



## UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

### MINUTES

Of the meeting of the Council of the University of the Arctic, 13-18 November, 2002,  
University of Tromsø, Tromsø and Saami University College, Kautokeino, Norway

Action Items correspond to Item numbers from Agenda. Items have been addressed in their original agenda order, although numerous Items were dealt with out of sequence.

### Attendees

#### Council Members:

Sally Webber, Yukon College, Council Chair  
Claudia Fedorova, Sakha University of Russia, Council Vice-chair  
Bård A. Berg, University of Tromsø, Council Secretary  
Jón Haukur Ingimundarsson, Stefansson Arctic Institute, and University of Akureyri  
James McDonald, Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS)  
Cindy Dickson, Arctic Athabaskan Council  
Raissa Ponomareva, Arctic State Institute of Culture and Arts (new member)  
Judith Hughes, Athabasca University  
Margaret Imrie, Aurora College  
Tine Westerberg, Bodø Regional University  
Outi Korpilahde, Sami Education Centre  
Jan Erik Henriksen, Finnmark University College (new member)  
Larissa Riabova, Kola Science Centre of RAS  
Chris Southcott, Lakehead University  
Gunilla Johansson, Luleå University of Technology  
Per-Åke Nilsson, Mid Sweden University  
Linda Pemik, Nunavut Arctic College  
Kaijaleena Serlo, Oulu Polytechnic  
Kerttu Oikarinen, Rovaniemi Polytechnic  
Johan-Daniel Hætta, Saami University College  
Walter Archer, University of Saskatchewan (new member)  
Rune Rydén, Scandinavian Seminar Group  
Nikolai Tikhonov, Syktyvkar State University  
Tore Nesheim, Tromsø University College  
Karen Erickson, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
David Malcolm, University of Alberta  
Birgitte Jacobsen, University of Greenland  
Wolfgang Greller, University of Highlands and Islands  
Harri Malinen, University of Lapland  
Greg Poelzer, University of Northern British Columbia  
Boris Segerstahl, Thule Institute, University of Oulu  
Eystein Markusson, University Courses on Svalbard (new member)  
Alexei Pudov, Yakutsk State Agricultural Academy (new member)

#### University of the Arctic

Lars Kullerud, Director University of the Arctic

Scott Forrest, Circumpolar Coordination Office  
Outi Snellman, Circumpolar Coordination Office  
Mark Fernandes, Circumpolar Coordination Office  
Gwen Healey, Director's Office

### **Observers**

Trudy Sable, Saint Mary's University  
Stephen Mills, Gwich'in Council International and Indigenous Peoples Secretariat  
Bjorn Haugstad, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education and Research, Norway  
Ragnhild Nystad, Vice President Saami Parliament  
Siri Johnsen, University of Tromsø  
Hermann Kristoffersen, mayor of Tromsø  
Ulf Christensen, rector, Tromsø University College  
Tove Leming, pro-rector, Tromsø University College, UArctic Council Alternate  
Jarle Aarbakke, rector, the University of Tromsø  
Gerd Bjørhovde, pro-rector, the University of Tromsø  
Leif Halonen, member of Arctic Council  
Ole Henrik Magga, member of Circle of Elders (UArctic), Chair of UN's permanent forum for Indigenous People  
Jan Henry Kaskitalo, member of Board of Governors  
Jan Ole Buljo, Mayor of Guovdageainnu Suohkan (Kautokeino municipality)  
Kjell Kemi, rector Sami University College

## **Session 1: Opening and Membership**

### **1. *Opening and Welcome***

Welcoming address from Sally Webber, Council Chair

Welcoming address from hosts:

- Bård A. Berg, University of Tromsø
- Tore Nesheim, Tromsø University College

### **2. *Approval of Agenda* [[Agenda](#)]**

**Council Approves** agenda without changes.

### **3. *Introductions***

Individual introductions of Council members and observers.

### **4. *Approval of minutes from Yakutsk Council Meeting* [[Minutes](#)]**

**Council approves** minutes, noting to designate Syktyvkar State University as a new member in the list of participants.

