Minutes of the General Assembly of Foreign Students of the University of Hanover on 29th of November 2013 (WiSe 2013 / 2014)

Meeting took place at: Room F107, Welfengarten 1, 30167 Hannover
Beginning: 17.18 pm
End: 19.10 pm

The meeting is conducted in German language.

Agenda for the day:

AI 1 Opening of the meeting, approval of the orderly calling of the meeting and approval of the voting rights of the members

AI 2 Election of the chairman

AI 3 Resolution on the agenda for the session

AI 4 Election of a minutes writer

AI 5 Reports:
   5.1 Reports of the Foreign Students´ Spokespersons
   5.2 Reports of the Permanent Foreign Students´ Committee

AI 6 Financial applications

AI 7 Open discussion / debate

AI 8 Miscellaneous

Ai 1 Opening of the meeting, approval of the orderly convocation of the meeting and the decision-making capacity of the General Assembly

The Foreign Students´ Spokespersons Tatia and Iryna welcome the attending members of the General Assembly of Foreign Students of the University of
Hanover, WiSe 2013 / 2014, on 29th of November 2013.

They introduce the orderly convocation of the meeting as well as the decision-making capacity of the General Assembly.

**Ai 2 Election of the chairman**

Chairperson: Valentina
The candidate is elected unanimously.

**Ai 3 Resolution on the agenda for the session**

Attendees adopt the agenda for the session unanimously.

**Ai 4 Election of the minutes writer**

Minutes writer: Andrea
The candidate is elected unanimously.

**Ai 5 Reports**

5.1 Reports of the Foreign Students´ Spokespersons

The Foreign Students´ Spokespersons Tatia and Iryna introduce themselves to the Assembly and report about their activities as Spokespersons:

5.1.1 Round table „Foreign Students in Hanover“

The Foreign Students´ Spokespersons Tatia and Iryna attended the 49th meeting of the round table „Foreign Students in Hanover“ on 23rd of September 2013. Also present were representatives of the Ministry, representatives of the Foreigners´ Registration Office and representatives of other institutions such as Student Services (Studentenwerk) as well as representatives of the AOK (a health care provider), who informed about health insurance for foreign students. Petjon attended the meeting as the member of ASTA, (the spokesperson for foreign students) During the meeting a wide range of issues concerned international students were discussed.

5.1.2 General information referring to financial decisions

All decisions concerning financial issues are to be discussed and approved by the Foreign Students´ Committee.

5.1.3 Presentation of a design of a new leaflet

The new leaflet design of the Foreign Students´ Commission is presented.
Simultaneously, it is compared with the old version of the leaflet. The reasons for the modification of the leaflet are:

- promotion of the Foreign Students’ Commission
- more favorable layout (compared to the former one)
- text in German as well as in English
- links to the Internet

5.1.4 Information to applications

Applications form the basis of the Foreign Students’ Spokespersons’ activities. The last applications submitted by Tatia and Iryna were referring to:

- Scholarships funds (Bachelor/Master):
  Being supported by the Ombudsperson for Education and Teaching (Ms. Dobreff), it was tried to establish a contact with sponsors of scholarships in order to increase a quota of scholarships for international students from 5% to 10%.

- Translation of important documents into English:
  For example, minutes of the Foreign Students’ Commission have been translated into English since WiSe 2013 / 2014 and uploaded to Wiki. [http://www.wiki.ast-a-hannover.de/doku.php?id=informationen%3Aauslaenderinnenkommission](http://www.wiki.ast-a-hannover.de/doku.php?id=informationen%3Aauslaenderinnenkommission)

- Recruitment of the minutes writer (for composing minutes in German and English)

5.1.5 Discriminatory admission checks at clubs or discotheques in Hanover

As to this issue, the following can be reported:

The AStA of the University of Hanover organized a street action against discrimination of immigrants at the entrance of clubs and discotheques on 27th of September 2014 at Raschplatz.

The Foreign Students´ Spokespersons also attended the event.

Furthermore, a person with Turkish migration background sued against a discotheque in Hanover. The plaintiff has prevailed, obtained compensations due to discrimination and a right to enter the discotheque.

