



MINUTES National Assembly II, 2007 (NAII07) 12 – 14 October 2007

Prepared by Erik Evans (National Secretary)

Meeting started 45 minutes late due to delayed participants.

Eton welcomed the delegates present.

Kim introduced himself and was elected chair.

Chorum was achieved by a margin of 0 – zero.

Time plan was adopted.

Minutes from NAI07 were adopted without any comments questions or objections.

Eton made the official opening. He thanked the hosts, made a short presentation of the social programme and the schedule for the day and our guest speakers before peppering delegates a little.

Eton suggested granting official Observer status to Nina Rojina. This was unanimously adopted.

Isckian introduced the rector of NHH – Jan Håland

Håland made a speech where he promoted NHH and its dedication to internationalisation for staff and students.

ISU Bodø made the presentation of their branch, their activities and methods of fundraising. ISU NTNU encouraged cooperation on their social trips to Trondheim.

ISU Narvik presented their branch, activities and plans for the future. Their plans on making a course on how to get a job raised particular interest.

ISU BI presented their branch, their partners, their social activities.

Elisabeth from NHHS presented her organisation - the general student organisation at NHH. She also invited all participants to NHHS' party Friday evening.

ISU UMB presented their branch, their activities and the successful cooperation with the local NSU branch.

Bente Gundersen gave an informative presentation of SIU – The Norwegian Centre for Internationalisation of Education. She is responsible for the “StudyinNorway” branding initiative. She presented the PR-work done by SIU. France, Germany, USA and Canada are the main target countries for the campaign. She also explained the problem that ten times as many Norwegian students go to the US as are going the other way. She explained about the forthcoming survey SIU will do among international students. The obvious idea that ISU could help out was expressed by participants. Participants were very interested and raised a lot of questions. Several of the questions were related to how we can cooperate with “StudyinNorway” in the future.

Participants were very active in giving tips and hints on how to better market Norway as a country to study in. Some of the points here were:

- Promoting the lack of tuition fees in Norway.
- Emphasising the high international ranking of Norwegian universities.
- Contributing to the work to integrate international students – perhaps in cooperation with ISU branches.
- Expanding the quota system into more countries in the South.
- Translating brochures into more languages.
- Exposing the motivations for attracting international students.

Eton thanked Bente and gave her a flower and some nice comments. She left with a smile.

Professor Anne Kari Bjørge gave a lecture in intercultural communication.

Main points were:

- National differences in ways of verbal communication exemplified by formality applied when addressing professors.
- Physical distance between people when communicating face to face.
- Differences in concepts of time – monochronism vs polychronism.
- The cultural dimensions paradigm. How Norwegians differ.

Eton gave his presentation on the history, structure and strategies of ISU-Norway. Strongly promoted the Samarbeid-mantra and bragged about the major political cases won in the past.

ISU HiO presented their somewhat different structure (no president), a complete overview of the nationalities of the international students at HiO, social activities and close cooperation with the Student Parliament (StL local branch).

Candidates for President and Vice-president announced their candidacies. These were:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Branch</u> | <u>Running for</u> |
|-------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Farshad | UMB | President |
| Mario | NTNU | President |
| Prashant | BI | President |
| Narottam | UiB | Vice president (withdrew) |
| Ricardo | UiO | Vice president (late announcement) |

Telemark International Students' Association - TISA (member candidates) gave a presentation of their institution, their organisation, their activities, their plans for the future and the reasons why they want to become members of ISU-Norway. SOT (local branch of StL) contributed to the presentation. The issue of conflicting names was addressed as usual.

ISU Tromsø presented their institution, their local NSU international officer, their deteriorated economic situation, their money making initiatives and social activities.

ISU Stavanger presented their branch, their activities, budget, challenges and the improvements in English coverage in the Stavanger student newspaper.

ISU UiO presented their branch, their somewhat different challenges, their activities and their contribution to cases won by ISU nationally. They also distributed and bragged a little about the Academic Review as usual.

James Hosea gave the presentation "How to achieve your goals in one hour – An organisational development and strategy implementation workshop". Participants divided into workshops discussing issues related to goal achievement.

The vice-rector of international relations of the University of Bergen gave a pleasant greeting speech. She emphasised the importance of internationalisation and that we are the representatives of a large and important segment of the student mass.

Presidential candidates presented themselves and answered questions from the delegates.

Ricardo Duque also announced his candidacy for the position of Vice President. The late announcement was due to his late arrival to the assembly. Narottam withdrew his candidacy

Marry-Anne Karlsen, political vice-president of Bergen SV (Socialist Left Party), talked about the Stortingsmelding (White Paper) on internationalisation of education that the government is currently working on and will be forwarded to Parliament approximately in the autumn of 2008. She discussed different backgrounds such as the Bologna Process and the Quality Reform. She encouraged participants to give her their opinions on the Stortingsmelding.

She voiced SV's strong support for mass education over elite education and opposition towards strengthening the financial incentives for internationalisation on the institutional level.

TISA was awarded full membership status with 20 votes for, 2 against and 1 abstention. After a proposal and a voting with more than 2/3 majority, TISA was granted full voting rights immediately.

Tina Marii from StL and Caroline from NSU held their greeting speeches. Naturally, they both stated how important ISU is and talked about the work they're doing for internationalisation of higher education and international students.

ISU NHHS / MiB Council gave a presentation of their institution, branch, social events, academic happenings, communications work and healthy financial situation.

ISU NTNU presented their team building activities, organisation, recent changes in structures, budget, buddy program, lobby work towards local politicians, social activities. They also showed a short video clip from a social event.

ISU UiB presented their branch, social activities, work on political, welfare and academic issues, academic and non-academic partners.

Elections:

Farshad, Prashant and Mario ran for president. No candidate got a clear majority in the first round. Mario received the least votes and was removed for a second round of voting. Farshad Tami from ISU UMB was elected as the new National President of ISU Norway.

Both losing candidates announced their candidacy for vice-president as did Eton, the outgoing president. For the first round of elections, no 50% majority was achieved. Mario received the least amount of votes and was stricken. For the third round of elections, still no majority was achieved and Ricardo was stricken. Eton and Prashant remained as candidates. Prashant Søegaard from ISU BI was elected as First Vice President. Eton and Ricardo ran for 2nd Vice-president. Eton Williams was elected as Second Vice President.

Torleif Einarsen from Statens Lånekasse for Utdanning gave a presentation of his organisation. Participants highlighted problems that Einarsen apparently was not aware of. He received a bottle of wine from Eton.

Kamilla Stølen from SAIH (Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund) gave a presentation of her organisation and it's potential for cooperation with ISU. She answered questions from participants regarding SAIH's work and Norwegian development aid policies in general. She received some kind words and a bottle of wine from Eton.

Eton, Farshad and Prashant officially closed the meeting. Everyone went for a quick photo session before departing – tired, but happy.

Farshad Tami
National President
International Students' Union in
Norway (ISU)

Prashant Søegaard
First Vice President
International Students' Union in
Norway (ISU)

Caroline Khoury
Internasjonalt ansvarlig
Norsk Studentunion (NSU)