



International Students Union of Norway (ISU)
Thorvald Meyersgate 7
0555 Oslo
www.isu-norway.no

NATIONAL SECRETARY REPORT

1. New National Secretary

The National Secretary, Katarzyna Piesla, will be on leave from the 1st of March to the end of September. Katarzyna Piesla was in charge of contact with applicants and organising interviews, which took place on the 26th of February. The hiring committee consisted of the ISU National Coordinator, ISU National Secretary and NSU International Officer - Eivind Vad Pettersson. As a result, Håvard B. Øvregård was chosen for the position.

2. Newsletter

The National Secretary has been in charge of editing the newsletter "The International Student". As decided at the last National Assembly in October 2003, the newsletter is supposed to be published at least once a semester. The local branches had a deadline for sending the articles on the 1st of November and the first edition was planned for the beginning of November. Because some articles came as late as in the end of November, the newsletter was ready first at the beginning of December and the final version was sent to the local branches on the 12th of December and again in January. Although there was very little response from the branches, ISU national assumes that the local branches have published the newsletter and distributed it among students.

The collected articles were very interesting and together with pictures served as a good reading material.

3. Web Site

The National secretary has prepared a new ISU web site (www.isu-norway.no), which was long planned and waited. The web site was ready at the beginning of March. The NS has got some technical help from a web page designer in Oslo. No payment for any technical help related to new web pages was considered by the last National Assembly and the Constitution does not clarify if such a service payment is possible. The National Secretary proposes that ISU pays the designer 500 NOK for his help but leaves the decision to the National Assembly.

ISU has not had any web-host up till now (previous pages were linked to ISU Trondheim's web pages at NTNU). Though the new pages were sent to Trondheim and temporarily put in place of old ones, the place at web host in Oslo is badly needed. It will guarantee the NS a

free access for updating pages. Payment of a fee for the web hotel will be discussed at the National Assembly.

4. Distribution of "The Ultimate Guide to Studies in Norway"

A letter to Norwegian embassies in Brussels, Sofia, Copenhagen, Tallinn, Paris, Kiev, Dublin, Reykjavik, Rome, Zagreb, Riga, Vilnius, Lisbon, Warsaw, Bucharest, Moscow, Belgrade, Stockholm, Prague, Berlin, Budapest, Vienna has been sent by e-mail. The letter informed about the Ultimate Guide to Studies in Norway and possibility of its distribution. The guides have been offered gratis.

Most embassies responded immediately asking for guides. The list is as follows:

Warsaw – (50)
Budapest – 30
Prague – 30
Kiev – (50)
Berlin – 50
Vienna – 25
Brussels – 50
Rome – 50
Tallinn – 100
Sofia – 200
Paris – asked for electronic
Belgrade – 5

The guides have been distributed by kurier service (kuriertjeneste) in The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A letter informing about the guide and possibility of receiving it has been sent by fax, post and e-mail to foreign embassies in Norway. The embassies, which have responded, received 2-5 exemplars of guides either by post or personally. Meeting representatives of embassies personally was a good introduction and gave impression they were very interested in the guides. All embassies were offered more exemplars if wanted. They were also informed about yearly updating and that it will be possible for them to order new corrected guides in 2004. Here follows the list of embassies which received the guides:

Embassy of Israel, Estonia, Dominican Republic, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Cuba, Slovakia, India, South Africa, Indonesia, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Argentine, Canada, Germany, China, Portugal, Dominican Republic and Consulate of Jordan, Madagascar and Mongolia.

The guides must still be sent to the rest of Norwegian embassies abroad.

5. Application to the Ministry of Education and Research

As last year, ISU will apply for the money to the Ministry of Education and Research. The deadline for sending applications is the 31st of March. The National Secretary, Katarzyna Piesla, has prepared a letter, budget, report from 2003 and a tentative plan for next 4 years, which was requested by the Ministry. Additionally, Katarzyna Piesla will meet the public accountant on the 9th of March. A report from the accountant is another request from the Ministry.

The new Secretary, Håvard B. Øvregård will be in charge of any necessary corrections of the mentioned papers and of sending the application to the Ministry in the end of March.

ISU plan for 2004 and the plan for next 4 years will be discussed as separate cases.

Report was written and submitted by:

Katarzyna Maria Piesla

ISU National Secretary