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# **Plan for inclusion of international students at UiO 2006-2008**

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# **1. Preface**

This plan draws up how The Student Parliament (SP) will work to create an international campus at UiO by strengthening the international students' position at the university and include them better than they are being included today. All students, both Norwegian and international, deserve and should expect a satisfactory student situation.

This plan represents a concretisation of section 2.2.2 in SP's International Platform. The International Officer has a special responsibility for the implementation of the points of this plan.

## ***1.1 Internationalisation at UiO***

The Student Parliament works for an international university. We believe this is important for three reasons: It broadens the academic reach and raises the academical level, it creates international solidarity, and it is vital in providing the students the tools they need in a world that is becoming more and more globalised.

A central point in creating an international university is student exchange. The Student Parliament's international platform states that UiO should have 20 % international students. An international university is not created only by having a high number of students with a foreign citizenship; we also need to facilitate the exchange of ideas and views between students of different nationalities, students cooperating with their studies and the forming of friendships.

## **2. Tear down the language barriers!**

SP wants a university adjusted to all students, also the students that don't speak Norwegian. The following points are from SP's document "Language in Academia";

The Student Parliament wants:

- That UiO offers and develops a range of courses and degrees, at both bachelor and master level, of high academic standard. SP wants the number of masters degrees taught in English to be doubled, from 20 to 40.
- That UiO offer all international students courses in Norwegian, independent of what they are studying.
- That all information from UiO, SiO and SP should be both in Norwegian and in English. Especially urgent is the information about the services provided by the student health service and SiO.
- That there are established E-mail lists for international students, that one can register when one registers for the semester.

## **3. A better Buddy System**

The Buddy system has in 2006 decided to have joined groups for international and Norwegian students. These groups will have two buddies. The students choose if

they want to take part in these groups. This year, there has also been a focus on recruiting international students as Buddies.

The aspect of internationalisation is something the Buddy system should work further on in relation to the start of the semester.

The Buddy system should:

- Further and improve the integrated Buddy groups with both Norwegian and international students.
- Work to get more international students to sign up as buddies. The cooperation with ISU needs to be strengthened.
- Make sure that all the information given at the start of the semester is available in English.
- Personally meet the international students in a period before the semester starts, when they arrive in Norway.

## **4. Internationalise the student culture at UiO**

### ***4.1 An international Student Environment.***

- In 2007, "Kulturstyret" should prioritise inclusion of international students in the student culture. Applications from organisations and student medias that wish to include international students, should be prioritised.
- "Kulturstyret" should cooperate with UiO to create an award for the student organisation that has done the most to include international students.
- Student organisations and medias should be encouraged to write all their information in both Norwegian and English. Especially urgent are the web pages for The Norwegian Student Society (DNS).
- There should be created an international review/newspaper at UiO, where both Norwegian and international students can publish articles.
- All political lists running for the Student Parliament should produce information about themselves in English.
- UiO at the central level and the faculties should fund the student organisations; so that they can improve their work towards including international students in their work.

### ***4.2 International Coffee Hour***

International Coffee Hour (ICH) is a weekly meeting place for students who wish to take part in an international environment. ICH is held every Friday between 4 and 6 o'clock at Bokcafeen at Chateau Neuf. Today there are mostly international students present at this event.

- DNS should inform about ICH on their web pages

- The information about ICH should be in both Norwegian and in English. Information should be given in both the English and the Norwegian buddy-menu.
- ICH should be promoted towards Norwegian students, as well as other happenings in the special events-programme.

### **4.3 Student Sports**

OSI and SiO must:

- Make sure that all information about the student sports activities is available in both Norwegian and English.
- Make sure that international students can participate in activities arranged by the student sport facilities.

## **5. Strengthening the faculties**

- The small faculties must have a person with inclusion of international students as part of her/his job description
- All Student Councils should elect an international officer, with responsibility for the international students at the faculty. The international officer of SP has the responsibility to coordinate with these.
- The faculties should, in cooperation with the Student Councils, create meeting places for exchange students, like they have done at the Faculty of Medicine.

## **6. Living conditions**

- SiO should give better information about the different types of housing and the prices to international students. They should also make it as easy as possible to move between the different student villages.
- The opening hours of the receptions at the student villages must be increased in the beginning of the semester. International students must be welcomed and given their key, regardless of when they arrive.
- SiO must spread its share of rooms with furniture on several buildings. International students tend to live in these rooms, and when they are all in the same place, it will lead to segregation.
- There should be a quotation system established- and compensation programmes to make a more even distribution of international students at the student villages.

## **7. Cooperation with International Students' Union (ISU)**

- The agreement between ISU and SP about the ISU office must continue, and the written cooperation agreement should be revised and made available on SP's web pages.
- The president of ISU should participate in the meetings in SP's International Committee

- SP's International Officer should be present at ISU Board meetings
- ISU should be consulted in all cases where they have relevant competence.
- ISU can apply to "Kulturstyret" for funding to make T-shirts promoting the international University of Oslo. The T-shirts can be sold at Akademika.
- SP's international officer has responsibility for the ISU election at the beginning of each semester.

## **Best Practices**

### ***The Faculty of Social Science***

SVFF is an example of international students being a resource for student organisations. Approx. 15 international students take active part in SVFF's work, where they mainly work in the cafe and the bar. For the international students, this is a great way to take part in the student life, in addition to them being an important resource for the organisation.

### ***ISU Election***

The Executive Board of SP, often represented by the president, holds the election for the ISU Board at the first International Coffee Hour of the semester. Because of this, the new ISU board will from the beginning have contact with the Student Parliament. This Coffee Hour is also used to inform about the student democracy at UiO.

### ***Univeristas***

Universitas for international students, a cooperation between Universitas, SP, ISU and UiO, is a project where UiO pays a translator to translate articles to English. Approx. three articles are being translated to English each week, and published at [universitas.no](http://universitas.no).

### ***The Faculty of Medicine***

To create contact between the Norwegian students and the exchange students, the faculty arranges *International Corner* a couple of times each semester. This is an informal meeting place to enhance inclusion of international students. Exchange students at the faculty can present their country, and their home university. This way, one can create an interest for exchange among the Norwegian students.

The faculty gives NOK 20.000, - each semester to Norwegian students who want to arrange social activities for the international students.

The faculty also seeks to include the international students in the learning process. The international students work in groups with the Norwegian students, where the language used is English.

The organisation for the medicine students, Medicinerforeningen, sends out E-mails in English where they inform about parties and other social events.