



International Students Union of Norway (ISU)  
Thorvald Meyersgate 7  
0555 Oslo

## Minutes of the National Assembly

4 October 2003

### PRESENT

NAME	POSITION	UNIVERSITY/UNIV.COLLEGE
James Jowi Otieno	ISU National Coordinator	
Katarzyna Maria Piesla	ISU National Secretary	
Arlene Pearce	President	ISU Oslo, UiO
Wang Jin-Fu	General Secretary	ISU Oslo, UiO
Marisa di Sabatino	President	ISU Trondheim, NTNU
Jose Maria Sousa Du Vale Marcal	Vice-president	ISU Trondheim, NTNU
Ruth J. Bett	President	ISU Bergen, UiB
Said Shafighi	Financial Secretary	ISU Bergen, UiB
Nina Rojina	President	ISU Tromsø, UiT
Ramil Aliyev	Vice-president	ISU Tromsø, UiT
Godwin Kofi Vondolia	Previous President	ISU Ås, NLH
Patrick Byakagaba	President	ISU Ås, NLH
Jorrit Pier Eringa	Vice-president	ISU Oslo, HiO
Marieke van Dalen	General Secretary	ISU Oslo, HiO
Elena Shelygina		University College in Narvik
Eivind Vad Petersson	International Officer	NSU
Bård Mjåland	Head of the StL office	StL
Jørn A. Henriksen	International Officer	NSU Tromsø
Vegard Stokland	Observer	NSU Tromsø

### 1.1 Welcome and Introduction

**James Jowi Otieno** (hereafter called Jowi), National Coordinator and chairman of this meeting, called to order the National Assembly of the **International Students' Union** at **10:40 AM** on **October 4, 2003** at The **University of Tromsø**. All were warmly welcomed and thanks were extended to ISU Tromsø for hosting us.

#### Attendees

A list of the meeting's 19 delegates is attached (*appendix G*). Each person gave a short presentation of his/her self. This is also reflected in the appendix.

## **1.2 Approval of Agenda and Meeting Plan**

- Jowi suggested some practical changes in the order of the agenda:
- Items 1.3 and 1.5 were switched
- Lunch was reduced to ½ hour.
- Items 2.1 to 2.3 were discussed together
- Item 2.6 was omitted and discussed as part of item 1.4 instead
- Items 3.1 and 3.2 were taken together after 1.5.
- Dinner was moved to 19:30
- Items 4.1 to 7.0 were taken on Saturday
- The agenda (*appendix H*) with suggested changes were approved.

Eivind Vad Petersson (hereafter Eivind) proposed speaking rights for the observers from StL (Norwegian Association of Students) and NSU (Norwegian Student Union) for this meeting only. This was approved.

## **1.3 Reports from the ISU branches**

Reports were presented from representatives of the local ISU branches at University of Tromsø, University of Oslo, Agricultural University in Ås, Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, and University of Bergen. In addition the provisional boards from Oslo University College and Narvik University College also gave reports. Reports summaries are provided in Appendix Z.

### **Some highlights:**

**Tromsø:** Branch issues membership card for international students, helps keep accurate records or members and makes it easier to have partnerships with businesses for discounts etc., excellent cooperation with student parliament and administration. Relatively high percentage of international students (10%)

**Oslo:** Rebuilding a board that was dormant for a while. Challenging to establish important contacts and get necessary information at such a large, impersonal university. Never the less, ground laying work with University Administration and Student Parliament is in progress and going well.

**Ås:** No new board yet, most old board members away, general meeting October 8

**NTNU:** Excellent activity plan, nifty T-Shirt ☺

**Bergen:** Had board transition problems but its being sorted out. Branch is talented in advertising and PR for ISU.

**Oslo College:** Became a new branch September 12<sup>th</sup> – hurrah! Have already initiated good contact with International Office and Student Parliament

**Narvik:** New branch in the making – yippee! No elected board yet. Unusually high percentage of international students (20%). President is a member of parliament.

## **1.4 Report from National Secretary**

A report was presented by the national secretary, Kasia (hereafter Kasia). This report is attached in detail as *appendix E* ("ISU National Administration – Recent developments").

