mention a couple of fun facts about each EB member.

This report is a summarised version of the individual executive board reports

## **Executive Board Report August 2018**

ISU Stories already has two stories lined up waiting for publication, and ISU Narvik already has two students working on more stories. The format of publishing the stories has yet to be discussed, specially how many pictures will be published with each story. But it seems two pictures per story is the general consensus in the EB. This will be discussed in the NB meeting on September 8th.

The final budget proposal was also finalised in August. The process consisted on the treasurer, the OC and the NP having a meeting to go through each budget point and see what needed adjusting, with some input from the UDO and PAO. The changes were later discussed in an extraordinary NB meeting, where it was decided that the EB will now get paid 15 hrs/week, instead of 10 hrs/week. The reporting of the EB progress will also be monthly, as a gesture of good faith and to show the increased hours payed reflect well on our work.

The partners and ISU friends were contacted by the NP to introduce himself and share the ISU Action plan. There was plenty of feedback filled with congratulations and interest on the tasks we will be focusing on. Some partners went a bit further and requested meetings, such as the Spanish Embassy, the Rector of UiB, NSO and the FN-Students.

ISU Bodo is the first branch to begin using Asana and they are doing a great job at it. As more boards get elected, Asana will be used more and more.

Communication with other embassies has also begun by the PAO, who also attended a general meeting prior to welcoming the new international students at Vestfold. A new branch was also elected with his help and he has helped familiarise the board with Asana and the new Frifond situation.

The project of updating the local constitutions has taken off but branches so far have been unresponsive to the request of their newest constitution.

ISU Hønefoss and ISU UiO boards have been elected with the help of the UDO. Updating the local branch database has also been a focus so the UDO created a spreadsheet that allows the local branches to update the database themselves.

*This report is a summarised version of the EB reports*

## **Executive Board Compiled Report September 2018**

The NP attended a meeting with Diku, the Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education, where he established contact with Jone Trovag, the International responsible at NSO and Martin Paulsen, a Senior Advisor at Diku. He also met with the Spanish Embassy, who unfortunately had to cancel the partnership agreement we had with them. A follow-up meeting with Jone Trovag along with the UDO and OC allowed us to discuss the Visa fee Strategy, which follows NSO's resolution. We also discussed our partnership, the white papers, student exchange mobility, and Lånekassen. Jone will now be the point of contact at NSO. In a meeting with the leaders at the University of Bergen along with the UDO, we discussed key points from our annual action plan with the Rector, the Vice Rector for Education and the Higher Executive Officer. The UDO and NP also held a meeting with Utdanning i Bergen, the study group that represents the Hordaland region and organises events for students, both International and Norwegian.

The UDO continued to assist local branches with their elections and attended some key meetings with the NP as stated above. He also met with LO along with the OC where he discussed areas of cooperation, the student permit fee, and how ISU should approach political interlocutors to most effectively amplify our voice. A meeting with Enzo Rossi, Internationalisation Advisor at OsloMet, provided useful ideas on creating a social media-based campaign. Enzo emphasised the need for a professional appearance to the campaign to build ISU's profile and credibility.

The PAO worked on starting a Norwegian language course across all USN campuses together with the Student parliament and succeeded. He also started reviewing the constitutions from all local branches so he could help in making positive changes in them. He attended the SAIH Fall gathering, a 3-day event with a great deal of interesting sessions. The past LMs and NAs are also being reviewed so the EB can do better in the future.

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