

#ISUNA20



## **ISU Norway Digital National Assembly 2020**

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions that limited physical gatherings, ISU Norway decided that it would have a digital National Assembly in 2020 in the form of having two rounds of voting via email ballot. Every Local Board in ISU Norway had two of their local leaders from each branch register as delegates for the National Assembly, as required by our constitution. These delegates had the responsibility and right to vote for all Executive and National Board positions and proposed constitutional amendments in the election.

ISU's National Board had decided that since delegates would not be able to meet in person or through a video conference, it was important that those running provided either a video or PowerPoint to introduce themselves and their reasons for running to all delegates. Thus, prior to the start of the National Assembly, all delegates received the CVs, motivation letters, and videos and/or PowerPoint presentations of all individuals running for Executive and National Board positions as well as a copy of the constitution with all proposed amendments a few days before the start of the vote. That way they would have time to read through the documents before the elections officially began. They were instructed, when these documents were shared with them, that if they had any comments or questions, that they could get in touch with the proper individuals in the organization who had responsibility for the different sections of the vote, with the contact information for those individuals.

On the first day of the election April 24, 2020, a voting sheet was sent out to all delegates at 4:37 PM via their registered email address giving instructions on how to vote as well as stating that the deadline for the first round of voting was April 27, 2020 at 11:00 AM. Over that weekend and up until the deadline, all voting documents were emailed directly to the Organizational Consultant and were anonymously collected into a Google Drive, with all documents being unmarked with any personal identifiers so as to ensure anonymity. Once the deadline passed, the Organizational Consultant ensured that all documents were sent directly from each delegate by the email that was registered to each person, and went through each anonymous ballot and inputted all results from each ballot into an Excel spreadsheet. 44 out of 45 delegates had sent in their voting document, meaning that there was a quorum for the first round of voting. After many hours of meticulously counting votes, the anonymous voting sheets and Excel Sheet with the votes counted by the Organizational Consultant were then sent to a third party, Eton Williams, Student Representative from the University of South-Eastern Norway's Board, so as to ensure that the votes were counted correctly.

After receiving the official confirmation from Mr. Williams that all votes were correctly counted, the results of the first round of voting were released to the delegates voting in the National Assembly as well as to the public, when it came to filling the Executive and National Board Positions.



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According to ISU's constitution, for an individual to be elected to an Executive and National Board position, he/she needs to get at least 50% of the vote. The bar is set even higher with voting in constitutional amendments. For a constitutional amendment to be passed it must receive a 2/3 majority vote in favor of its passing. Since the necessary quota was reached for all votes for the national-level positions, they were not included in the second round of voting.

All constitutional amendments were either passed or rejected in the first round of voting, but one amendment had a clause for what should be done if the amendment was not passed. Since this amendment did not pass in the first round of voting, it was necessary that a second round of voting take place to determine if this proposed change would be accepted or not. Thus, on April 28, 2020, a second voting sheet was sent out at 10:27 AM to all delegates via email with the single proposed amendment that needed to be voted on included on that sheet, along with a deadline that the vote needed to be sent by April 29, 2020 at 11:00 AM. The same procedure was followed as with the first round of voting in regards to collecting the voting documents and ensuring anonymity, but we unfortunately only received 22 votes out of 45 possible votes, meaning that we did not have a quorum by the deadline for the second round of voting. Since we were not able to get in enough votes to have a quorum, the votes that were collected could not be counted and the proposal, therefore, did not pass. All delegates were informed via email at 3:22 PM on April 29, 2020, once it was determined that quorum was not met, that the proposed amendment had not passed, and that the National Assembly had ended.

This document contains the results from both the first and second rounds of voting. The first round of voting contains the results of the Executive and National Board Election as well as the results of the votes for constitutional amendments. The section for the second round of voting shows the proposed amendment, and further elaborates on the above-mentioned failure to reach quorum for the vote.

### First Round of Voting

#### Part 1: Executive and National Board Elections

These are the votes and results for the Executive and National Board Election for each person. For a person to win, they must have at least ½ of the possible votes. The votes are out of 44 possible votes.

