



**BODØ  
INTERNATIONAL**



Bodø International (BI) board members for the 2006-2007 academic year:

President: Nils-Tore Torbergson (Norway)  
Vice President/Treasurer: Louise Hutchinson (Australia)  
Welfare director: R.M. Prathibha Nilakshi Ranasinghe (Nilu) (Sri Lanka)  
Information director: Pavel Andreev (Norway/Russia)  
Board director: Frederic Niang (France)

Board Contact details

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Nilu	rmpn_rana@yahoo.com	95437726
Pavel	denglinsandeormen@hotmail.com	99160218
Frederic	fredniang@gmail.com	94873539
Board	bodointernational@stud.hibo.no	

### **Finances 2005-2006**

Income: kr49900.86  
Expenses: kr40835.56  
Balance carried forward: kr9065.30

### **Budget for 2006-2007**

#### **Expenses**

International day (stalls, snacks, etc)	2000
International food festival	12000
Trips (museum, Lofoten, ski, cabin, fishing, etc)	22000
Advertising	1000
Movie nights	5000
Coffee hours	10000
Farewell dinners (2)	16000
Photo CD	1000
Chess Tournament	1000
International disco	9000
<b>Total Budget for 2006-2007</b>	<b>79000</b>

## **Students at Bodø University College**

We currently have 250 international students from 43 countries registered at our University College. We have many Russian students studying Circumpolar Studies over the internet who are not on-campus.

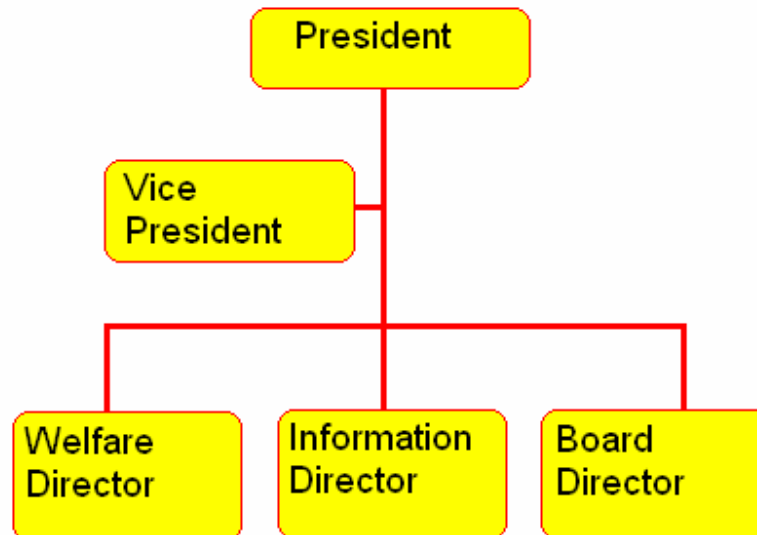
Austria	2	Iceland	3
Australia	3	Italy	1
Azerbaijan	1	Japan	1
Bosnia	1	Sri Lanka	6
Bangladesh	4	Latvia	1
Bulgaria	2	Malawi	1
Belarus	1	Nigeria	1
Canada	7	Netherlands	2
Switzerland	2	Nepal	1
Cameroon	1	Peru	2
China	8	Poland	2
Cuba	1	Portugal	1
Germany	5	Romania	1
Denmark	2	Russia	115
Estonia	2	Sweden	7
Ethiopia	1	Slovakia	2
Finland	4	Turkey	1
France	11	Tanzania	2
UK	6	Uganda	1
Ghana	1	USA	2
Croatia	1	South Africa	1
Iran	4	Unspecified	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>		

## **History of Bodø International**

Bodø International was established in September 2000 by our first president, Kate Gordon and they had 30 members. They believed that it would enable international students to get acquainted with each other and to make friendships with Norwegians. At the beginning, they organised International day, International food party, quiz and Trips.

Bodø International has come a long way since 2000. It now organises a wider variety of activities and plays an important part in the structure of the school. We are represented in the student parliament and have strong friendships with the other student organisations.

## Structure of Bodø International



Although we do have some hierarchy within the board in theory, in practice the board is very equal and works together as a team to provide the best services to the students.

## What had BI organised in 2005/2006?

- Coffee hours and movie times (weekly activities)
- International day (in the first semester)
- International food party and Beer fest (in the first semester)
- Chess tournament (in the first semester)
- International Quiz
- Helping Red Cross (to organize football championship against violence each year.)
- Distributing flyers in Norwegian champions league match between Bodø and Molde
- Helping the University to organise the Open Day (funny games)
- Semester CD
- International disco night
- Farewell Party at the end of each semester
- Trips around Northern Norway

## **Intensions for 2006-2007**

Continue events run by previous board and include some new activities:

- Trip to Lofoten and Trondheim
- Overnight activity
- Fishing/ boat trip
- Skiing competition
- Form a music group
- Tug-o-war against other student organisations
- Mini-Olympics
- Language hours with Norwegians
- International cookies at coffee hour (extension of food party\coffee hour)
- International drinking games (maybe at coffee hour!!!!)
- Sport activities
- Joint activity with another international student organisation
- BI jumper

### **Coffee Hours and Movie Time**

Each week, Bodø International organised Coffee hours or Movie time as it brings international students as well as Norwegian students together. This is a unique opportunity that allows them to get to know each other and make friendships.