### **5. *Presentation of New Member Applicants***

**5.1 Yakutsk Agricultural Academy**, presented by Dr. Alexei Pudov Focus on sustainable agriculture and research, incorporating traditional practices in north eastern region of Siberia.

**5.2 Teachers Experiencing Antarctica and the Arctic.** No representative present.

**5.3 Finnmark University College**, presented by Jan Erik Henriksen. Northernmost university college in the world. Focus on historical, cultural developments and practices in Finnmark as well as neighbouring areas in Russia and Scandinavia.

**5.4 Arctic State Institute of Culture and Arts**, presented by Raissa Ponomareva. Extensive arts and cultural programs with focus on preservation of traditional customs while incorporating modern elements.

**5.5 University Courses in Svalbard (UNIS)**, presented by Eystein Markusson. UNIS has a small number of students, however topics of study range from biological sciences to social sciences to technology with an arctic focus.

**5.6 University of Saskatchewan**, presented by Walter Archer. Medical-Doctoral research-level institution with long-standing commitment to the education of indigenous peoples in Canada. Offers wide variety of programs, courses and areas of research that are relevant to the arctic.

Chair of Membership and Nomination's Committee notes that the organization *Teacher's Experiencing Antarctica and the Arctic* was not able to send a representative to the meeting and proposes that presentation be deferred without prejudice until next meeting.

Gwitch'in Tribal Council and Gorsebrook Research Institute of St. Mary's University, observers to meeting, express interest in seeking University of the Arctic membership. Council looks forward to their applications for membership.

## **6. Approval of New Members**

**Council unanimously approves** the membership applications of the Yakutsk Agricultural Academy, Finnmark University College, Arctic State Institute of Culture and Arts, The University Courses on Svalbard, and the University of Saskatchewan, and warmly welcomes the new members to the University of the Arctic.

## **Session II: Status Reports**

Opening Comments from Bjorn Haugstad, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Research, Norway. Pledges to continue to find funds to support the University of the Arctic.

## **7. Director's Report** [\[Director's Report\]](#)

Lars Kullerud, Director of the University of the Arctic, outlines future economic developments in the Arctic, and how these developments will impact the progress of the University of the Arctic and its programs in the future. Particular emphasis on growing economic opportunities in circumpolar regions.

The major goals outlined for the University of the Arctic for the coming years are to focus on empowering the North, serving the community, generating knowledge, building regional identity, and strengthening the voice of the Arctic in the world.

## **8. Board of Governor's Report** [\[BoG Report\]](#)

Presented by Rune Rydén. Overview of report from recent meeting in Stockholm, August 2002.

The Board of Governors would like to stress that the representation of the board does not currently reflect an accurate representation of the membership, and suggest that future efforts be made to improve the representation of women, indigenous peoples and Russian delegates on the Board.

The following points were raised during the discussion following the report:

- Status of the Circle of Elders project and how the composition and function of this group should be determined.
- The potential creation of non-degree programs for University of the Arctic participants and the plan (if any) for the development of these activities.

#### **9. Northern Research Forum** [\[NRF Report\]](#)

Jón Haukur Ingimundarsson, Stefansson Arctic Institute and NRF Secretariat, presents report from NRF meeting in Novgorod, September 2002.

Lars Kullerud, Director, reports on session *Higher Education in the North: Russia and the University of the Arctic*, organized by the University of the Arctic to increase awareness of UArctic among potential Russian members and to get feedback on improving communication with Russian partners. Discussion included possible collaboration with other Russian organizations; the potential benefits the NorthTREX program will provide for Russian partners; and preparation of materials in Russian language.

#### **10. Core Implementation Team Report** [\[CIT Report\]](#)

Chris Southcott, Lakehead University, presents latest updates on the development and implementation of the Core 3 (Contemporary Issues) courses..

The Core 3 modules were completed in May of 2002, and will be delivered beginning January 2003. They are currently being developed as web courses.

Of eight institutions approached to pilot the Core 3 modules, seven institutions have responded positively. Discussion ongoing with University of Highlands and Islands to be the eighth participating pilot institution.