#### Executive Board Positions

ISU National President
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Amine Fquihi</li><li>● Martin Johnson Mwala</li><li>● Christopher Weaver</li><li>● <b>Amine Fquihi is elected National President</b></li></ul>



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ISU Union Development Officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Uzair Latif</li><li>● Arun Siva</li><li>● Md Shifat Ullah</li><li>● <b>Arun Siva is elected Union Development Officer</b></li></ul>

ISU Political Affairs Officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Farzan Saeed Khan</li><li>● Peter Kipkoech Obwogi</li><li>● Pinkey Roy</li><li>● <b>Pinkey Roy is elected Political Affairs Officer</b></li></ul>

### National Board Positions

ISU National Board Chairman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Abir Chowdhury</li><li>● Almim Hossain Shuvo</li><li>● <b>Almim Hossain Shuvo is elected ISU National Board Chairman</b></li></ul>

ISU National Board Vice Chairman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Nil Eryilmaz</li><li>● <b>Nil Eryilmaz is elected ISU National Board Vice Chairman</b></li></ul>

ISU Political Auditor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Rami Nouredine</li><li>● Bettina Sera</li><li>● <b>Rami Nouredine is elected ISU Political Auditor</b></li></ul>

ISU Treasurer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Rohail Ashraf</li><li>● Julia Kamalova</li><li>● <b>Rohail Ashraf is elected ISU Treasurer</b></li></ul>

### Part 2: Constitutional Amendments

Here are the results for each of the votes for the proposed constitutional amendments. According to the constitution it takes a 2/3 majority vote for an amendment to pass. All the votes are out of 44 possible votes.



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**§ 3.1:** The National Assembly (NA) is the highest decision-making body of ISU. The NA is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the political platform, the adoption of the following year's action plan, the approval of the annual financial report, according to the budget applied for by ISU and the annual National report of the National Board, and the NA is also responsible for electing the new National Board members. The NA has the mandate to give approval of the National Board work and release from any responsibility after the end of their mandate. The National Board determines the location for the National Assembly.

The National Assembly will be chaired by a person with no active stake in ISU. If a neutral third party is unavailable to act as a chairperson for the NA, then the NA may elect a chairperson from among the delegates who is trusted to show no bias. Under such circumstances, that chairperson will lose his/her voting rights.

The election procedure is as follows: A candidate needs a majority of 50% + one vote to become the chairman. If nobody gains a majority in the first voting round, a new round starts where the candidate with the lowest vote count from the previous round is eliminated. This continues until one candidate gains a majority.

*1. Proposed amendment (in paragraph 2 § 3.1: The National Board elects the chair for the Leadership Meeting 1, 2 and National Assembly.)*

Vote: **Amendment 1 does not pass**

**§ 3.1.7:** The National Board calls for a National Assembly once each academic year. The NA must take place in the spring semester after two Leadership Meetings have occurred.

An extraordinary National Assembly can be called by:

- The ISU National Board, following the procedure laid out in §3.3.4

*2. Proposed amendment (Changed from §3.3.4 to §3.3.2 Operating Procedure of National Board)*



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Vote: **Amendment 2 passes**

**§ 3.2.1:**

**Political Affairs Officer**

- I. Monitoring media possibilities for ISU and using them appropriately with approval of the NP, in accordance with the ISU Norway Platform 2009.
- II. Is responsible for publishing press releases approved by the NB.
- III. Leading the information campaigns together with the National President.
- IV. Is responsible for the reception and presentation of cases and petitions from the local branches to NB.
- V. Tracing the national and regional laws regarding international students and inform local branches.
- VI. Is in charge of bringing issues regarding housing and academic welfare of students to the NB.

*3. Proposed amendment (added in part III - and project coordinator)*

Vote: **Amendment 3 does not pass**

**§3.3.1 Role of the National Board**

- I. National Board and LBs will receive individual reports from the EB sent on a monthly basis and a final annual report in the last meeting before the National Assembly.
- II. ISU National Board will review and approve ISU Norway's accounting and revised budget four times a year and is legally responsible for the financial decisions taken at board meetings.
- III. ISU National Board hires an Organizational Consultant
- IV. ISU National Board decides the salaries of the Organizational Consultant and Executive Committee, which then gets ratified at the next LM.
- V. ISU National Board decides which case papers the National Assembly will discuss in their last meeting before the National Assembly. Local

