

SECRETARY'S REPORT
ISU NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
April 21-23 2006

My name is Hanna Holmelin, and I have been employed as ISU National Secretary since March 2005. This is the third ISU National Assembly which I partake in organising.

The role of the National Secretary

The role of the National Secretary is merely administrative. This includes practicalities of arranging NA's, keeping track of finances, communication with branches, StL, NSU, and Norwegian authorities, and writing reports and applications. However, the position is also a consultative one, as the National Administration works as a team.

In 2005, the NP was living in Trondheim and the VP in Narvik, so I stepped in for them in situations and meetings in Oslo if they were not able to attend, and I represented ISU on their behalf. The role of the NSec is hence a flexible one. Since October 2005, however, the ISU NP and VP have both been living in Oslo, and they have thus done most of the representing themselves. My role has then been more in the background.

Norad Winter Seminar

I was, however, invited to join the Winter Seminar of the Norad Fellowship Network in January, because I am representing NSU in their programme board. Most of the first year Norad students in Norway were present at the seminar, and I was asked to give a presentation of ISU. My speech raised awareness and triggered discussions about ISU among the audience, and I gained valuable feedback and input from a very significant group of international students, whose needs and requests often vary from those of other international students.

Main work focus

Since the last national assembly, a lot of my attention has been devoted to the ISU finances, and these are now approved by the auditor. In particular I have attempted to improve our financial routines, to make them more formal, responsible and correct, which is required if we are to receive state funding and grow as an organisation. The yearly application for state funding was then prepared accordingly, and submitted to the Ministry of Research and Education. We have applied for NOK 250 000 this year, and I do believe that we have a realistic, responsible and thorough request. I will elaborate further on this point in my financial report.

Lately, most of my time has gone to arrange the practicalities of this national assembly, from booking plane tickets to writing case papers. In addition, I have tried to dig into the difficult financial situation for quota students, who are often stuck for two months in Norway before receiving their study loan. I will return to this topic on Sunday.

Finally, I would like to thank the National Administration; and Eton in particular, for brilliant teamwork and cooperation during the past half year. ISU is expanding and prospering due to continuous effort and attention from very committed people, locally and nationally. Together we are doing a very important job, and our work now will benefit international students to come.