The Foreign Students´ Spokespersons point out that every student may contact the Foreign Students´ Spokespersons or AStA-Referent für AusländerInnen, if he/she was discriminated at the entrance of clubs or discotheques. Moreover, all expenses incurred can be covered by the Foreign Students Commission or AStA.
5.1.6 Disclosure of expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Actual State 29 November 2013</th>
<th>Estimate 2013/2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>111.21</td>
<td>Student Body Contributions</td>
<td>1,500.40 €</td>
<td>1,567.50 €</td>
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<tr>
<td>361.01</td>
<td>Surplus from Previous Years</td>
<td>4,218.97 €</td>
<td>4,218.97 €</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Staff</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>427.01 F</td>
<td>Commissioned Work / Time-limited Work</td>
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<td><strong>Material Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>511.01 F</td>
<td>Business Needs and Communication, as well as</td>
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<td>100.00 €</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Devices, Equipment, Other Objects of Utility</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>525.01 F</td>
<td>Basic and Advanced Training for Staff Members</td>
<td>0.00 €</td>
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<td>546.01 F</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Expenses</td>
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<td>100.00 €</td>
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<td>989.01</td>
<td>Accounting of Household Goods</td>
<td>41.09 €</td>
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<td>526.02 F</td>
<td>Court Fees and Similar Expenses</td>
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<td>700.00 €</td>
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<td>527.01 F</td>
<td>Reimbursements of Travel Costs for Official Trips</td>
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<td>700.00 €</td>
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<td>531.01</td>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>565.47 €</td>
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<td>686.01</td>
<td>Financial Petitions</td>
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<td>982.01</td>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>0.00 €</td>
<td>1,418.97 €</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>2,636,57 €</td>
<td>7,286.87 €</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>5,719.37 €</td>
<td>7,286.87 €</td>
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<td><strong>Surplus / Shortfall</strong></td>
<td>3,082,80 €</td>
<td>0.00 €</td>
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Notice: An amount of at least 1,400 Euros has to be reserved for succeeding Foreign Students´ Spokespersons.

5.1.7 International Festivity

The Foreign Students´ Spokespersons are planning an “Ethno House Party” with international music. The event shall help to promote the Foreign Students´ Commission and support the cooperation between the Foreign Students´ Commission and international groups.

5.1.8 Daytime seminar (emphasis on consultation for foreign students of LUH)

According to Mr. Glembek from BAS e.V. (Bundesverband ausländischer Studierender = Federal Association of Foreign Students) a daytime seminar with emphasis on consultation for foreign students at the LUH will take place at February 2014.

During the seminar, basic and special legal issues with reference to legal conditions of study for international students (such as for example §16
AufenthaltsGesetz, recognition of higher education diplomas and international degrees, questions referring to working permission, eligibility of BAföG for international students, etc.) will be discussed.

5.1.9 Photo competition

The Foreign Students´ Spokespersons are planning to organize a photo competition among all students of the LUH to promote the Foreign Students´ Commission. The competition shall be realized via the Facebook-page of the Foreign Students Commission.

5.2 Reports of the Foreign Students´ Committee

5.2.1 Presentation of the Foreign Students´ Committee

The members of the Foreign Students´ Committee Anna and Fanjie introduce themselves to attendees of the Assembly and report about their tasks and activities:

- the Foreign Students´ Committee controls the work of the Foreign Students´ Spokespersons, attends network meetings and decides on external and internal financial requests
- the Foreign Students´ Committee consists of 5 members and has a referee for networking, one for organization and one for financial issues
- during the present period, the Foreign Students´ Committee works in a team with the Foreign Students´ Spokespersons and AStA-referee for foreign students.

5.2.2 Projects

The partial funding of the following projects was approved by the Foreign Students´ Committee:

- “Europe Quiz“ and
- “Indian Day“, organized by the „Indian Academic Society of Hanover“ (IASH e.V.)
- an event organized by the „Internationaler kultureller Jugend- Austausch e.V.“ (IKJA e.V.)
- an event organized by Georgian Society (GeMi e.V.) and
5.2.3 Questions and comments

**Question:** An attendee of the General Assembly asks whom financial requests have to be forwarded to, and when is the latest date to submit them.

**Answer:** Requests can be forwarded at any time to the Foreign Students’ Spokespersons. They shall be submitted in written form as early as possible before the event takes place (usually not later than two weeks before the event).

Al 6 Requests

6.1 Request for amendments of the statute of the Foreign Students’ Commission, of the rules of order of the Permanent Foreign Students’ Committee and the General Assembly of Foreign Students

Tatia and Iryna submit a request for amendments of the statute of the Foreign Students’ Commission, of the rules of order of the Permanent Foreign Students’ Committee and the General Assembly of Foreign Students. The points to be changed are introduced and discussed.

**Results:** The request was approved by a vote of nine in favour, five against and one abstention.

6.1.1 Questions and comments

**Question:** An attendee of the Assembly asks who will be responsible for the calling of meetings of the Committee according to new rules of order.