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	branches can of course submit their own case papers to the National Assembly.
VI.	The National Board can change the list of ISU Norway local branches if they become inactive with 2/3 vote majority of the NB. This decision made by the NB must be ratified by a 2/3 majority vote out of the delegates present in the following National event (NA/LM)
VII.	Following a written warning from a NB meeting, any member from the NB or the EB can be dismissed from their position by 2/3 majority of the NB. Dismissals must be justified at the next LM or NA, where the dismissed person also has the right to voice their opinion.
VIII.	The national board calls for Leadership Meetings, as described in § 3.3.7
<i>4. Proposed amendment (Added in part III: both new and outgoing ISU National Board hire an Organizational Consultant when it occurs during or around the period of the ISU National Board's transition).</i>	
Vote: <b>Amendment 4 does not pass</b>	

### §3.3.1 Role of the National Board

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- II. ISU National Board will review and approve ISU Norway's accounting and revised budget four times a year and is legally responsible for the financial decisions taken at board meetings.
- III. ISU National Board hires an Organizational Consultant
- IV. ISU National Board decides the salaries of the Organizational Consultant and Executive Committee, which then gets ratified at the next LM.
- V. ISU National Board decides which case papers the National Assembly will discuss in their last meeting before the National Assembly. Local branches can of course submit their own case papers to the National Assembly.
- VI. The National Board can change the list of ISU Norway local branches if they become inactive with 2/3 vote majority of the NB. This decision made by the NB must be ratified by a 2/3 majority vote out of the delegates present in the following National event (NA/LM)



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VII. Following a written warning from a NB meeting, any member from the NB or the EB can be dismissed from their position by 2/3 majority of the NB. Dismissals must be justified at the next LM or NA, where the dismissed person also has the right to voice their opinion.
VIII. The national board calls for Leadership Meetings, as described in § 3.3.7
<i>5. Proposed amendment (Changed in part IV: from LM to Leadership meetings and National Assembly)</i>
<b>Vote: Amendment 5 does not pass</b>

### §3.3.1 Role of the National Board

- I. National Board and LBs will receive individual reports from the EB sent on a monthly basis and a final annual report in the last meeting before the National Assembly.
- II. ISU National Board will review and approve ISU Norway's accounting and revised budget four times a year and is legally responsible for the financial decisions taken at board meetings.
- III. ISU National Board hires an Organizational Consultant
- IV. ISU National Board decides the salaries of the Organizational Consultant and Executive Committee, which then gets ratified at the next LM.
- V. ISU National Board decides which case papers the National Assembly will discuss in their last meeting before the National Assembly. Local branches can of course submit their own case papers to the National Assembly.
- VI. The National Board can change the list of ISU Norway local branches if they become inactive with 2/3 vote majority of the NB. This decision made by the NB must be ratified by a 2/3 majority vote out of the delegates present in the following National event (NA/LM)
- VII. Following a written warning from a NB meeting, any member from the NB or the EB can be dismissed from their position by 2/3 majority of the NB. Dismissals must be justified at the next LM or NA, where the dismissed person also has the right to voice their opinion.
- VIII. The national board calls for Leadership Meetings, as described in § 3.3.7





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*6. Propose amendment (Changed in part VIII: from § 3.3.7 to § 3.3.6 Leadership Meetings)*

Vote: **Amendment 6 passes**

### **§ 3.3.2 Operating Procedure of National Board**

- I. ISU National Board meets at least 4 times a year for no longer than a day each time.
- II. Local branch board members on the National Board represents the interests of all local branches and ISU Norway in meetings. They will not represent their own local branch in the board.
- III. Case papers are submitted to the National Board by the Executive Board. National Board may decide to give the Executive Board cases to work on and report back to the National Board.
- IV. The National President ensures that the Organizational Consultant provides the minutes from the meetings and/or work of National Board to the Local Branches.
- V. The decisions at the National Board shall be decided by simple majority. In the case of a tie the Chairman has a decisive vote.

*7. Propose amendment (Add: VI. Transition meeting for new and outgoing ISU National Board is in June, the meeting lasts for a maximum of 2 days.)*

Vote: **Amendment 7 does not pass**

### **§ 3.3.3 Duties of the National Board members:**

- **Chair** – Responsible for chairing all National Board meetings, calling for NB meetings, creating an agenda for NB meetings, and ensuring all NB members have tasks assigned and followed through with. In its absence, the chair can nominate one person from the NB to take their responsibilities on their behalf.



