



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' UNION OF NORWAY

**REPORT 080115**

### International Students' Union of Norway (ISU) **Bi-monthly Report**

**15 January 2008**

**Prepared by**

Farshad Tami, National President

**Prepared for**

Member Branches

and

Samarbeid Partners

Studentenes Landsforbund (StL)

Norsk Studentunion (NSU)

### **ISU General Info and Objective**

The International Students' Union of Norway (ISU) is an independent, democratic, non-profit, non-partisan organization run for and by international students. ISU is committed to the social, academic and political interests of all international students studying in Norway. ISU's national administration is located in Oslo, with a National President, two Vice Presidents and a National Secretary. ISU member organizations are located at 12 institutions of higher education around Norway. ISU's basic funding is from the Norwegian Government with an annual amount of 220.000,00 NOK. We also work closely with NSU and StL.

### **Overview of Report Period**

The period from mid October 2007 until mid January 2008 has been mainly a transitional handover period where the former ISU Board passed over the work to the newly elected. The latter ISU Board consists of National President Farshad Tami, First Vice President Prashant Søgaard and Second Vice President Eton Williams (and former National President). The three needed sometime to get to know each other and learn about ISU strategies and work. This period also was characterized by the regular networking between ISU, NSU and StL, especially during the StL's Landsstyremøte and NSU's Landsstyre in Trondheim.

During this period, ISU proudly became a member of Studentenes og Akademikernes Internasjonale Hjelpfond (SAIH), the Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund.

### **Previous and Current Activities**

All the newly elected ISU Norway Board went to Trondheim to present their regular report and present the newly elected members at StL's Landsstyremøte and NSU's Landsstyre. The meeting was an opportunity for ISU Board's new members to establish first

contact and friendship. Also the event was an opportunity to discuss ISU expansion in the following locations; Finnmark, Agder (Kristiansand), Molde and Volde.

ISU applied for funding from Frifond through NSU. The amount was 37.850,00 NOK that covers the cost of the President meeting in February along with updating website and supporting the Academic Review Journal. The funding was received during the same month.

ISU attended Nordisk og Baltic Ordførende Møte (Baltic and Nordic Student Unions) a conference for all the international officers from student organizations in Nordic and Baltic countries. The conference was focused on best practices, organizational structure and culture themes. ISU held a short speech about its history, current activities, cooperation and how it has built its relations with StL and NSU. ISU also participated in a two day workshop about best practices and presented ISU as an example. Several Nordic countries were interested in ISU and possible future replications of ISU experience in those countries might take place.

ISU had a very successful meeting with Lånekassen at their Bergen office to discuss the challenges the Quota (international) students face when they arrive to Norway; mainly, the delay in getting their Lånekassen funds in time and sometimes have to wait up to 3 months. Lånekassen promised to work on shorting the required time needed to process the application and send of the funds. Two suggestions took place during the meeting, first was to run the application on-line (that would save up to 8 working days) and secondly to enforce a condition on the academic institutions in Norway to lend the students an amount of cash for a specific during until they receive the Lånekassen funds.

A meeting was held in Kristiansand on the 3rd of January 2008 where Second Vice President, Eton Williams, gave a presentation to two vice rectors of the institution, met with Helge Hovland, Studentorganization Leder in Agder. StL is very supportive for the expansion of ISU in Agder. Eton also met with Thomas, leader of the local Erasmus Student Network (ESN). Eton assessed that after few adjustments during their upcoming meetings, they can qualify for being an ISU branch at the next ISU National Assembly in April 2008.

Table.1 Summary of official meetings that ISU have been invited to and attended:

Meeting	Date	Place
SAIH - Annual Assembly	18 October 2007	Oslo
Minorities in Focus in Academia (MiFA) - Seminar	25 October 2007	Oslo
Spire Internasjonal - Seminar Focus on Youth Activity	13 November 2007	Oslo
StL - Landsstyremøte	1 – 2 December 2007	Trondheim
NSU - Landsstyre	1 – 2 December 2007	Trondheim
Nordisk og Baltic Ordførende Møte (Baltic and Nordic Student Unions) - International Conference	6 – 8 December 2007	Bergen
NSU - Landsstyre (Part 2)	17 December 2007	Oslo

### Up-coming Activities and Meetings

The major upcoming activity is the ISU President Meeting that is going to be held on 2nd to 3rd of February. The timing of the meeting has been poorly managed due to a clash with StL and NSU meetings. Such plans will be avoided in the future using the Action Plan table (please refer Annex 1). The objective of the ISU President Meeting is to discuss (a) branch constitutions; (b) cooperation with SiAH, SIU, Lånekassen; (c) current ISU cases; (d)

ISU National Assembly in April 2008; (e) ISU handbook and finally (f) ISU strengthening samarbeid/cooperation with local NSU/StL branches.