### **Important highlights:**

- The letter from the Norwegian Ministry of Education granting funding to ISU Norway in the amount of NOK 140 000 for the 2003/2004 school year is attached as *appendix B*. Please note that the ministry also sent us a more detailed letter in Norwegian which, among other things, outlines guidelines that ISU should follow when applying for funding in the future.
- The National Secretary together with the National Coordinator evaluated the amount the ISU received from the Ministry and disbursed NOK 7000 to the four existing ISU branches: ISU Oslo, ISU Bergen, ISU Tromsø and ISU Trondheim. ISU Ås will receive their amount after they have formed a board. The National Assembly agreed with this.
- See 2.1 for details of the ISU/NSU funding issue.
- The first publication of "The Ultimate Guide to Studies in Norway " (August 2003 – 1500 copies) has been distributed. A sample is attached as *appendix D*. The university of Tromsø donated NOK 5 000 to publication costs. Kasia will send a letter of thanks on our behalf.
- New National Website: [www.isu-norway.no](http://www.isu-norway.no) should be operational by the end of October.
- Deadline for branch submissions to the next issue of the national newsletter is November 1.
- We agreed on a competition for a new ISU logo. The submission deadline is February 29 and a winner will be chosen at the next national assembly. A prize will be awarded.
- See 2.5 for more on the organisational booklet (*appendix K*).

### **1.5 Report from National Coordinator**

The NC's report was presented by Jowi (*appendix F*). Many of the points complement those of the NS's report.

#### **Other Highlights:**

- New ISU branches have been founded (Narvik and Oslo University College). More are planned. First contact with StL initialised and progressing well.
- National ISU Office functioning well since the NS took over.
- ISU and NSU represented at each other's other meetings.
- Financial standing is improving but there is still a way to go.

Jowi's term as National Coordinator is ending today. He expressed his thanks to all and was especially gratefully that he and Kasia were able to work so well as a team.

### **3.1 /3.2 Continuity and Collaboration**

Eivind said that ISU was a priority with NSU and suggested cooperation agreements between with local branches and Student Parliaments.

Proper hand over from the outgoing to incoming board is essential

Local branches should make interim appointments if board members leave before their term is up

Local constitutions should be amended to reflect local needs

Marisa suggested that 2 Weeks notice be required for a board member to leave.

## **2.1 NSU/ISU Funding Issue (Kasia, Eivind)**

This was a long and involved discussion, the main discussion threads were as follows:

NSU funding of ISU has been decreasing. Four years ago NSU was funding ISU with 300 000 a year. Funding from NSU for 2003/2004 is only NOK 120 000.

Previous funding from ISU has been insufficient and only covered NC's stipend and the National assembly.

To put things in perspective Kasia reminded us that the funding request to the ministry of education was for 700 000 (they granted only 140 000 – see 1.4).

Audun marvelled repeatedly at the fact that ISU has managed to survive on such meagre funds.

Eivind explained that NSU gets most of its income from membership fees from its 7 university branches so available finances are vulnerable to branches leaving. One such financial crisis was faced when Trondheim withdrew NSU membership.

There is a meeting on October 8 with the Ministry of Education, NSU, SDL and ISU regarding funding.

Eivind encouraged ISU to seek out complementary sources of funding. NSU and the Ministry of education have obligations to ISU for general operational support but we can apply for project based funding from various sources

Said pointed out that ISU's ultimate goal should be total independence from NSU.

Audun shared his experience with fundraising. He found that after funding a project, businesses were often interested in further cooperation. This should be used to full advantage.

The amendments to the cooperation agreement between ISU and NSU (*see appendices J and C*) should guarantee ISU a minimum financial support of NOK 200 000 each year. This agreement is to be renegotiated when ISU becomes financially independent. After much discussion with main points listed above ISU's final position was that

1. The amount proposed is inadequate,
2. ISU is too dependent on NSU, but
3. There was nothing to gain by rejecting this offer

Therefore the proposed amendments were accepted with the above reservations noted above.