- **Deputy Chairman** – Assists Chairman and Political Auditor. Supports continuity with maintenance of local board resources and databases. Ensures that branches have access to current ISU-material-
- **Treasurer** – Work with OC to create updates on budget and projected costs.
- **Political Auditor** – Ensures that all committees and boards at a local and national level are adhering to constitutional principles.

In order to run for a position on the NB or EB, the candidate must be a student in Norway for the following year.

*8. Propose amendment (a. **Change for Deputy Chairman: from Deputy Chairman to Continuity Auditor**) if the proposal passed (b. added - Assists and supports continuity through the maintenance of National and Local Board resources and databases. Ensures that branches have access to current ISU- material and databases.)  
If the proposal not passed the information should be changed from Deputy Chairman to Deputy Chair/ from Assists Chairman to Assists Chair)*

Vote: **Amendment 8 does not pass**

### § 3.3.3 Duties of the National Board members:

- **Chair** – Responsible for chairing all National Board meetings, calling for NB meetings, creating an agenda for NB meetings, and ensuring all NB members have tasks assigned and followed through with. In its absence, the chair can nominate one person from the NB to take their responsibilities on their behalf.
- **Deputy Chairman** – Assists Chairman and Political Auditor. Supports continuity with maintenance of local board resources and databases. Ensures that branches have access to current ISU-material-
- **Treasurer** – Work with OC to create updates on budget and projected costs.
- **Political Auditor** – Ensures that all committees and boards at a local and national level are adhering to constitutional principles.

In order to run for a position on the NB or EB, the candidate must be a student in Norway for the following year.

*9. Propose amendment (Add for Political Auditor: Political Auditor reports directly to the Control Committee for any accident that occurs internally.)*

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Vote: **Amendment 9 does not pass**

#### **§ 3.3.4: The Organizational Consultant:**

Organizational Consultant is hired by a board which consists of the National President, a representative of NSO and the outgoing Organizational Consultant (if this person is available). The National President may also nominate one or more representative(s) of the ISU Local Branches and/or previous ISU branch members to the hiring board. The National President is responsible for the final decision of the board. The duties of the Organizational Consultant are described in a separate Job Description document.

*10. Propose amendment (**Changed to** - The Organizational Consultant is hired by the ISU National Board, a representative of NSO, and the outgoing Organizational Consultant. The National Board may also nominate one or more representative(s) of the ISU Local Branches and/or previous ISU branches. as described in **§3.3.1 Role of the National Board**)*

Vote: **Amendment 10 does not pass**

#### **§ 3.3.6: Leadership Meetings**

The ISU National Board, following the procedure laid out in § 3.3.4, calls for at least two or more Leadership Meetings (LM) during each academic year where each ISU Local Branch sends **one** delegate to discuss issues and follow up on the Plan of Action.



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The LM has no decision-making power over the NA, but the LM has the authority to dictate a plan of action that would be binding until the next NA. The NA will always have the authority to overrule the decision of the LM concerning the plan of action.

One Leadership Meeting will take place each semester. Both LMs will take place before the National Assembly. Like the National Assembly, the LM must also be chaired by a neutral person with no active stakes in ISU.

11. *Propose amendment (Change in paragraph 1: from § 3.3.4 to § 3.3.1 and §3.3.2)*

Vote: **Amendment 11 passes**

**§ 3.4.8:** The NA/LM can increase the number of ISU Local Branches in order to include international students studying at other tertiary institutions in Norway.

12. *Proposed amendment (Additional information needs to be added: LMs or NA approve to open the branch, and the new local branch representatives will elect their Local Board democratically. Following the election of the Local Board, the new Board will be presented at the following ISU National Meeting for acceptance/approval by the ISU Local Branch delegates and National Board.)*

Vote: **Amendment 12 does not pass**

**§ 3.4.8:** The NA/LM can increase the number of ISU Local Branches in order to include international students studying at other tertiary institutions in Norway.

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13. Proposed amendment (*Additional information needs to be added: LMs or NA approve to open the branch, and the new local branch representatives will elect their Local Board democratically. Following the election of the Local Board, the new Board will be presented at the following ISU National Meeting for acceptance/approval by the ISU Local Branch delegates and National Board.*)

Vote: **Amendment 13 does not pass**

### § 3.5.6: Elections Committee

- I. The Elections Committee shall consist of three total members.
- II. No person can serve on the Elections Committee that is running for a national level board or committee position.
- III. The Elections Committee is responsible for interviewing and recruiting candidates for positions in any of the boards or committees.
- IV. If there is a vacancy in the Elections Committee then the National Board will elect the final spot.
- V. The election committee may set a deadline for applications for an election.
- VI. Once the set deadline for applications is passed, no more applicants can run for the vacant position at LM/NA. Until & unless no candidate has applied for the available position.
- VII. If only one candidate applied for one position, then they must get 50% + 1 vote out of all delegates present during LM/NA. If not, then, other interested candidates out of the delegates can run for the position.

