

## ISU UiO National Assembly Report Spring 2008



### Presentation

ISU UiO is the branch that represents the largest amount of international students. We are currently a board of 9:

President:	Ricardo Duque (Colombia)
Vice-president:	Margriet Verduyn (The Netherlands)
General Secretary:	Alicia Coggins (United States)
Financial Secretary:	Elaine Matheson (Scotland)
Social Affairs Secretary:	Eduard Jambor (Slovakia)
Press Editor:	Nyncke Havelaar (The Netherlands)
Sports Secretary:	Martin Underwood (England)
Academic Review Chief Editor:	Sabina Sirbu (Romania)
Webmaster:	Linn Hege Lauvset (Norway)

### How we work

All of these board members were elected at our General Assembly in January 2008.

- We consider ourselves working at three different levels:
  - Academically
  - Socially
  - Politically
- Each area corresponds to the interests and the stakes the international students have at the University of Oslo.

### Academic Work

- The academic area of our work is focused on publishing the *Academic Review of Norway* (ARN).
- The ARN is published once every semester and is a free magazine for the entire academic community at the University of Oslo and we mail copies to branches that are interested and to the authors.

### Social Work

- This semester, our board has organized more activities than ever before!
  - Paintball event
  - Freia Chocolate Factory tour
  - Holmenkollen Skijumping event with the Social Sciences student representatives
  - Valentine's day party
- More activities...
  - TRIPS!
    - Trip to Copenhagen
    - Trip to Bergen
    - Trip to Stockholm

- Coming up:
  - Football tournament
  - Pre-National Day Party

### **Social Work**

- . This semester we focused our efforts greatly on the student housing telephone case
  - SiO (student samskipnaden i Oslo) was going to remove all the fixed phones in the student residences in Oslo.
  - This would have affected the int. students negatively since not all have cellphones, and many use the fixed phones to call home.
  - A press release was made, and together with the Student Parliament and thanks to the attention brought to it by Farshad, an article was written in the student newspaper UNIVERSITAS.
  - We also added a campaign online and through *Facebook* for signatures. Highly succesful.
  - SiO had to hold back their deadline for retrieving the telephones, and they have now assured us that easy-to-use and *perhaps* free IP phones will be made available before the removal of the regular fixed phones.

Cooperation with other student bodies was key to the delay of the removal, and for SiO to commit to at least guarantee certain IP phones in some student residences.

### **Challenges for the future... (OUCH!)**

- Budget continuity.
  - Due to lack of continuity between boards, no financial practice has been fixed.
  - New board member in charge of finances must redo all the books to fit new system.
  - Vicious circle.
  - Attendance and getting through to students
  - Too many events available in Oslo and at UiO.
  - Mailing list not even close to cover 20% of students