

Half-year report for the fall semester 2019

The working committee of StOr

According to the statutes, cf. section 6.3 (1) f, the executive committee (EC) shall prepare two semi-annual reports based on the action plan. The reports are presented to the student parliament (SP) at the last student parliamentary meeting in the autumn and spring semester.

The action plan is a political management document that will lay down guidelines for what the student organization at UiS StOr will work with and prioritize during the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

The EC has the fall semester 2019 consisted of:

- President: Joachim Børлие
- Vide-President of Education: Philip Lundberg Jamissen
- Vice-President of Learning Environment: Mahnoor Raja.

Based on the points of the action plan, all points will be explained with varying lengths. As we are in the middle of the 2019/2020 academic year, it will vary how much the EC has worked on the various points.

Organization.

The student organization at the University of Stavanger (StOr) will work to include the students at the Bjergsted campus. (Line numbers 8-9)

The EC began the year with a day of overlap on Campus Bjergsted to get to know the conditions the students experience. During the Fadder-week, we participated on stand to meet the new students at Campus Bjergsted and the Faculty of Performing Arts. We have also been in dialogue with the student council at the faculty, as well as their own newspaper " The ToiletPaper ". Both the EC and the lists have been praised for good visibility at the faculty in connection with the student election. The working committee was also in dialogue with union representatives at the faculty to start a list in advance of the 2019 student elections, but unfortunately this was not possible this time.

StOr must drive targeted profiling with a focus on

- **Student democracy and student participation.**
- **Student organizations and line associations. (Line numbers 10-12)**

During the Fadder-week, the EC visited as many lectures for the new students as managed with the aim of profiling StOr, how student democracy works, and to showcase the diversity of student organizations and line associations that exist under the StOr umbrella. Student democracy and student participation were also put on the agenda through the promotion against student elections. We also try to include the lists, student organizations and line associations in activities in which StOr participates, a good example from this fall is the World Day of Mental Health

StOr will have continuous dialogue and meetings with the Welfare Assembly in Stavanger, the University of Stavanger and the Student Society in Stavanger in order to maintain good cooperation. (Line number 13-15)

This autumn, StOr has collaborated with the EC of VT on the World Day for Mental Health. In addition, we meet as needed, and have continuous dialogue via electronic means of communication. In addition, the EC was present at the Welfareboards in Norway (which is a national cooperation body for the Welfareboards in Norway's meeting in Stavanger) in October.

When it comes to the University of Stavanger, the President attends the rector's meeting, which consists of the rector, three pro-rectors, all the deans, director of organization and infrastructure, and director of communication and public relations. This meeting takes place every Monday. In addition, we have cooperation meetings with the education department once a month. StOr feels that there is a low threshold for dialogue between UiS and management. In addition, we have dialogues with various parts of the organization on issues that are relevant either to us or to the relevant unit, examples of which are that the Vice-President of Learning Environment has been attending a meeting with the international office, or that the President has attended meetings with the Director of organization and infrastructure and emergency preparedness coordinator at UiS.

This fall, there has been no formal meeting calendar with SiS, nevertheless StOr has been at several meetings with the director of SiS. Here there is also a low threshold for contact, and we have continuous communication on relevant issues. The same can be said about the chair of the SiS board.

StOr will work to increase voter turnout in the student elections, as well as actively promote the student elections for the rest of the calendar year. (Line number 16-17)

The numbers speak for themselves, 18.07% and a new record. Here the lists, together with the Vice-president of learning environment and the organizational consultant, are to be commended for good work. (More information can be found in the report on student choice presented at the first meeting of the spring semester)

When it comes to actively promoting student elections throughout the year, as previously written, we put in an effort in the Fadder-week to talk about student elections and student democracy at UiS to the new students. To promote student choice for the rest of the year, the EC wants to include the lists of activities we participate in, while at the same time we are also very open to ideas from the lists on how we can raise awareness of StOr, the lists and student democracy for the rest of the year.

StOr will organize an organization seminar at the start of each semester where the student parliament members will be elucidated about StOr's management documents and meeting culture. (Line number 18-19)

An organization seminar for the student parliament was organized on September 20. It was attended by 14 from the student parliament, as well as the EC and organizational consultant. The control committee and chair of the student council in Stavanger, Erlend Jordal, also visited during the seminar.

On the agenda were national student politics, the student council and Stavanger municipality, support for the student elections, a brief review of our documents, as well as internationalization and student mobility. The working committee believes that having a shorter seminar in the autumn semester and a longer seminar in the spring semester is a good solution as the representatives of the student parliament sit from 01.01 to 31.12.

StOr shall strive to make information available in English as well. (Line number 20)

In social media, just about all information and dissemination has been published in both Norwegian and English, The engagement meetings have been held in English, as well as the debate during the student elections. The papers for the student parliament meetings are also published in both Norwegian and English. Nevertheless, the EC recognizes that we have a way to go when it comes to the other, and older documents we have.

