



ISU BRANCH REPORT / HAND OVER REPORT

SPRING 2007

Total MIB Students: 45 students

Total Exchange Students: 82 students

The three key words of the MIB council are Integration, Promotion and Business.

Integration: The MIB program works toward integrating international students into Norwegian culture and encouraging the Norwegian students to embrace new cultures.

Promotion: We seek to promote the MIB program both at school and abroad in order to raise awareness that the program exists hence increasing marketability of graduates.

Business: We seek to be in touch with businesses in order to promote the program and to create links both at home and abroad, once again opening job opportunities for graduates.

SUMMARY

1. How many international students are at your school? For how long do they stay/ what programs? Special needs? Brief description of your branch: history, structure.

There are currently 45 full time masters' students (MIB) (both 2005 and 2006 intake) as well as 80 exchange students. Next semester, the number of MIB students will increase to 60, the exchange will number around 160. This will mean that the international students will compose around 1/3 of the total masters' population. MIB students stay for 1.5 years, typically, while exchange student change in time frames changing from 1 semester to 2 semesters.

2. Names, nationality, contact info for board members

Isikcan Aysev, Leader, Turkey, isikcan.aysev@stud.nhh.no

Kristian Fosslund, Deputy Leader / Treasurer, Norway,
kristian.fosslund@stud.nhh.no

Eefke Post, Social Affairs Chair, the Netherlands, eefke.post@stud.nhh.no

Secilie Kui, Academic Affairs Chair, Norway, secilie.kui@stud.nhh.no

Dalibor Tomko, Communications Officer, Czech Republic,
dalibor.tomko@stud.nhh.no

3. Brief description of branch's program since September 2006.

Please see the rest of the report for these activities.

4. How did you represent the international students at your institution?

Please see the rest of the report.

5. Cooperation - with other ISU branches, your Student Parliament, other organizations

Please see the rest of the report.

6. Financial Report/Budget

Expenses		Income	
International Dinners	5,000 NOK	Funding, HSF int.din and ph.cont.	8,200 NOK
Photo Contest	3,200 NOK	Budgeted, student union NHHS	2,657 NOK
Sunday brunch & skating	940 NOK	Budgeted welfare funding NHHS	6,373 NOK
Other social events	4,811 NOK		
Participant fee ISU	2,000 NOK		
Office equipment	965 NOK		
Other expenses	314 NOK		
Total	17,230 NOK	Total	17,230 NOK

Details available from the Treasurer

7. Website

Please see the relevant section.

Bearing the above in mind the MIB Council has embarked on a number of projects and activities as listed below.

Main Projects:

Starting January 2007, each MiB Council member has embarked upon their personal 'term projects'. This means that each board member is to complete a specific project by the end of term. Here are the projects:

Leader: **Integration projects**, Walk the World Bergen, Welcome week preparations, addition: charters, ISU advisory report, general cooperation with Kjernestyret,
Deputy Leader / Treasurer: **Redeveloping charters**, making funding applications
Social Chair: **MIB Photo Contest**, international dinners, various social gatherings

Communications Officer: **Redesigning MIB Council website**, completing the communication network

Academic Affairs: **Securing spots for international students on the admission board**, completing the process on the new Norwegian course at school, making one disputed course an elective instead of a mandatory course

Corporate Relations Associate: Organizing **company visits** to Statoil and Rieber & Son

Integration Projects

International Dinners

So far 4 student groups in the student union and 1 Norwegian company have been invited to join international students for a dinner at school. This increases interaction between the Norwegian and international student bodies, and has proved to get the said student groups more engaged with international students. For instance, one international student has started to write a column in the student newspaper, K7 Bulle, in English. Both Bulle and FotoGruppe have helped us for the Photo Contest as juries and in printing. GEP and the MIB Forum have decided to cooperate next semester. Teknisk Gruppe, the technical group, is doing pro-bono work for the Walk the World event. The Walk the World event is also seeing keen interest from student groups such as AIESEC, and bands such as Direksjonsmusikken, Big Business Band, and Extravadance, as well as the festival team, UKEN.

Cooperation with Kjernestyret (student board)

The cooperation from the new student board has been simply outstanding. They have helped us with everything from booking rooms in the basement to promoting our events on the plasma screens and the union website. They have also been consulting us for all the international student related issues at school.

