

Hi Everyone!

It has been a month since our National Assembly!

First, I want to congratulate everyone on the good results that they have been achieving from their branches so far. Excellent! - keep it up!

Here is a little **report** on what has been happening at the national level.

ISU Norway Office:

A few days after the ISU NA, I visited the ISU Norway office (located in the same building as the offices for NSU and StL -our office is actually on the same floor as NSU). I met Jørn (NSU President, from our NA) who took the time out to introduce me to other persons in the office. Hanna has given me the passwords for the computer and our ISU files, etc.

ISU NA Travel Money / Minutes:

Hanna is waiting to collect the last of the receipts so that she can send the payments all at once. She has finished the minutes of the meeting. Next goal is to get them on our website.

ISU Norway Website:

Many members (branches) have requested that we update the ISU Norway site with at least our new contact information. Arlene was able to spare us some time to do this last week and I'm very grateful for that. I am looking for a volunteer webmaster and have made a poster which I have sent to the Career Center at UiO to put on their advertisement board.

Qouta Case:

ISU NHH created a questionnaire for their affected students that they spoke about at the NA. It was a really good move because with this information, we will be better able to see what can be done about the situation. I think it would be useful if ISU NHH would share that document with the other branches.

Ricardo, VP, arranged a meeting with a person who administers the Qouta program at UiO. Together we were able to get some important information on how the program is run and how decisions are made regarding who gets admitted into the program.

ISU Expansion Project / StL Cooperation:

The project proposal was submitted last week to StL. My understanding is that we will get a response from StL after their National Assembly makes a decision on it in about one week (on 19 November). I've gotten positive feedback from StL's International Officer, Katrine and StL's President, Øyvind. ISU had a meeting with Katrine a couple of months ago, and last week she told me of the contact she has already made with 2-3 interested institutions that could be suitable candidates for membership in ISU Norway. I think it would be great if ISU Narvik and ISU HiO would encourage your local International Officer to support it at the NA on the 19 November meeting!

Student Visa Fee Case / NSU Cooperation:

I met with NSU's International Officer, Jon Ivar, last week. He indicated that he is very interested in taking up the issue of the Visa Renewal fee that that we must pay each year and gathering information on the quality of life for international students Norway, in general. He described a well-thought out strategy for the Visa Case that I'm interested in working with him on. I'll be able to say more about it later.

We spoke about how to strengthen the cooperation at the local level between ISU and NSU. Each Intl Officer regularly attends the NSU International Committee meeting. There is one planned for later this month. We plan to show off what has happened with good cooperation and to encourage the International Officers to strengthen their contact with their local ISU Branches.

A Note on Cooperation:

I encourage us to take the initiative. Each Student Parliament / Committee has someone who is responsible for International Affairs (including international students), and that person will have access to resources that can help you. Remember, they also need your input as to what is important for international students, that you are qualified to give, since you have been elected by the international students !

SAIH NA:

Earlier this month I was invited to the SAIH NA by Katrine, who came to our NA. I asked Andrea, AVP, to attend. I thought it would be good to follow up on Katrine's talk about cooperation between local SAIH and ISU branches.

I give the following as good reasons for SAIH ISU cooperation:

1. It would help ISU to achieve further integration with norwegian students
2. would help SAIH to do information work towards international students.
3. SAIH supports development work in countries that ISU students come from - those intl students could be a resource for SAIH to consider.

I gave UiO as an example of good cooperation, with:

- A. The Halloween party we hold together (that do together, and hand out information about our organizations) and
- B. SAIH UiO sending us emails in english on events that they are holding that we pass on to our international students mailing list.

The local SAIH branches responded positively to the suggestion. Afterwards, I was asked if ISU would want to apply for membership in SAIH - so that we could vote in the NA, (thus help the international student to be a part of the process that determines how the 20 NOK each student automatically pays to SAIH is spent).

Constitution Committee:

I have spoken with some members of the committee via email. My expectation is that they will be able to get work done during the Christmas holiday, after their exams and during the break from their local ISU. I encourage everyone to reflect on their experiences with ISU at the local level - it will come in handy as we work towards a better constitution!

Academic Journal:

Ricardo has been very busy with this and reports that he on the way towards a first draft.

ISU in the News:

Soon after the NA, we were contacted by Aftenposten regarding the results of a survey that to do with the relationship between international and Norwegian students in Norway. The reporter interviewed Arlene, Jon Ivar and I. My goal for the article was to present ISU as an organization where international students can take responsibility and influence the quality of their stay in Norway. I was satisfied with the result.

Here is the link to the article: <http://www.aftenposten.no/utdannelse/article1138340.ece>

I will try to get it translated and put it on our website.

Contact with Branches:

I've had contact with a few of the branches since the NA via email and telephone. If you have any questions or need to talk about something, send me an email or give me a call. I'd love to talk ISU with you!

I want to wish you good luck with the preparations you've begun to make for elections that some branches will be having in January. To those of us that will be leaving Norway or ISU in December – Thank You so much for your contribution to the International Students Union of Norway !