Eivind reported that there was going to be a national board meeting of the NSU the following week during which he hoped to get this amendment approved by NSU.

## **2.3 Collaboration with StL**

Bård gave a short presentation on StL.

Kasia reminded us that one strong condition for continued funding from the ministry is that ISU represents all international students. This means we have a duty to include students from the university colleges.

An agreement was signed with StL to establish branched in colleges. Oslo and Narvik have been established and Telemark and Bodø are in progress.

StL funded NOK 50 000 for the establishment of new branches from the University Colleges.

Can ISU support 29 new branches?

Several people commented that additional branches to ISU should translate to additional funding from the ministry of education.

#### **2.4 Amendments to ISU Constitution (Appendix I)**

Note that the wordings of the amendments below are not exact. Exact wording can be found on the copy held by the National Secretary.

2.2 “and StL” added (unanimous)

3.1 National Assembly:

add - and elect Vice-National coordinator (10 votes - unanimous)

3.1.1 a) Representatives with speech and proposal rights:

1 per branch (5 votes), 2 per branch (5 votes) - no changes carried

3.1.1 b) Observers with speech and proposal rights

add - (4) one from StL (10 votes – unanimous)

3.1.4 add - National Assembly must be in Oslo (For – 3 votes, Against – 7 votes, not carried)

3.1.4 b) Change to:  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the branches demand it. (10 votes - unanimous)

3.1.5(c) (9 in favour, 1 abstention)

3.2(a) No changes were necessary for the actual content. Replace with more concise wording. (9 in favour, 1 abstention)

Appointment of national secretary (3.2.2)

Part 1 (9 in favour, 1 abstention)

Part 2 (unanimous)

4.2 As many branches as approved by National Assembly. According to 4.3 there was no vote needed. We simply needed to add the names of new branched to 4.2 as they were formed (Oslo University College added in this case).

4.4 Term of office: Up to 1 year except national secretary  
(10 against – total rejection)

5.1 Budget Preparation: changes not carried (another total rejection)

5.2 Replace “ Government in form of grants” for “Ministry of Education and research” (unanimous)

5.6 Replace this complicated paragraph with something to the effect of 'Spread funds equally between all branches' (unanimous acceptance)

Accept Narvik University college as new branch (unanimous)

6.1 Officers, Impeachment of NC and NS added (unanimous)

#### 2.5 Organisational Booklet

This publication (*see appendix K*) is being prepared in paper and electronic form. Its aim is to solve the problem of poor continuity and lack of adequate structure and routines often found at ISU local levels.

#### 4.2 Budget (*appendix A*)

Tentative budget, appendix J

Three resolutions adopted Re: Salary changes

1. Increase NS's position to 25% (unanimous)
2. Restore NC's stipend back to pre-crisis amount of 4 000 (8 for, 2 abstain)
3. Pay for a public accountant (see requirements from Ministry of Education for the next application)

#### 4.4 Financial Routines

NSU accountant helps NS (7 for, 3 abstain)

#### 6.0 Elections for National Coordinator and Vice-National Coordinator

Majority agreement to give Narvik and Oslo University college voting rights for this election.

New positions after voting were as follows

National Coordinator: Ruth from Bergen

National Vice Coordinator: Nina from Tromsø

#### Adjournment

**Jowi** adjourned the meeting at **07:20 PM**.

Minutes submitted by:

..... Date: .....  
Arlene Pearce, President, ISU Oslo, Note taker for this meeting.

..... Date: .....  
ISU National Coordinator

..... Date: .....  
ISU National Secretary

## Appendices

**(Everyone got copies of these documents at the national assembly)**

A ...Tentative budget for 2004

B ...Letter from the ministry of education

C ...Amendments to Agreements between ISU and NSU

D ...Ultimate Guide

E ...ISU National Administration – Recent developments

F ...National Coordinator's report

G ...List of Delegates and their witty presentations of themselves

H ...Agenda

I ...ISU National Constitution

J ...Agreement between ISU and NSU

K ...Organisational Booklet

Z ...Reports from ISU local branches