ISU National Board has three other important tasks ahead. First, to hire a new Secretary (please refer to draft announcement found in Annex 2) to replace Erik Evans that left his role as ISU's National Secretary in November 2007. The recruitment process will start in January, interviews will take place in February and we hope to have a new National Secretary by 1st of March. International officers of StL and NSU, along with one ISU branch president will be attending the interviews. The final decision is in the hands of the National President. Second, a thorough adjustment of ISU financial system will be established that will allow it to be transparent and easier to manage. Thirdly, ISU and NSU will be signing an agreement where both sides will agree in writing upon a previous agreement that has taken place for many years whereas NSU will continue to administer the payment of ISU National President and Secretary (please refer to agreement draft found in Annex 3). Later on, ISU will establish a contract with the accountant/auditor company that NSU has and this company will be in charge of all financial matters including salaries.

For more details about future ISU National Board activities, refer to Annex 1.

### **Summery**

A challenging road lies ahead of ISU as we continue to grow in number, in partners and in tasks. The National Board hopes to continue to fulfill the vast number of activities during February up to end of April. The continuous support of ISU branches, NSU and StL is needed.

### **Acknowledgments**

ISU would like to thank both StL and NSU national board, local branches, as well as ISU local branches that supported the Lånekassen Quota student case. Regrettably, ISU says farewell to Eton Williams upon his own request to resign from his post as Second Vice President. As mentioned in the email correspondence (please refer to Annex 4); Eton has shown an undivided dedication and responsibility to the service of student politics and welfare. His work will be remembered as milestones in our organization's history. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Erik Schreiner Evans for his 7 month of service to ISU as the National Secretary. We wish them both the best of luck in their future endeavors. ISU would like to thank StL branch in Kristiansand for their support to establish an ISU branch at their institution. We hope for the best. Finally, ISU would also like to extend its hand in appreciation for the efforts made by ISU NHH and ISU UIB (Bergen branches) along with NSU branch in their campaign to stop Studentsamskipnaden i Bergen (SiB) from removing the telephone lines in the student residence areas. We hope other branches will be able to make sure that their local Studentsamskipnaden will not repeat such actions without consulting with international students.

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	DESCRIPTION	CITY/COUNTRY	DEADLINE
<b>A. ISU National Activities</b>				
<b>ISU Presidents Bi-monthly Report to Branches</b>	Farshad		Oslo	23-26 January 2008
<b>ISU National Contact with Branches</b>	Farshad		Oslo	<i>On Going</i>
<b>ISU Presidents Meeting</b>	Farshad, Prashant		Not yet decided	2-3 February 2008
<b>Hiring National Secretary</b>	Farshad (NSU, StL, &		Oslo	February 2008
<b>ISU National Handbook</b>	Farshad		Oslo	September 2008
<b>Website Update</b>	Farshad		Oslo	January 2008
<b>ISU Spring National Assembly</b>	Farshad, Prashant		Not yet decided	19-21 April 2008
<b>B. Samarbeid</b>				
<b>Meeting with Ministry of Education Minister</b>	Farshad	Introducing ISU	Oslo	February - March 2008
State Secretary				
<b>ISU SAIH Samarbeid</b>	Farshad	Cooperation	Oslo	January 2008
<b>SIU Meeting in Bergen</b>	Farshad	Improve SIU website &	Bergen	February 2008
<b>Lånekassen Meeting</b>	Farshad	Follow-up on qouta	Bergen	February 2008
<b>ISU LNU Samarbeid</b>	Farshad, Prashant	Meet with LNU to	Oslo	January 2008
<b>C. Expansion</b>				
<b>ISU National Expansion</b>	Farshad, (& Eton up to		Finnmark, Adgar	<i>On Going</i>
Send out emails to StL Branch Leaders				20-23 January 2008
Make arrangement for meeting				8-14 January 2008
Visit Locations / Introducing ISU				4-14 February 2008
<b>ISU Regional Expansion</b>	Farshad			<i>On Going</i>
Sweden			Stockholm	Not yet decided
Denmark			Copenhagen	Not yet decided
<b>D. Samarbeid with Partners</b>				
<b>StL National Meeting</b>				
StL Network Conference (Nettverkskonferansen)	Not yet decided		Sørmarka	1-3 February 2008
StL Landsstyremøte	Farshad		Sørmarka	15-17 February 2008
Spring Conference (Vårkonferansen)	Fashad		Bergen	29 February - 2 March
StL Landsstyremøte	Farshad &/or Prashant		Hamar	.10 April 2008
StL Landsstyremøte (General Assembly)	Farshad &/or Prashant		Hamar	11-13 April 2008
StL Landsstyremøte	Farshad &/or Prashant		Sørmarka	23-25 May 2008
<b>NSU National Meeting</b>				
NSU Landsstyre	Not yet decided		Tromso	2-3 February 2008
NSU Landsstyre	Farshad &/or Prashant		Stavanger	.10 April 2008
NSU Landsting (General Assembly)	Farshad &/or Prashant		Stavanger	11-13 April 2008
NSU Landsstyre	Prashant		Ås	7-8 June 2008
<b>SAIH National Meeting</b>				
General Assembly	Farshad &/or Prashant		Oslo	April 2008
Conference	Farshad &/or Prashant		Oslo	September 2008