- The academic officer has assigned two MIB students to the MIB admission board, in accordance with our request.
- The international officer has been very cooperative in every aspect, getting us the connections we need in the city council, SiB and elsewhere.
- The internal officer has been actively involving our group in all student union (tillitsvalgte) events, such as the seminars, the events, the dinners and such.
- The information officer has helped us promote all our events on the plasma screens and websites at the school.
- We haven't had specific demands from the financial officer, but nevertheless she has been generally cooperative.
- The corporate relations officer has given us contacts and information on how to be better at corporate sponsorship for our operations, as well as putting us in contact with people who work on the issue.
- The leader has generally been very positive towards our operations, and overall quite supportive.

MIB Showcase

The leader has begun organizing a recruitment event for the fall for student groups in the union to recruit incoming MIB students. This event is called MIB Showcase, since all groups are being showcased for international students. One-year exchange students will also be included in this event, as most groups want members to stay at least for a year. This will be in the form of speed presentation of each group for less than 5 minutes, and then a reception at the school, where the students can mingle with the group members. The aim is to increase international student participation in the student union groups. So far, the groups that expressed interest in taking part in the event are:

- Global Economics Perspectives (GEP) (conference group)
- FotoGruppe NHHS (photography group)
- AIESEC NHH (AIESEC branch)
- K7 Bulle (school newspaper)
- IT Gruppen (IT group)
- Extravadance (dance team)
- Teknisk Gruppe (technical group)
- Handelsgruppen (the trade group)

Target groups:

UKEN (festival team)

K7 Minutter (TV station)

Stafkom (the running team)

Direksjonsmusikken (a big band)

Big Business Band (another big band)

Naeringslivutvalget (the business committee)

Amnesty International NHH (civil rights group)

Finansgruppen (finance group)

Skipsfarts- og Transportgruppen (shipping and sailing group)

We are hoping this event will create more awareness about international students at school and increase international student engagement at school.

Side Projects for the Leader

Walk the World Bergen

On May 13th, MIB Council is co-organizing a rally in the city with CEMS Club NHH. This rally will be a fundraiser for the UN World Program, as a means of fighting child hunger. Walk the World is a worldwide event, being organized in over 100 countries in the world, and was participated by over 700,000 people all over the world last year. This is the first time the event is being organized in Bergen. This year, the event will take place in three locations in Norway, Oslo, Bergen and Lillestrom.

The event in Bergen will consist of a march from Vagsalmenningen to Festplassen, lasting about an hour, and afterwards a big concert and show at Festplassen by

bands and groups from NHH – and hopefully UiB. This event is being organized by MIB, CEMS and exchange students exclusively. So far 2 big bands, one dance team, one revue team and a priest have signed up to perform. There will be a keynote speech before the show, where an expert will discuss the issue of hunger. The event will be covered by local and national media, in local newspapers as well as TV shows and news stations. The school (the pro-rector, international office) is supporting the project by funding as well as helping us with media relations. A large PR firm, Geelmuyden-Kiese, is interested in preparing the PR campaign for the project. We also have teams working on fundraising and promotion of the event.

We have seen strong cooperation from student groups, such as Direksjonsmusikken, UKEN, Teknisk Gruppe, AIESEC, and Extravadance. Departments at school, such as Information Department and International Office have also been very helpful.

All members of ISU are also invited to attend the event on May 13th, in Bergen! Otherwise, please attend the event in Oslo.

Exchange representative

From next semester on, the exchange students at NHH will be represented on the MIB Council and International Committee. This election will be done separately between the exchange students – i.e. MIB will not vote for the exchange representative.

Corporate Relations Associate

The leader has recruited a MIB student as the corporate relations associate, who had the responsibility for arranging company visits for MIB students. Linda Karlsson (MIB 2007) has organized two visits, one with CEMS exchange students to Statoil, another with regular exchange to Rieber & Son. This has proved to be highly successful, since the associate member did a great job in the specialized area. From now on MIB Council will recruit an associate for this position every semester.

Statoil Visit

CEMS exchange and MIB students have visited the Statoil refinery at Mongstad, close to Bergen. There they were briefed on the refining business, had lunch and had a tour of refinery and the nature reserve. There were 40 participants. This event costed 90 NOK per person.

Rieber & Son Visit

MIB students and several exchange visited an FMCG company in Bergen, the biggest in Norway, Rieber & Son. After briefings about the company, the market and job opportunities from the CEO, VP and the marketing director, the participants had a dinner where they had the opportunity to speak to the employees and learn more about the company. MIB has invited the company back to NHH for a dinner, on April 29th.