StOr will work to better integrate international students and that they have the same opportunities as national students at UiS. (Line number 21-22)

StOr has a dialogue with ISU, and has, together with ISU, met with the international office on the topic, focusing on sponsorship week. The Vice-President for Learning Environment also held a speech for ISU's regional summit, which was held at UiS. We also had lectures for the international students in the Fadder-week where we talked about StOr, the student democracy and the engaged environment. The President has also attended this year's Erasmusseminar, where we talked about how we to increase Student Mobility, and what measures could be used.

StOr will work to implement the UN's sustainability goals in the UiS strategy. (Line number 23)

The consultation round on UiS's strategy has not yet begun, but this will be a large part of the content of the consultation response StOr will give when the time comes. StOr has also provided input on the sustainability goals in the rector's meeting and in the Leadership forum.

Political:

StOr will work to develop StOr and use its power to influence both internally and externally at UiS. (Line number 27-28)

StOr has worked internally to revise the election rules so that this becomes more user-friendly in elections, and in addition the strategy will be revised which will make StOr's policy updated, which is about time.

Externally, StOr works on many different formal and informal platforms as part of getting a breakthrough for its own policy. Already mentioned in the report are the rector's meetings, as well as meetings with SiS and VT. In addition, StOr has a seat in the student council in Stavanger.

In addition, there has been an ambition from the President to be visible in the media, because visibility helps to build StOr's reputation, and thus influence. Of things worth mentioning, we have appeared on NRK radio, twice in Khrono, three times in Byas, as well as in SmiS. A good example of this is the impact the students received in the Stavanger platform, together with the Welfare Board and SiS. (Read here: https://mm.aftenbladet.no/2019/documents/politisk_plattform.pdf)

StOr will work to increase the focus on student welfare. (Line number 29)

StOr works continuously with student welfare, both in meetings with UiS, SiS and the municipality. The World Day of Mental Health is an example of how we, together with others, work to make this a focus. In addition, we received points in the political platform for the new position in the municipality of Stavanger on points such as the students' cultural services, health house on Ullandhaug campus, student housing, and a bigger Students' House.

StOr should actively follow up Report St.16 Culture for quality in higher education (the Quality Report). (Line number 30-31)

The report deals with how the state and educational institutions should work with quality in higher education. StOr works a lot with educational quality, and raises relevant points from the message when the opportunity arises.

StOr, in collaboration with NSO, will influence the revision of the University and the College Act. (Line number 32)

The working committee was instrumental in discussing this during kickoff with NSO in August with the rest of the Norwegian Student Organizations. In the future, StOr will provide consultation input when this will be possible next year.

StOr will work to improve the student city of Stavanger in the forums StOr is represented in. (Line number 33)

The working committee in StOr is represented in a number of forums where we always have an improvement for the students, and by the student city of Stavanger as ambition. The EC fronts StOr's adopted policy, and these forums are, but are not limited to the Student Council in Stavanger municipality, the board of the Folken, the board of Tappetårnet, the rector's meeting at UiS, collaboration meeting with SiS, the ValueCreation Forum.

AU will work to make the Students at Risk scheme permanent. (Line number 34)

Brought it up to Director of Education, sent mail to international office but has not received reply as of 18.11. Have not received any answer yet, so this has to be a focus next semester.

Education quality:

StOr will work to implement digitalization as a tool in the education course for the students at UiS. (Line number 37-38)

StOr has during this period contributed to digital student expeditions, as well as the working life portal and the interaction portal. Digital student expedition will help make application processes internally at UiS easier. The aim of the working life portal is to make everyday life easier for students in practice, here also the President of StOr is included in a reference group. The collaboration portal is a portal where the industrial life can search for students for bachelor's and master's theses, and students can post their ideas.

StOr will work to ensure that students at the university's faculties have equal opportunity and access to the university's academic resources and facilities. (Line number 39-40)

The EC has not actively worked on this point, but states in all relevant forums that all students should have the opportunity to use the resources and facilities at the university's disposal.

StOr will work to ensure that practice can be offered as an elective subject in all fields of study at UiS. (Line number 41)

Practices and work relevance in education were discussed at a student political summit, which the President attended in October. This was also discussed in the dean's lunch at the TekNat faculty, where the Vice-President of education participated. The perception is that this is a lot of work being done at UiS, as it has been both on the agenda of the students and the governing powers.

StOr will work for a better offer of student assistants. (Line number 42)

Student assistants are a good addition to other teaching, and StOr records that in recent years student assistants have come to studies and faculties where this has not been common in the past. On the other hand, there is nothing the working committee has done much with, but this will be addressed in the spring.

StOr will work for increased use of external sensors when examining exams. (Line number 43)

As of today, StOr knows that external examiners are used when examining exams. To what extent, however, we are uncertain, so this will have to work more with the next semester.

StOr will work to maintain the academic as well as the educational competence and teaching methods at UiS. (Line number 44-45)

A member of the working committee has biannual meetings with UNIPED, which is a unit under the Vice-Rector for Education who is working to further develop and maintain the educational competence of the scientific staff at UiS. In addition, students themselves have the opportunity to participate in the hiring of scientific staff.