### **Session III: Strategy and Governance**

Welcome and introduction to Saami Parliament

Ragnhild Nystad, Vice President of Saami Parliament, gives an overview of the Saami Parliament. Provides an introduction to culture, language, and geographic range of the Saami, as well as discussion of the parliament's current focus on education and culture for the population they serve.

#### **11. Introduction to Strategy** [\[Strategy\]](#)

Lars Kullerud, Director, presents new strategy document, outlining mission, goals, governance structure, programs and implementation

#### **12. Mission, Values and Goals**

Recommendations made:

- Language of the values should be restructured for consistency, and to ensure each expresses a clear value
- The goal of Improving Access to Higher Education should be added, in addition to a more accurate description of the goal of Serving Our Community that speaks to responsiveness to needs of community and community development

**Council approves** the Mission, Values and Goals as expressed in the Strategy, in principle, with the understanding that the Director and CCO will incorporate the recommendations and other Council feedback before taking the document to the Board of Governors for approval before the next Council meeting.

### **13. Governance Structure** [\[Governance Structure\]](#)

Outi Snellman, CCO presents recent revisions to the Governance Structure of the University of the Arctic.

This is the first thorough revision of the governance structure with the intent to create a document that will be long-standing for the University of the Arctic. It outlines the responsibilities of the Council, responsibilities of the Board of Governors, responsibilities of the members, the role of the Circle of Elders/ Friends of UArctic and other administrative arrangements (Director and CCO forming core).

**Council approves** the current revision of the Governance System, without changes, with specific reference to the authority and responsibility of Council and Board.

### **14. Council Rules of Procedure** [\[Council RoP\]](#)

Outi Snellman, CCO presents recent adjustments to the Council Rules of Procedure.

The document includes new descriptions of types of members, that include institutions and other organizations, and a general description of the organization of Council committees without identifying each within the document. The Council Rules of Procedure also stipulate that Council meetings are organized once per year, which is a change from the current schedule of twice per year.

**Council approves** the current revision of the Council Rules of Procedure, with specific reference to modifications to membership definitions, changes to committee structure and scheduling of council meetings, with the following change:

- Removal of the word 'immediate' from the statement regarding the membership of indigenous peoples organizations in the University of the Arctic

### **15. Board of Governors Rules of Procedure** [\[Board of Governors RoP\]](#)

Outi Snellman, CCO presents recent adjustments to the Board of Governors Rules of Procedure.

Significant changes in the document include the addition of a student representative, the frequency of meetings and the need for Board composition to be of broad geographic, cultural and gender representation.

**Council approves** the revised version of the Board of Governors Rules of Procedure without changes. This document replaces the existing Board of Governors Description and Terms of Reference, and the previous draft Board of Governors Rules of Procedure.

## **Session IV: Strategy Implementation - Programs**

Welcoming speech from Kjell Kemi - Saami University College

### **16. Overview of Programs Structure**

Lars Kullerud, Director, presents the current Program Structure of the University of the Arctic.

Presents information on current arrangement of 'core' programs— the Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies, the Circumpolar Mobility Program and the Arctic Learning Environment.

### **17. Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies Issues** [\[BCS Report\]](#)

Greg Poelzer, Chair of Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies Committee, presents the BCS report, outlining recent developments within the program. The report summarizes decisions reached during the BCS program meeting, held immediately before the Council meeting, Nov 12-13, 2002. The report notes the BCS's current shift from curriculum development to program delivery, including upcoming pilot of the 'Core 3' (Contemporary Issues courses). Also highlighted were restructuring of the Committee to include web development responsibilities, future BCS course delivery, and the development of guidelines for Advanced Emphases. A summary of recommendations to Council are presented in the report.

**Council approves** that the name of the Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies Program Delivery Team be changed to the Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies Program Team (BCS PT), to reflect the change from development to delivery. This name change is pending further restructuring of UArctic programs.

**Council supports the recommendation** of securing administrative capacity for the Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies, in the form of a full-time Chair for the BCS PT, a half-time administrative position, and a half-time curriculum editor. BCS will develop a budget to assist the administration and Board of Governors in seeking funding for this capacity.