Welcome Week preparations

MIB Council has begun preparing for welcoming the 2007 intake, which is estimated to be around 45 students, double of the current class size. This means a doubling of MIB Council's human resources, which will increase our leverage considerably. In order to welcome our new students, we have begun the planning of the week in cooperation with the student board, the international committee and other parties involved.

ISU Advisory Report

The ISU NHH leader, in cooperation with Eton Williams, has prepared a consulting report and workshops for the ISU national assembly. The report itself is available online, while the workshops will be done at the assembly.

Deputy Leader / Treasurer's Projects

Redesign of ISU NHH Charter

The charter/constitution has been re-written based on the instructions that were only available in Norwegian. Rules on elections, responsibilities and powers have been drawn up in this document. This was the position's main project for the semester.

Funding applications

There has been incredible success in terms of fund raising this semester, the Council has raised over 18,000 kroners for various activities, some of them have been transferred for use in the coming semester.

Social Activities

Sunday brunch & Ice skating

In February, we had a Sunday brunch and then went Ice-skating with 35 international students. The cost per participant was 30 kroners, and MiB Council has subsidized the remaining amount.

International Dinner Concept: International Dinners are gatherings where students from one specific country cook for original dishes for the others. The cooking team typically consists of 4-5 people from the country plus 3-4 helpers, all in all 8-9 people who get in for free. MIB Council has been able to get 5000 NOK funding for the events this semester. The events are held in two rooms in the basement of the school, Campus and fUken. Here are the dinners we organized this semester:

Russian International Dinner (RID)

We held a Russian dinner (and some pizza) with participation from 50 students, 40 internationals and 10 guests from the school newspaper, K7 Bulle. The cost for participant was 30 kroners.

Spanish International Dinner (SID)

We held a Spanish dinner with tapas and Spanish omelettes, with participation of again 50 students, 40 international students along with 10 guest student from the photo group at school FotoGruppe NHHS, and Global Economic Perspectives (GEP) Conference team. The cost per participant was dropped to 20 kroner due to increased funding.

African International Dinner (AID)

On April 29th, MIB Council is holding another international dinner, African International Dinner. This time, our friends from South Africa and Tanzania will prepare original dishes for the rest of us. The special thing about this event is that it is also a charity/fundraising dinner for the Walk the World project. The cost per participant will be 50 kroner, with 30 kroner going towards the campaign. We have invited a student group at school, Teknisk Gruppe, which deals with the light/sound equipment for concerts, and representatives from a Norwegian FMCG company, Rieber & Son. We hope to raise around 1200 NOK for the campaign in this event.

Indian International Dinner / Farewell Dinner (IID)

This dinner will be a slightly different concept, since we will have the dinner probably in an Indian restaurant downtown. This will be of a smaller size, around 35 participants, due to cost issues. The specifics are not yet entirely clear. The student board at NHH will be invited to participate.

MiB Photo Contest

MIB Council did a photo contest with around 70 photographs sent from 40 students. These were on exhibition for 2 weeks at school corridors. 3 jury prizes and 1 people's prize were awarded (various prizes + a bottle of wine each) at the awards show which was held at the school concert hall. Afterwards, the band Sonofobia had a concert for about 1.5 hours. Around 150 people were in attendance. This event was financed entirely by MiB council and was free of charge. This event was a great was of bringing together Norwegian and international students.

For a more detailed account, see below:

- The first part of the event consisted of a period where we marketed the contest both in Norwegian and English on the plasma screens around school, the student union's website and on a stand at school, allowed students to send in their selected photos of cultural interactions. We got over 70 pictures from Norwegian, exchanges and MIB-students, Bachelors and Masters.
- The second part of the event was the exhibition on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 13th and 14th. We made an agreement with the janitors to display the 70 pictures on 6 big boards on the first floor of the service building at NHH. This was quite successful and the pictures and the curious viewers really brightened up the school for some days.
- The third part was the awards show in the cellar, Campus, where the pictures and different snacks and cakes made good surroundings for a cultural photo night. We had arranged a jury consisting of a member of Foto NHHS, the photo chair in K7 Bulletin, and Eefke Post, the social chair of the MIB Council and main organizer of the event. The jury had selected three winning photos and the photographers got

their respective prizes during the show, together with a "People's award" judged by a vote from the viewers of the exhibition. The photographers held small speeches explaining the context of their pictures, and the night ended with a concert with the Bergen-based pop-rock band Sonofobia. Campus was pretty crowded that night, the show went smoothly and the atmosphere was good.