14. Proposed amendment (*Additional information needs to be added in part II: No person serves on the Elections Committee that is already a member of or running for a national level board or national level committee position.*)

Vote: **Amendment 14 passes**

New committee proposal: Sample information from ISU internal guideline

***Control Committee***

*The Control committee should be determined during the NA. The committee acts as an internal investigation committee which helps the NB if any conflict occurred. This committee should be independent and non-bias.*

*Responsibilities of The Control Committee:*

- a) Ensures that the National Board works and takes decisions according to the Constitution, the guidelines of the organization and the Norwegian Law.*
- b) Reports to the Leadership Meeting, the National Assembly and the Extraordinary National Assembly.*
- c) Publishes bi annual reports regarding the state of the NB, whether it's running smoothly or not, if any violations have occurred and such.*

**15. New committee proposal:** *ISU should have a Control committee to audit the work of ISU Norway National and Local Level according to the Constitution and Guideline twice in a year. The Control Committee should include former ISU members and this committee needs to be discussed more in NA and we as the Constitution committee would like to request more inputs from Local Branches' leaders to help form the Control Committee as the best for ISU Norway.*

**Vote: Amendment 15 does not pass**

**16. New Position proposal:** *ISU needs a project coordinator to lead ISU projects independently and should be someone not from ISU National Board. The Project Coordinator will lead ISU project term to term and report all the project work weekly to ISU National Board.*

*The Project coordinator will be recruited for each of ISU projects and would be responsible for completing the project successfully. The National Board is responsible for recruiting the project coordinator.*



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*If the proposal approved: 2 responsibility should be directly transfer to the Project Coordinator from:*

**§ 3.2.1 Duties of the Executive board members:**

**From Union Development Officer (UDO)**

**VI. Leading the work of the Regional Cooperation Groups (RCGs).**

Proposal: The Project Coordinator is leading the work of Regional Cooperation Groups (RCGs) and guides by the ISU Executive Board.

**From Political Affairs Officer (PAO)**

**VII. Leading the information campaigns together with the National President**

Proposal: The Project Coordinator is leading the information campaigns and guide by ISU Executive Board.

**Vote: Amendment 16 does not pass**

## Second Round of Voting

As was mentioned in the first section of this document, since amendment 8 (page 9) had a section that stated a proposal for what should be done if the main proposal did not pass, which was the case for the amendment, a second round of voting was held specifically for this proposed amendment for what should be done if the proposal didn't pass. Unfortunately, by the time the deadline passed only 22 out of 45 possible votes were received, meaning that we did not have a quorum for the vote. This meant that the results could not be counted and the amendment (below) did not pass.

**§ 3.3.3 Duties of the National Board members:**

- **Chair** – Responsible for chairing all National Board meetings, calling for NB meetings, creating an agenda for NB meetings, and ensuring all NB members have tasks assigned and followed through with. In its absence, the chair can nominate one person from the NB to take their responsibilities on their behalf.
- **Deputy Chairman** – Assists Chairman and Political Auditor. Supports continuity with maintenance of local board resources and databases. Ensures that branches have access to current ISU-material-
- **Treasurer** – Work with OC to create updates on budget and projected costs.
- **Political Auditor** – Ensures that all committees and boards at a local and national level are adhering to constitutional principles.



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In order to run for a position on the NB or EB, the candidate must be a student in Norway for the following year.

*8. Propose amendment If the proposal not passed the information should be changed from Deputy Chairman to Deputy Chair/ from Assists Chairman to Assists Chair)*

**Vote: Quorum not met, proposal does not pass.**

Following the realization that the quorum was not met, all delegates were sent an email to make them aware of the fact that quorum was not met, and the vote could not be counted, meaning the proposal was not passed. The delegates were also thanked for all their efforts to vote during the National Assembly and a wish of good luck for the newly elected board was shared. Following this email, the ISU Digital National Assembly 2020 was closed.