Large will work for greater interdisciplinarity at UiS and good opportunities to take subjects across the faculty and academic environment. (Line numbers 46-47)

StOr is clear in its input to the management that this is something that should be focused on in the future. Today there are some open courses, and some studies have one semester where they can take different electives, yet the university has a way to go before it is said that the students have good opportunities for this.

StOr will work for more affordable and accessible Norwegian courses for international students. (Line number 48)

The EC has included this in our monthly meetings with the Director of Education. The Norwegian courses UiS currently offers are administered by the unit for continuing education which is funded on the basis of the students' own payment. That is why the price is so high on these Norwegian courses. The EC plans to meet with the head of this unit to discuss whether there are opportunities for special arrangements for international students already attending UiS.

StOr will work to improve the current exchange opportunities and make them available. (Line number 49)

Given wide input at UiS that exchange as it is today is perceived as difficult for some students. This can be for many reasons, but often it is about poor communication between the international office, the faculty / institute and the educational institution the student needs. This has been the theme of both the government and the NSO. To date, the working committee knows that faculty of education and humanities are working to introduce Opt.out that will make this process even easier. In addition, the EC looks forward to what is coming out of ECIU University, a European collaboration UiS is participating in, which is currently in the mold.

StOr must revise Student Strategy 2025. (Line number 50)

The work has begun and is scheduled to be completed at the last parliamentary meeting in spring 2020. The student parliament knows the process.

Læringsmiljø:

Psychosocial learning environment:

StOr will work to ensure that Father's Week contributes to a caring, safe and inclusive start for all new students. (Line Number 56-57)

Much of this work has been devoted to the Fadder Board by the student parliament. The working committee in StOr has a close dialogue with past and present sponsorship boards. The working committee tries as best they can to support sponsors. Prior to the Fadder week 2019, the leader also had a post for the sponsorship leaders about the importance of just this.

StOr will work on the results of the Students' Health and Well-Being Survey (SHoT). (Line number 58)

Although it is over a year since the results of the SHoT survey came, these results are still used actively in the dialogue we have with UiS, SiS and the municipality. In addition, this theme was at the Student Political Summit this year under the auspices of Research and Higher Education Minister Iselin Nybø.

StOr will work for an increased offer for students' mental, physical and sexual health (Line number 59)

See point above as well as more (Line Number 56-57)

StOr will work to start up the Student Telephone during the year. (Line number 60)

This point has not been worked on so far this year, but we plan to meet with the SiS and UiS on the theme over Christmas.

StOr shall work to ensure that a handbook for union representatives is prepared. (Line number 61)

StOr is in the process of gathering information and examples of how it has been done at other institutions. This work should be seen in the context of a revision of the union election scheme, which will hopefully take place in the spring of 2020.

StOr will work to ensure that students who have children or have children during the study period get their study day organized. (Line Number 62-63)

StOr works to ensure that those in need of facilitation receive this, but in the fall of 2019 we did not work specifically with measures for students who have or have children during their studies. The Lånekassen has schemes where students who have or have children receive increased scholarships.

StOr will work to get city bike stations at UiS. (Line number 64)

It has been promised that this will come in the next round of the city-bike expansion.

Physical learning environment

StOr will work for a university area that focuses on sustainable development and universal design. (Line numbers 67-68)

StOr is a member of the reference group for a new campus plan where both sustainable development and universal design are discussed. In addition, UiS was certified environmental lighthouse earlier this fall, and the EC works for more good measures at campus.

StOr will work towards a sound indoor climate where regular air quality measurements are made. (Line number 69)

StOr participated in the revision of the Universal Design Action Plan, which states that UiS will work continuously with indoor climate and air quality throughout the year.

(<https://student.uis.no/getfile.php/13489211/Ansattsider/HF/Revidert%20og%20forenklet%20handlingsplan%20februar%202019.pdf>)

StOr will work for several electrical outlets on campus. (Line number 70)

Have addressed the issue of insufficient electrical outlets both in the Monday meetings of the operation unit and in the rectors meeting. There is goodwill to work on this, but the operations department needs a better data base, so we are working for it to be mapped.

StOr will work for a larger Student's House. (Line number 71)

Has provided input in both the budget process for UiS and in the campus planning work that the students strongly want a larger student's house. Our biggest breakthrough on this front so far this year is that it was mentioned in the Stavanger platform that the new position in Stavanger presented. (https://mm.aftenbladet.no/2019/dokumenter/politisk_plattform.pdf)

StOr will follow up the work on revising the campus plan. (Line number 72)

See previous points (Line Number 67-68)

Educational learning environment

StOr will work to promote academic freedom in higher education. (Line number 75)

StOr stands with NSO and the rest of the student democracies to protect students' right to academic freedom and to ensure that this right is not restricted here at the university. We ensure that all students are able to express their academic views through student participation in all aspects of the university. StOr also stands in solidarity with students in countries where this right is not respected and condemns the actions of authorities that violate this right.