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' UNION OF NORWAY

International Students' Union of Norway (ISU) is a volunteer, student-run organisation which represents the political, academic and social interests of international students studying at institutions of higher learning in Norway. ISU cooperates closely with the Norwegian Student Union (NSU) and Studentenes Landsforbund (StL).

ISU Norway consists of twelve independent member branches, and a National Board consisting of an elected National President and two Vice Presidents. The ISU National Board hires one Secretary.

International Students' Union of Norway is seeking a new

### **ISU SECRETARY**

ISU will be hiring a new Secretary in a pay scale of Level 14 according to the Norwegian Government regulation and will be working 8 hours per week (25% position).

Under the supervision of the National President, the Secretary will be responsible for the daily running of the organisation, including external and internal communication, administrative procedures, and financial management. The Secretary also has the main responsibility for arranging the practicalities of the ISU National Assembly, held twice a year. The position will offer strong administrative skills for those willing to develop even further competence in this field.

#### **Qualifications:**

- Studying at a university or university college (høyskole);
- Fluency in English and Norwegian (written and spoken);
- Competence in writing and preparing documents;
- Solid financial understanding;
- Experience with web publishing;
- Ability to work in a team is vital in addition to a good sense of humour.

#### **We offer:**

- A rewarding job with the main responsibility for the administration of a national student organization;
- The opportunity to work with people from all over the world;
- A salary that won't make you rich, but it will provide a nice supplement to your study loan.

Our new ISU Secretary should be able to start in the position by 1st of March 2008 for a 3 month trial period. Applications with CV and references (in English) should be sent electronically to [nationalpresident@isu-norway.no](mailto:nationalpresident@isu-norway.no) by **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2008**.

Interviews for potential candidates will take place around 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks of February.

For further information about ISU Norway and its National Assemblies, please visit: [www.isu-norway.no](http://www.isu-norway.no)



## **NSU and ISU Agreement**

### Salaries for National President and Secretary

January 2008

This Agreement entered into by and between  
Norsk Studentunion - Hereinafter referred to as NSU,  
*and*

The International Students' Union in Norway - Hereinafter referred to as ISU

#### **ARTICLE (A)**

This agreement is a formalization of the practices that stem from the ISU and NSU Cooperation Agreement, signed in 2004 (Refer to Annex 1 or [http://isu-norway.no/NAII/cases/Agreement\\_NSU\\_ISU.pdf](http://isu-norway.no/NAII/cases/Agreement_NSU_ISU.pdf))

#### **ARTICLE (B)**

Recognizing the importance of supporting the ISU National Board and due to our long standing relationship, NSU will administer the payment of the salaries of ISU National Board members represented in the context of this agreement only by the National President and the National Secretary until ISU has made an agreement with an accountant.

#### **ARTICLE (C)**

##### ***General Guidelines***

- This Agreement shall enter into effect upon signature by both parties mentioned above;
- Both parties mentioned above acting through their authorized representatives shall use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of this Agreement;
- The duration of this Agreement shall be indefinite; and shall remain valid until termination upon a six-month advance written notification by either party;
- Any change or modification of this Agreement shall only be in the form of a

written agreement between both parties mentioned above.