### **International day**

An opportunity for the international students to promote their countries and universities in which, they display pictures films music and dress. It is a multicultural experience for Norwegian students and a great opportunity for the international office to inform students about studying abroad.

### **International Food Party and Beer Festival**

A culinary travel around the world where different cuisines will be offered. An opportunity for students to experience tastes from the countries of their peers: the international students.

### **Chess tournament**

The chess tournament generates a chance to promote and assess both international and Norwegian students' skills in playing chess. The winners of the tournament were awarded certificates and valuable gifts.

### **Excursions around Northern Norway**

We have a wonderful opportunity to learn and see so much about this beautiful country, and for many of us this is a once in a lifetime chance. For this reason, we have planned many trips to see as much as we can, and to guide tours of the cities, and excursions to regions and museums. In this way we can learn about the history and social organisation of Norway. It is invaluable information and learning that we can take home with us and share our experiences with those abroad. We want every international student to have the opportunity to take part in these trips, and feel that a 25% sponsorship will provide a better chance of achieving this.

### **International quiz contest**

Quiz competition provide an opportunity to assess the global knowledge of students in the university as the quiz consists of questions about different countries. We hope that it assists to improve the general knowledge of both Norwegian and International students.

### **Farewell dinner**

The goal of the farewell dinner is to wish a safe journey back home and wish all the best for the examination. As well it provides a great chance to all students to remind their exciting experience and stay in Bodø. For this dinner, all international students, Norwegians students involving in internationalization process and administrators in the International office and the Vice Chancellor of the University are invited.

### **Semester CD**

The CD allows international students to take memories from Bodø University and let them contact their friends in the future, as we include contact information of international students in the CD.

### **Funny games**

The aim of organising funny games is to allow everyone to learn about the international funny games which will be an unforgettable memory in Bodø University.

### **International disco night**

The objective of disco night is to provide an occasion for both International and Norwegian students to have leisure time and enjoy. These disco nights provide a space where students, far from home, could come together and socialize.

Helping Red Cross, organising funny games, distributing flyers for the football tournament and participating in Independence Day will demonstrate that the international students of the University are highly interacting with the Norwegian society. And it will indicate that the University of Bodø is having a huge international network.

All these events help international students to overcome their loneliness. On the other hand these activities assist them to realize that school is willing to take care about them and they will discuss about the experience of these events and the friendly environment in Bodø University which will convince their friends to be international students in Bodø.

We believe that BI has made a great contribution for the Internationalization Program launched by the University of Bodø and it will enable to attract more international students from different countries.

## **Political and academic Issues**

### Election of board members

The International office at Bodø University College has requested that we change our constitution so that board members serve a calendar year and not an academic year. The board is against the change but it is yet to be discussed at a general assembly.

### Language classes

Students have requested more teaching hours in the Norwegian language courses, especially more oral work. We plan to propose the introduction of small group discussion hours with a mother tongue Norwegian to supplement the current instruction.

### Housing of International Students

Most of the international students live in Flatvold- the one student accommodation located in the city and not in Mørkved near the campus. This makes it harder for them to get to the campus and hence they do not participate fully in the social activities organised outside of regular class time. They also stick together and do not mix with Norwegian students. The accommodation is allocated on a 'first come first served' basis and international students often get the paperwork later than the Norwegians. We believe the easiest way around this problem is to allocate a certain number of rooms in each of the accommodations to incoming international students.

### Advice for incoming students

We wish to improve the quality and quantity of information available to incoming students. We plan to include information about Bodø International in the welcome pack given to each international student by the International Office. Where possible we intend to contact the incoming students before they arrive and offer advice. We intend to buddy up incoming students with current students from the same country as they will know the most important things to pass on and that the work is spread among many students. We also intend on improving our webpage.

### Computers in English

All the computers on campus operate in Norwegian which causes some grief to international students. We intend to contact the IT department and request that some are changed to operate in English. These computers would then be made identifiable so that the students can find them. Ideally we would like a few English computers in each computer lab.

### Important signs in both languages

Some signs around the campus are bilingual but many are not. We intend to make the school aware of this and ask them to have all important signs in both Norwegian and English. We will offer assistance in translating. Many of the notices/emails posted by the other student organisations are only in Norwegian so will ask them to be more bilingual.

## **Bodø International Network**

We have connections with the following organizations:

SoB - Student organisation of Bodø University College: we request funding from SoB and they request special international activities from us.

SSiB - Welfare organisation of Bodø University College: they provide us with some equipment and advice for activities.

The other student organizations- Inter, Salut, Corpus, Nugla, Ajour: we combine for activities

International Office: we work together to support students and request funding from the board of the school through the international office.

Arctic Student Union: they have conferences each year discussing circumpolar issues and we have been invited to attend

HHBS- business school at Bodø University College: we organise some international events together and invite guest speakers

Student Samfunnet- student pub: they provide us with a venue for our parties

Red Cross: we support and participate in special activities related to international issues.

ISU: we received general assistance.

This year we aim to improve and extend our connections with organisations outside our school eg Nordland County, Internasjonalt senter.

We would like to develop connections with other international student organizations from other Universities/ University Colleges and have joint activities. We are happy to assist other organisations with tours of Bodø and surrounds.