When all comes to all, we believe that this was a successful happening where we managed to raise cultural awareness among the different student clusters around NHH. Both Bachelors and Masters, Norwegian, exchanges and MIBs joined the event and we were left with a very good feeling of the whole thing after the event had taken place.

Academics / Politics

Norwegian Classes for foreign students

Credit-worthy (7.5 ECTS) Norwegian courses have began for international students at an elementary level. We are seeing active cooperation from the International Office, the student board and the Student administration. The course is of course free for all to take. IO has also forwarded us information about a summer language course in Oslo, which has been passed on to all incoming international students.

Thesis meeting

We organized a meeting for people who will start writing their theses soon. The original meeting was in Norwegian; therefore they scheduled one for us in English.

Mandatory Course

Due to popular demand from the students, the course 'Intercultural Business Communication' was made non-mandatory but an elective as a result of the efforts of the Academic Affairs Chair.

Admission Board

After working on this case for the fall semester, now there are two international students in the admission board of the MSc in international business academic program. This is important since MIB students should have a say over the admission into their program, instead of Norwegian bachelor students who have traditionally occupied the posts in the admission board. The current members of the admission board are the MIB Council leader, Isikcan Aysev and a MIB student from South Africa, Dietmar Naumann.

MIB Forum

MIB Forum 2006 took place on India on Oct. 25th 2006. It was a major success with over 100 participants as well as 80,000 NOK was raised to support the conference.

ISU NHH/ MIB Council have successfully recruited a core team of 3 people at the beginning of the semester. The MIB Forum team, now consisting of 6 members, has started working on the Forum 2007 this coming fall. It is going to take place on

October 25th, as a part of International Student Week in Bergen, and the topic will be Brazil. MIB Forum is also looking to enter a partnership with the GEP conference. The budget is estimated to be around 90,000 NOK. The MIB Forum is under direct responsibility of the MIB Council Leader.

Communications Officer

Due to the inadequacies of the previous MIB Council website, the Council has taken the decision to overhaul the website, in the beginning of the semester. The Communications Chair has been working towards this throughout the semester, and now we are at the stage of getting the skin designs from the graphic group at school, afterwards we will put up the website. The project is planned to be completed by end of May.

Next Election for ISU NHH

Next semester, the current leader will continue presiding over the branch, until December 2007. However, all other board members will be leaving on exchange or out of the country, and will have to be replaced. The positions to be recruited to are:

Deputy Leader / Treasurer (one year position, becoming Leader, spring 2008)
Academic Affairs Chair (one year position, fall 2007-spring 2008)
Social Affairs Chair (one year position, fall 2007-spring 2008)
Communications Officer (one year position, fall 2007-spring 2008)
-new position - Exchange Representative (one semester position fall 2007)

The leader will oversee all recruitment efforts to make sure MiB Council gets the best out of the available talent pool. The elections will be the week after Welcome Week, the international officer from NHH will also be present. The leader is currently in contact with all incoming MIB students for the 2007 class, and all incoming students are in contact with each other on Facebook. Also, a letter has been sent to all accepted students about the MIB Council and the election. The exchange students will be contacted about the possibility of being on the board. The leader is confident that the election will proceed smoothly.

Documents Developed

ISU NHH / MIB Council Charter
ISU Advisory Report 1
ISU Reports, Fall 2006-Spring 2007
Treasury documents
Welcome week documents
Activity reports

Important Contacts at NHH

Elisabeth Kverneland, Leader, Kjernerstyret NHH leder@nhhs.no
Audun Houmb Sjoli, Academic Affairs, Kjernerstyret NHH, fagpolitisk@nhhs.no
Karianne Overland, Internal Affairs, Kjernerstyret NHH, intern@nhhs.no

Anita Lillebo, Financial Affairs, Kjernestyret NHH, oko@nhhs.no
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Kathrine Bakke, ESN Bergen, UiB
John Andersen, Head of International Office, International Office, NHH
Norunn Okland, International Office, NHH
James Hosea, Consultant, Information Department, NHH
Tor Johannessen, CEMS Coordinator, International Office, NHH
Ole Johan Berge, Head of Admissions, Student Administration, NHH

Conclusion

Overall the MIB Council is satisfied with the increased level of cooperation from the school and the Norwegian student body. This year there has been more integration than in past years. The School has been very cooperative both in terms of funding MIB programs and considering MIB issues. International students as a whole have an increasingly better atmosphere for study. Norwegian students have also been more open and increasingly send out invitations to international students for social activities.