



Studentorganisasjonen StOr ved Universitetet i Stavanger

President of StOr attending leader meetings at UiS

The work program 18/19 of StOr states the following: *StOr shall work for that the President of StOr is a regular representative in rector's meetings.* The work program is one of the Student organization at UiS (StOr) policy documents that adopted by the student parliament each year. To get the president of StOr at rector's leader meetings has been a target for a long time.

During the board meeting at University of Stavanger February 7, 2019, UiS adopted a new organizational and leadership model under rector. This model has three prorectors, one for research, one for education and one for innovation and –society. In addition, a director for organization and infrastructure¹. With these changes, there will be some small adjustments within the different leader meetings regarding name changes and structure. StOr wants to clarify that we want to be a part of rectors leader meetings which is rector, three prorectors and deans, which is called the rector meeting today.

In a research done by Norsk Studentorganisasjon (NSO), «*current condition report for student democracies*», states that approximately 60 percent are attending the dean- and rector meetings². In an article published by Khrono in 2018, the following education institutions has student leaders attending the rector meetings/dean meetings/leader meetings³:

- Bergen Arkitektskole (BAS)
- OsloMet
- Norges idrettshøgskole
- Høgskolen i Østfold
- UiT

¹ <https://www.uis.no/getfile.php/13488189/Postjournaler/Justering%20av%20organisasjons-%20og%20ledelsesmodell%20under%20ansatt%20rektor%281%29.pdf>

² <https://www.student.no/content/uploads/2018/05/Tilstandsrapport-for-studentdemokratiene-2018.pdf>

³ https://khrono.no/student-uhr-nso/ulik-praksis-med-studenter-i-rektors-ledergruppe/225794?fbclid=IwAR1lsgHV4ANXi74-dcbdpfCmM6mwXYjtLm2laYMG_A3z-UA53QBSVaSK2cQ

- 30 ● Dronning Mauds Minne
- 31 ● NTNU
- 32 ● Universitetet i Agder
- 33 ● NMBU
- 34 ● Norges handelshøyskole

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36 When talking to other student organizations in the country, that are members of NSO, the institution
37 HINN (Høgskolen på Innlandet) is also a regular member of the leader meetings. That results into 11
38 education institutions who has student leaders as a regular member across the country. Rector at
39 NMBU and leader of Universitets- og Høgskolerådet (UHR), Mari Sundli Tveit, stated the following
40 about student participation in rectors leader meetings:

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42 *“It is of great value for me as a rector to have the student leader in rector’s leader group, and this*
43 *has had a great impact in my years as a part of the management at NMBU. The student voice is*
44 *important and my experience is that the student leaders are very qualified and reflected members of*
45 *the leader group⁴.”*

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47 According to the Universitet og –Høgskole law, students are represented in all decision-making
48 bodies at UiS, but not represented in rector’s leader meetings. The leader meetings are not a
49 determining body, but a counselling body where questions are discussed, common knowledge
50 exchanged and strategic questions raised and debated. Even though the leader meetings is not a
51 decision-making body, the experience is that when the decision will be made, the cases have already
52 been debated at these meetings. StOr is aware of that sensitive cases may occur, but student leaders
53 are expected to have the same responsibility as other members of the leader group. That is regarding
54 cases with personal information and confidentiality. It is also important to consider the student leader
55 as an equal member of the leader group among the other members. NSO writes in their current
56 condition report, that when a student democracy is working well, have good funding and is a part of
57 the institutions work as a part of the collegium, and not as the «student representative» as a tag, both
58 parties will benefit.

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60 To ensure that discussions and decisions are made on an informed basis, it is therefore stupid not to
61 involve students in the process. By having the student leader in the leader meetings of the rector, it
62 contributes to a safety net in order to be able to capture various misunderstandings, and as a driving
63 force and contributor on the same basis as the other members of the meetings. The students'

⁴ http://blogg.nmbu.no/marisundlitveit/2017/05/23/hvordan-star-det-til-med-studentdemokratiet/?fbclid=IwAR3RE0bi_GBcxVdLpTaeSRT2b9iI380zNHjR0MoFxS0HUtHLy-bzFFkZVCY

64 contributions are therefore positive for the supply of knowledge and perspectives that are used as the
65 basis for the management to be done in the best possible way. The lack of opportunity for
66 participation is not just a master suppression technique, because students do not have the same access
67 to information and the opportunity to give input along the way. It is also unfortunate for the
68 management as the students will not have the opportunity to give feedback early enough in the
69 process. This can lead to the process already starting in the wrong course and the two remaining
70 possibilities are either a non-optimal solution or to run the whole process again.

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72 For 11 other educational institutions in the country, the arrangement works well and student leaders
73 are perceived as a positive contribution in the meetings. In case of sensitive issues, the student leader
74 has the same responsibility as all the other members in matters concerning personal information and
75 confidentiality. The students' contributions in the meetings are an advantage for all parties through
76 positive contributions, the possibility of capturing misunderstandings and together being a driving
77 force for the development of the UiS. Regardless of the institution, the Rector's role is to promote a
78 strong student democracy and, by inviting student leaders into the management meetings, is a step in
79 the right direction. Based on everything that presented in this document, StOr believe that it is about
80 time that the president of StOr becomes part of the rector's leader meetings at UiS.