## **ARTICLE (D)**

### ***Responsibilities Carried by NSU***

NSU administers the payment of the salary of ISU Norway's National President and National Secretary for the duration and amounts stated below:

#### **d.1) National President:**

- Duration: 14 months per year, where the National President of year 1 will overlap with the newly elected National President of year 2;
- Amount: Pay Scale 14 according to the Norwegian Government's regulation;
- Work time per week: 8 hours (25%).

#### **d.2) National Secretary:**

- Duration: for time period that the person is hired;
- Amount: Pay Scale 14 according to the Norwegian Government's regulation;
- Work time per week: 8 hours (25%);
- Refer to Annex 2 for the Contract between ISU Norway and the National Secretary.

On behalf of NSU

On behalf of ISU

Per Anders Langerød

Farshad Tami  
National President 2007/2008

Date:

Date:



Farshad Tami <farshadtami@gmail.com>

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## Thank You / Resignation letter (from Eton Williams)

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Farshad Tami <nationalpresident@isu-norway.no>

Fri, Jan 11, 2008 at 2:01 PM

To: Bastien Mercenier <b.mercenier@gmail.com>, Hiroko Wakabayashi <heisann00@hotmail.com>, Jens-Christoph Kesselheim <insa@sbio.no>, John Knudsen <john.knudsen@stud.nhh.no>, Kate Mostowyk <katherine.mostowyk@stud.oks.hio.no>, Lindsay Ringer Petal <rpetal@mac.com>, Mohammad Kabir <kabirdubd@gmail.com>, Narottam Aryal <narottam.aryal@gmail.com>, Nemanja Trecakov <trecakovn@yahoo.com>, Prashant Soegaard <1vicepresident@isu-norway.no>, Prashant Soegaard <soegaardp@gmail.com>, Ricardo Duque <ricardo.vladblech@gmail.com>, Victor Chukwuemeka <isu.president.stavanger@gmail.com>, Xiaojie Song <062480@student.hit.no>, Almat Bedelbayev <062482@student.hit.no>, Bente Gundersen <bente.gundersen@siu.no>, "Camilla H. Skjelstad" <nestleder@stlweb.no>, Caroline Khoury <caroline@nsu.no>, Gori Gjini <gori.gjini@student.umb.no>, Hanna <hanho@student.uio.no>, Heidi Sund <heidi.sund@nsu.no>, Isikkan Aysev <isikkan.aysev@stud.nhh.no>, Janne Nyhus <janne.nyhus@nsu.no>, Jonas Holmqvist <Jonas.Holmqvist@saih.no>, Kamilla Stølen <Kamilla.Stolen@saih.no>, Karsten Werner Nielsen <karsten.werner.nielsen@nsu.no>, Nils Dugstad <nils.dugstad@umb.no>, Oisten Svelle <velferd@stlweb.no>, Olav Øye <leder@stlweb.no>, Pavel Petrovic <pavel.petrovic@gmail.com>, Per Anders Torvik Langerød <per@nsu.no>, Tina Marii Skare <internasjonalt@stlweb.no>  
Cc: Eton Williams <eton.williams@gmail.com>

Dear All,

I regrettably accept the resignation of our colleague and friend, Eton Williams, from his position as the National Board's Second Vice President for International Students' Union in Norway. He has just sent me an email today regarding his wishes (find attached).

For my few weeks as National President, I am not worthy enough to praise Eton and his devotion to ISU. But for what I have seen, he has shown undivided dedication and responsibility to the service of student politics and welfare. I am sure his work will be remembered as milestones in our organization's history.

Please join me in thanking him and wishing him the best in life and in his endeavors.

Truly,

Farshad Tami

National President  
International Students' Union in Norway  
office: 0047-98225998  
mobile: 0047-96879876  
email: [nationalpresident@isu-norway.no](mailto:nationalpresident@isu-norway.no)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Eton Williams** <[eton.williams@gmail.com](mailto:eton.williams@gmail.com)>  
Date: Jan 11, 2008 1:31 PM  
Subject: Re: Thank You/ Resignation letter (private)  
To: Farshad Tami <[nationalpresident@isu-norway.no](mailto:nationalpresident@isu-norway.no)>

11 January, 2008

Dear Farshad,

I have considered this deeply for a long time. And after three-and-a-third consecutive years of serving our organization, I must now commit myself solely to my studies.

I hereby resign from my position of 2nd Vice President of ISU Norway.

ISU is in safe hands now.

Studentpolitikk, samarbeid, victory!

Love,  
Eton Williams

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