**Council approves** the restructuring of the BCS PT to have approximately six members and to include web development responsibility. Judith Hughes, of the current ALE team, will serve on the committee in that capacity.

**Council approves**, in principle, BCS's guidelines for Advanced Emphases. with the understanding that the approval process, will be developed to include appropriate mechanisms for quality control.

**Council supports the recommendation** to seek funding to translate into Russian the BCS 100 and BCS core course curricula and, where feasible, supporting materials.

**Council accepts** the resignation of Olav Hesjdal as the Co-Chair of the BCS PT and will attempt to find a replacement as soon as possible.

**Council warmly acknowledges** the contributions of Aron Senkpiel and Jón Haukur Ingimundarsson as the pioneering chairs of the BCS PDT, and congratulates them on their hard work to bring the BCS Program to it's current state of implementation.

### **18. ALE: A New Way Forward** [\[ALE Report\]](#)

Lars Kullerud, Director presents on behalf of Judith Hughes, Athabaska University. Overview of the recent developments with the ALE program.

The majority of recommendations highlighted in the report are already addressed by the decision to add Judith Hughes to the BCS program team, and to give that team responsibility for the web development of BCS and its courses. These recommendations are now handled within the BCS program team.

**Council approves** the recommendation to restructure the ALE team. The new team will have a broad mandate to examine issues of access to education broadly, including appropriate pedagogical and technical means, new means of knowledge transfer, or the participation of under-represented student groups in science and higher education. Wolfgang Greller will lead the process of developing a plan and mission for the new restructured ALE team, with the current



ALE membership, David Malcom (University of Alberta), and other external expertise as required. Indigenous expertise will be included.

**Council supports the recommendation** that members make available online resources, such as library and online journals, available where possible, and asks members to consult with educational resource persons within their institutions and organizations to examine these possibilities with the new ALE team.

Lars Kullerud, Director, will draft a letter on behalf of the Council, thanking Athabaska University for its in-kind contribution to the ALE and for its commitment to the development of new and innovative programs in the Arctic.

## **19. Working Sessions on UArctic Strategy and Program Implementation** [\[Working Sessions Report\]](#)

Three groups separated into working sessions to discuss the implications of UArctic Strategy and program organization from institutional perspectives, with feedback from local consultation discussions.

## **20. Reports from Working Sessions**

Summary discussion facilitated by Greg Poelzer, UNBC, on the outcomes of the Working Groups.

Discussion arising from working groups noted the following items as action items for the Circumpolar Coordination Office and the Director:

- Communication and information to members be strengthened, particularly with regard to provide basic background for new members to become oriented to the network.
- Non-degree courses should be developed to complement BCS by delivery to specialist and niche needs in the North, but also for southern markets
- Sustained support is needed for institutions from Russia, indigenous organizations, and other smaller members to regularly participate
- Development of materials and curriculum in languages other than English, particularly Russian

## **21. Credit Transfer System** [\[Credit System\]](#)

Scott Forrest, CCO presents the Credit Transfer System proposal as the basis for developing credit transfer (often referred to as 'registrarial') capacity for UArctic. Outlines need for an International Academic Office to maintain a UArctic catalogue—a database of approved courses and programs with appropriate credit equivalencies, and coordinate and consult with appropriate officials at member institutions.

**Council approves** the Credit Transfer System as described in the proposal, and asks member institutions and University of the Arctic programs to begin working to implement the system. Council takes note of the need for an International Academic Office, and invites members to work with the Director on a proposal to host such an office.

**Council suggests** that investigations be made into the legal implications of the possibility of conferring degrees from the University of the Arctic jointly with partner institutions and the recognition of this degree internationally.

## **22. Strategy Conclusions and Action Items arising from Section IV**

Lars Kullerud, Director, addresses action items raised in Session IV. Notes that the Director and small strategy team will collect comments from the membership for a short period after the meeting, and report back to Council on how each of the recommendations and conclusions will be addressed. Council members will have an opportunity to review the revised Strategy by the end of the year, before it is presented to the Board of Governors at their next meeting in February 2003.

