

## **Interview with Heiðrún**

**The campaign is a big part of the elections and that must be pretty expensive for the candidates. Do you believe anyone could afford to run?**

Yes, without a doubt. We have seen in the past that it isn't the candidates that spend the most or have the biggest posters that win the elections. It has changed a lot in the past few years though and after the last elections the students talked about the voters being unusually objective.

**What about cliquishness? Does everyone have a chance to win?**

I think perhaps that all students do not have the same chance in this election. Of course it depends on how you are and students that are in a big group of friends possibly have a better chance. Myself, I do not come from a very big group of friends. I came on my own to Versló but I managed to get enough votes so everything is possible.

**Do you think it is harder for girls to get elected than boys?**

No, I don't think so at all. For the last years the trend has been to have girls on the board and the number of girls has increased a lot and now they are in majority. I think that if there is a problem that girls are not as prominent in the social life it is first of all the girls themselves that cause that but not the environment. It seems that girls are not as self-confident as boys by nature.

**How does the democracy work continue in the school after the elections?**

There are panel discussions in the "Blue Hall" where the board answers questions and students the chance to bring forth some ideas.

**What do you think affects the voters' choices?**

How well known you are within the school, if you have a good reputation or not, how good you are at promoting yourself, appearance and confidence, and the speeches you give during the election week.

**What skills should a candidate be endowed with?**

Have good appearance and the power of conviction. They should be efficient, ambitious and have the desire to work in The Student Society.

**Is it democratic that only students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, out of 4 years, can candidate and not all of the other students?**

Students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year can candidate for the board of The Student Society. It is very normal since these students have probably worked in other committees in previous school years and have got more experience. Also, people mature a lot during the high school years and it makes more sense to do these big projects at the end of their school years. The responsibility to lead a committee like the school year book committee for example, which handles over 3 million ISK is huge and therefore I think it is absolutely reasonable that the oldest students sit on the board. Everyone can candidate for the committees. There the younger students can learn and grow and prepare themselves for a possible seat on the board later on.

**Is it democratic that students in the 4<sup>th</sup> year (last year) can vote since they are leaving the school after graduation?**

Yes and no. Students in their last year are maybe more cynical towards everything around the campaign and would be more likely to spot out the people who have the best qualities and would be the best candidates. A lot of these students have a lot of experience within The Student Society and have worked with the candidates before. I personally want to be able to support the people in my committee.

On the other hand these students won't be in the school in the following year and therefore the election doesn't affect them at all. Election participation in the last year has been very weak the last couple of years and I think only the people who have an opinion in the matter and know what The Student Society needs vote and the rest looks at it like it doesn't affect them and therefore it is not their business. My opinion is that the 4<sup>th</sup> year students should be able to vote.

Hildigunnur Sigvalda, Hildigunnur og Ída took the interview