



ISU Local Branch Report ISU UMB	Prepared by: Tsehay Hailemichael, President Date: March 25, 2009 Prepared for: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NAi09 - Oslo
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A) ISU Local Branch Members

<i>Period Autumn 2008</i>		<i>Period Spring 2009</i>	
NAME	POSITION	NAME	POSITION
Amanda Greaves	President	Tsehay Hailemichael	President
Ratko	Vice president	Nicole Mayne	Vice president
Shawn Loo	Secretary	Rachel Dilley	Secretary
Prakash Yadav	Treasurer	Prakash Yadav	Treasurer
Tsehay Hailemichael	Social Officer	Michael Kutschke	Social Officer
Amit Das	Social Committee	Amir Mohseni	Social Committee
Amir Mohseni	Social Committee	Brock Grabber	Social Committee
Jason Hart	Social Committee	Carolyn Sub	Social Committee
		Dewi Meisari	Social Committee
		Friedrike Schierholz	Social Committee
		Joseph Kreuzer	Social Committee
		Kayleigh McElligott	Social Committee
		Lena Fastji	Social Committee
		Tiffany Tong	Social Committee

B) Summary of Activities during Academic Year 2008 - 2009

Over the last two semesters major events included International Food Festival, Christmas Dinner and Dance party, SALE, Cabin Trip, International Universities Fair, Freia Chocolate Factory Tour, and Stockholm+Talline trip. One of the success stories for the semester is and difficulties we encountered include the issue related to the quota students which is still not solved. Our major concern is the consistency of ISU for the coming semester as there will be a complete turn over of members – the issue of starting from scratch.

C) General Assemblies

We had one general assembly on January 29, 2009. Approximately 50-60 students were present including the president and international officer of NSU-UMB and the national president of ISU. The assembly was carried out along with the orientation program for new comers hosted by SIT and basically involved the election process only.

D) Social Activities

- Welcome party more than 100 participants and that was a huge success.



- We organized coffee evenings and movie nights interchangeably every Wednesday. Coffee evenings constituted different themes – ‘Know Norway’ and ‘Stop Human Trafficking’.
- Ski trip in Oslo - not that many people came maybe due to lack of proper advertisement or people had other commitments.
- Ski race in Ås – 5 groups with 3 people in each – We had a group for France, Russia, Germany+ USA, Italy, Canada+ Austria+ Iran. We made sausage barbeque and had a wonderful time. It was a success.
- Cabin trip to Oslomarka – a huge success. There were 16 of us including Norwegians
- International Student Fair
- Freia Chocolate Factory tour
- Stockholm+ Tallinn Cruise
- International Food Festival

E) Welfare Cases, Campaigns and Student Politics

One issue we have been struggling with was finding a solution to the problems related to quota students. Finding an alternate source of funding for the first 3 months has been quiet a challenge. The university administration acknowledged this problem and extended their help in trying to find a solution. As it is done in other learning institutions throughout Norway they tried to involve SIÅS in preparing a cheque for those students for their first 3 month stay in Norway until their scholarship stipend is available. However, SIÅS was not pleased with this idea and refused to take responsibility for fear of the work load on its employees. We are still struggling to get a solution at the moment.

Additionally, we are in the process of developing a mini handbook which we believe will help international students with the various issues they need to know when they arrive in Norway. Information is currently found in dispersed areas throughout the school website and hard to access.

F) Comments, Evaluation and Future Improvements

One of the drawbacks in ISU-UMB is the frequent and complete turn-over of its members when new semesters begin. This is because all of its members so far are either master students going on their field work sometime in the year or exchange students leaving Norway after one semester. Because of this fact new members coming into office start from scratch all over again. By the time they start knowing their way around it is time to leave. We need to find a solution to this problem. Potentially a guide book explaining who to contact for help with various issues such as funding, activities, ideas to start off the semester with, etc...will help.

In the future we need to have a better idea of what the plan is in beginning of the semester and develop a rough itinerary. This will allow us to inform students earlier of upcoming events and hopefully increase participation. Then we can also post the international events in the semester calendar organized by the Samfunnet which will increase the integration since Norwegian students follow the semester calendar more closely than the posters we distribute.



Other than that all the staff are wonderful, understanding, eager to help and very enthusiastic. I am witnessing better commitment and organization among the group members than the previous semester.

G) Budget

Inclusions Fund annual grant (expected)		20,000
Welfare fund received		12,100
	Basic support	2100
	Activity funds	10,000
Inclusions fund for food festival		20,000
Total		52,100

Expenses

General assembly Spring 2009	773.50
Welcome party both for students and new members	1103.41
Stationary, posters, repair, supplies.....	1363
Movie Nights including movie rentings	1190.85
Coffee evenings	2928.7
International University Fair	664.7
Freia chocolate Factory Tour, oslo	2195.00
Bank charges for payments	135
Total	10354.16

Total expenses for the food festival are unknown at the moment.