## **23. Standing Committee on Indigenous Peoples Issues - Terms of reference** [\[IPIC ToR\]](#)

Bård A. Berg, University of Tromsø, presents an overview of the Terms of Reference for the Indigenous Peoples Issues committee, noting the changes to the composition of the committee; opportunities with other organizations to obtain funding jointly; and the administrative details of the committee.

**Council approves** without changes, the Terms of Reference for the Indigenous Peoples Issues committee.

## **24. Gender Issues**

Outi Snellman, *ex-officio* member of committee, CCO, speaks to motion regarding gender balance in documents, composition of council/Board of Governors, addressing gender issues in BCS curriculum other related issues.

Based on the request of the Board of Governors, **Council agrees** to create an *ad hoc* Gender Issues Committee with the mandate of drafting the guidelines on gender balance, in keeping with the values of the University of the Arctic in supporting diversity. Council asks all committees and programs to carefully consider issues of gender balance in their work.

Identification of members of the *ad hoc* committee:

Cindy Dickson, Arctic Athabaskan Council  
Linda Pemik, Nunavut Arctic College  
Boris Segerstahl, Thule Institute  
Outi Snellman CCO

## **25. External Organization Links** [\[External Links\]](#)

Rune Rydén, Chair of External Relations Committee presents recent developments with the committee, including decisions on UArctic's links to external organizations.

**Council accepts the recommendations** of the Committee, as described in the report, noting the Director's prerogative to identify or nominate individuals from UArctic for positions in other organizations.

**Council accepts the recommendation** to seek a formal agreement with the Arctic Council to cover the use of working group materials for the Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies.

**Council notes the approval** of [Media Guidelines](#), and asks members to familiarize themselves with their contents and follow the guidelines in dealing with the media.

**Council expresses its appreciation** for the work in obtaining observer status for UArctic at the Arctic Council

Noted that Wolfgang Greller is stepping down from the committee to focus on development of the ALE.



## ***26. Other items arising from standing committees***

### **North2North Update**

Outi Snellman, CCO, presents recent developments of University of the Arctic mobility programs. Notes that pilot is currently proceeding with five countries and 12 UArctic institutions participating. Plans continue for the participation of funding and participation from Canada, Denmark/Greenland, and Iceland.

## ***27. Organization of Council Meetings*** [\[Meeting Guidelines\]](#)

Outi Snellman, CCO, presents guidelines to assist hosts of future Council meetings, and provide clarity on division of responsibilities for meeting organization. The restructured guidelines are based on the assumption that the Council meets once a year.

Recommendation that local indigenous peoples also be invited to participate on the planning committee, where possible.

**Council approves** the guidelines, with the additional suggestion of inviting local indigenous participation in meeting planning committee.

## ***28. Next Meetings***

**Council warmly accepts** the offer of the University of Akureyri and Stefansson Arctic Institute to host the next Council meeting in Akureyri, Iceland during the first week of April, 2003.

**Council warmly accepts** the offer of Yukon College to host the following Council meeting in November 2003, in conjunction with the next Circumpolar Universities Association conference.

**Council warmly accepts** the offer of University of Alaska Fairbanks to host the future Council meeting in Spring 2004, in conjunction with the International Arctic Social Sciences Association meeting.

Expressions of interest in hosting future UArctic meetings are offered by UNIS and the Kola Science Centre, and will be taken under consideration at future meetings.

## ***29. Other Business***

### **Presentation on Productive Development and Processing in Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry**

Mika Aromäki, Saami Area Education presents program for the training of veterinarians, meat handling, sustainable natural environment management and indigenous tourism.

**Council formally extends it's congratulations** to Carina Keskitalo, who worked with the CUA Secretariat in the initial feasibility study of the University of the Arctic, on the successful completion of her doctoral degree.

Russian delegates would like to formally acknowledge Aurora College and the government of Canada for making the attendance of their delegates possible.

Karen Eriksson, University of Alaska Fairbanks announces Richard Caulfield as her replacement on the Council, and states intention to fulfill her obligations remain on the Membership and External Relations Committees.