**Answer:** According to new rules of order, meetings are to be called by the Foreign Students’ Spokespersons 3 times per semester. Furthermore, a meeting must be convoked if members of the Committee request it. The meeting is to be called within 5 (five) days after invitations were sent.

**Q:** Which are the functions of the members of the Committee? Where are they specified?

**A:** The functions of members of the Committee are specified in the rules of order of the Committee. The Foreign Students’ Committee controls the work of the Foreign Students’ Spokespersons and decides on requests.

**Q:** Why has §1 point 4 of the Constitution of Foreign Students’ Commission not been adopted in the proposed amendments of the statute? (“The group of the Foreign Students’ Commission is actively involved in the higher education policy.”)

**A:** The point was removed because a copy error originally was adopted from the
former version of the old statute. The Foreign Students’ Commission does not have any voting rights to be actively involved in the higher education policy.

**Objection:** An attendee of the General Assembly criticized § 4 Point 3 b) – proposed amendments of the statute of the Foreign Students’ Commission. It was pointed out that a phrase “discriminating behavior” is too general.

Criticized phrase:
“By approval of the Foreign Students´ Committee the Foreign Students´ Spokespersons can be voted out of office due to the following reasons: (…), b) especially discriminating behavior”.

**Results:** After discussion it was decided to delete this point from the new statute of the Foreign Students´ Commission.

**Q:** As to §4 Point 3c): „especially negligence in respect to the work and tasks“: Who decides whether the work or tasks were neglected?

**A:** The Foreign Students´ Committee decides on this, as it has the authorization to control the work of the Foreign Students´ Spokespersons.

**Q:** Why aforementioned point was considered in the proposed amendments to the statute?

**A:** The present statute does not provide control over the work of the Foreign Students Spokespersons. This may lead to negligent work or even to abuse of office.

**Q:** Why do not the members of the Foreign Students´ Committee get any payment for their work?

**A:** The members of the Foreign Students´ Committee do not get any payment for their work, as the meetings take place only 3 times per semester. Furthermore, it would be incorrect towards other students who are engaged in committees, students bodies of faculties or who work as members of the student Council of the LUH and do not obtain any financial compensations for their work.

**Q:** Who is allowed to submit a request?

**A:** All registered groups as well as all enrolled students at the LUH may submit a request.

**Q:** How are the Foreign Students Spokespersons and the members of Foreign Students Commission are elected?

**A:** The Foreign Students´ Spokespersons are elected directly by the foreign
students of the LUH. Elections take place at the same time as the general university elections (usually in January). All other 5 (five) members of the Foreign Students’ Committee are elected on the General Assembly of foreign students in summer semester.

6.2 Request on amendments of the statute referring to a financial support for food and beverages

It was approved in the General Assembly of Foreign Students that requests referring to the financial support for food and beverages can be submitted in the future. Still the request can be approved only up to 100 Euros.

Results: The request for amendments of the statute referring to the financial support for food and beverages was approved by 10 votes in favour, 1 against and 4 abstentions.

6.3 Request concerning discrimination at the entrance of clubs and discotheques in Hanover

Tatia and Iryna submit a request, that the future Foreign Students’ Spokespersons should continue working together with ASTA-referee for foreign students (ASTA-Referent für AusländerInnen) on solving the problem of discrimination at the entrance of clubs and discotheques of Hanover. Moreover, they should continue working on drawing the politicians’ attention to this problem at Federal/State level.

Results: The request was adopted unanimously.

6.3.1 Questions and comments

Comment: An attendee of the Assembly suggests to submit an additional request that Hanover, the capital of Lower Saxony should also work on solving the problem of discriminatory behavior towards foreigners by public authority responsible for aliens (Ausländerbehörde).

Answer: The additional request shall be submitted in summer semester 2014.

AI 7 Open discussion: Presentation of the candidates for the election of new Foreign Students’ Spokespersons

The candidates for the election of the Foreign Students’ Spokespersons present themselves to the Assembly:

There are three groups applying:

1. Chancengleichheit, Integration, Vielfalt (represented by Anna und Tatia)
2. Studentische Freude (represented by Mhamed und Yousra)
3. Internationale Mitte (represented by Berkant und Zafar)

2 of the 3 groups applying are attending the Assembly and introduce themselves to the attendees:

The election of the Foreign Students’ Spokespersons will take place at the same time as the general university elections from 14th to 16th of January 2014.

AI 8 Any other businesses

Comment: An attendee of the Assembly suggests to explain, before the Assembly begins, shortly how the Foreign Students’ Commission is organized. So the attendees of the Assembly participating for the first time will be able to have an impression about the functions and tasks of the Foreign Students’ Commission.

The General Assembly of Foreign Students is adjourned at 7.10 pm.