



International Student Union of Norway (ISU)

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REPORT FROM ISU NATIONAL COORDINATOR

As I began my task as the ISU National Coordinator in October last year, I had a list of tasks to accomplish. Here is a summary of what I have been able to achieve so far:

National Administration

Leave of the NS and employment of a temporary NS

Work at the National Administration has been going on well. The National Secretary (Katarzyna Maria Piesla) requested for a leave in December last year, which I granted her. I signed an agreement with her stating that she will begin working again on 01.10.04 for at least not less than 7 months. She will then sign a new work contract with the next National Coordinator for a period not less than between 01.10.2004 and 30.04.2005.

We put up advertisements regarding the vacant post on ISU websites, Universitas and other places. We received 25 applications and out of these we chose 9 applicants to interview. The interviews were conducted on 26th February. Most of the applicants were qualified for the post and some even over-qualified. At the end of the interviews we were faced with a tough decision to make. We therefore chose the successful candidate in view of the most important tasks that need to be accomplished in the 6 months in which he will be working as the NS for the ISU: Soliciting for funds for ISU and the establishment of ISU in university colleges. The new NS will work in the period between 01.03.04 to 30.09.04. He has been introduced to the people he will be working with and I hope that the branches will give him their support.

The hiring board consisted of the National Coordinator, the National Secretary and the NSU international officer. As the suitable person to represent local branches was also an applicant, we couldn't fulfil the third requirement on the ISU national constitution: one representative of local branches accepted by the National Coordinator (See § 3.2.2.). We hope to agree on the change of this paragraph concerning the employment of the NS to include also the StL.

Collaboration with NSU

Our collaboration with NSU is still going strong. I have been attending the NSU National Board Meetings and I have been presenting ISU reports.

Collaboration with StL

I had a meeting with StL representatives in December last year in which we reviewed the progress of establishing ISU in university colleges. We also laid down a plan for the year 2004. In January 2004, I requested Nina Rojina, the Vice-NC, to assist me with dealing with the issue of establishing ISU in university colleges. She agreed and took over this responsibility. She has been working directly with StL and her work has been very fruitful. I am grateful for this. She will present a report on this issue to the NA. StL also informed me that they are paying half of our office rent and utilities.

The ISU National Newsletter

We managed to collect articles from all the branches and the National Secretary with the help of Arlene, the president of ISU Oslo University compiled and edited the newsletters at the beginning of December 2003. The newsletter was then sent by email to all the delegates present during the last NA so that they could provide it to their respective branches to print it.

ISU Logo competition

In the last ISU National Assembly, we decided that we would be changing the ISU logo. This has been necessitated due to the fact that all branches do not have a similar logo and there is also need to improve the design of the logo. It was decided that this would be done through a competition, in which the winner would get 1000 NOK. The NA now will decide on which logo to adapt. Advertisements about the logo competition were put on the websites and in various other places and so far, we have received many logos that we will have the chance to look at during the National Assembly.

National Website

Kasia Piesla is preparing a new website which will be available for viewing before the NA. All reports and case papers will be put in the website so that the delegates can download and read these papers before the NA. This way of distributing papers has been my suggestion; since the papers are many and some email addresses may not be able to contain them. Kasia has also applied for the ISU to get an independent website. Currently, the national website is being hosted by ISU Trondheim.

“The Ultimate Guide to Studies in Norway”

The printed copies of “The Ultimate Guide to Studies in Norway” are at the national office and we have been trying to distribute them. The NS took some to the embassies around Oslo, and I gave a few copies to the StL office. Some copies were also given to the ISU university college of Oslo. We need to distribute these copies soon: before they get outdated. I therefore suggest that every delegate takes some copies to their respective branches.

The Local Branches

I have kept in touch with all the local branches and they all have operative executive boards.

Challenges

The toughest challenges for ISU National Administration now is to solicit for increased funding from the ministry as well as establishing ISU branches in the university colleges. We hope that the new NS will come in handy in this.

Secondly, I would request the NA to approve the provision of phone call allowance to the National Coordinator. Keeping in touch with all branches has been challenging and the most convenient and effective way has been through calling mobile phones. This is expensive and it is not always possible to call from the ISU office in Bergen (or any other place).

These issues have been stated here in brief and will be discussed further during the National Assembly.

This report has been prepared by:

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