



Minutes 16th Meeting of the Council of UArctic

June 2 - 5, 2013 / Fairbanks, Alaska, USA

Hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks

(Approved by Toyon and Council)

Pre-Meeting Sessions

Indigenous Knowledge and Research Paradigms

Chair: *Jim McDonald*, University of Northern British Columbia (Canada)

Presenters: *Jan Henry Keskitalo*, UArctic Vice-President Indigenous

Ray Barnhardt, Director, Cross-Cultural Studies, UAF [\[Presentation\]](#)

Sean Topkok, Distance Education Specialist, Alaska Native Knowledge Network, UAF

Beth Leonard, Indigenous Education Coordinator, UAF

Theresa John, Associate Professor, Dept. Alaska Native Studies & Rural Development

Pearl Brower, President, Ilisagvik College, USA [\[Presentation\]](#)

UArctic Today: Introduction to UArctic and its Programs

Moderator: *Outi Snellman*, UArctic Vice-President Administration

Presenters: *Lars Kullerud*, UArctic President

Jim McDonald, Chair of Council

Brian Rogers, Chair-elect of the Board

Outi Snellman, Vice-President Administration [\[Presentation\]](#)

Kirsi Latola, Thematic Networks Coordinator [\[Presentation\]](#)

Patrick Maher, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies

John Eichelberger, UArctic Dean of Graduate Studies [\[Presentation\]](#)

Chris Southcott, Co-chair, Research Leadership Team/MIMIR [\[Presentation\]](#)

Mona Johnson, Director of UArctic Mobility Office [\[Presentation\]](#)

Astrid Revhaug, Director of UArctic GoNorth Office

Ute Vogel, Coordinator of UArctic Global Access project [\[Presentation\]](#)

16th Meeting of the Council of UArctic

These are the minutes of the sixteenth Meeting of the Council of the University of the Arctic, held in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA from June 3-5, 2013. Agenda items are presented in order of the original agenda, even though they may have been dealt with out of sequence during the actual meeting. The minutes contain web links to proposals, presentations, and background notes. The focus of the minutes is the final decisions; in the few cases where it is relevant they strive to give an overview of the various views from the discussions.

Appendix A: [List of participants](#)

Session I: Opening

Welcome addresses:

- *Brian Rogers*, Chancellor of the University of Alaska Fairbanks
- *Lisa A. Murkowski*, US Senator from the State of Alaska [\[Link to pre-recorded message\]](#)

Musical performance: by the Young Native Fiddlers

Session II-a: Council Business

Introduction to Council Officers:

- *Jim McDonald*, Council Chair, University of Northern British Columbia, Canada
- *Geir Gotaas*, Council Vice-Chair, University of Tromsø, Norway
- *Lyubov Radnaeva*, Council Secretary, Buryat State University, Russia

Introduction to Local Planning Committee:

- *Pat Pitney*, Chair
- *Kerynn Fisher*
- *Dave Read*
- *Donna Anger*
- *Sherry Modrow*
- *Mike Sfraga*
- *John Eichelberger*

Introduction to International Planning Committee

- *Outi Snellman*, Chair
- *Jim McDonald*,
- *Geir Gotaas*
- *Ljubov Radnaeva*
- *Lars Kullerud*
- *Jan Henry Kesitalo*
- *Pat Pitney*

Introduction to meeting Proposal and Voting procedures

Agenda items:

1. Approval of meeting agenda [\[Proposal\]](#)

A request was made to include information on UArctic's finances and budget under agenda item 5: Report from the President and item 10: Proposed Change to UArctic Annual Membership Fee.

Council decision:

Council accepts the agenda for the 16th meeting of the Council of the University of the Arctic.

2. Approval of minutes from the 15th Council meeting

[\[Minutes - 2012 Council Meeting\]](#) [\[Proposal\]](#)

Council decision:

Council accepts the Draft Minutes from the 15th Meeting of the Council of UArctic, held in Tromsø, Norway, June 12 -14, 2012.

3. Re-election of Council Officers and Election of New Vice-Chair

[\[Proposal\]](#)

Council decisions:

- a) *Council unanimously accepts the reappointment of **James McDonald** as Council Chair for a second three-year term (2013-2016).*
- b) *Council unanimously accepts the reappointment of **Ljubov D. Radnaeva** as Council Secretary for a second three-year term (2013-2016).*
- c) *Council accepts the nomination of **Pål (Paul) Markusson** as Council Vice-Chair for an initial three-year term (2013-2016), commencing at the end of the current meeting.*
- d) *Council acknowledges the contributions made by **Geir Gotaas** as Council Officer, and recognises the important role he has played over the years; most notably for his role in the Governance Task Force (2008-2010) to revise UArctic's governance documents.*

In recognition of his outstanding dedication, service and contributions to the development of UArctic as an Officer of the Council of UArctic (Council Secretary 2004-2010; Council Vice-Chair 2010-2013), Geir Gotaas was presented with the UArctic Certificate of Recognition.

4. Membership Issues [[Summary of Current UArctic Membership / May 2013](#)]

4a: Introduction of New Member Applicants

Full Member / Higher Education Institutions:

- European University at St Petersburg, Russia [[Presentation](#)]
- Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Finland [[Presentation](#)]
- Nord-Trøndelag University College, Norway [[Presentation](#)]
- Reykjavik University, Iceland [[Presentation](#)]
- University of Eastern Finland, Finland [[Presentation](#)]
- University of Tampere, Finland [[Presentation](#)]

Full Member / Other Organizations:

- Cold Climate Housing Research Centre, USA [[Presentation](#)]
- Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research, Norway [[Presentation](#)]
- Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre, Canada [[Presentation](#)]

Associate Member / Higher Education Institutions:

- Durham University, United Kingdom [[Presentation](#)]
- Educational Studies School-State University of Education, Mongolia [[Presentation](#)]
- Ocean University of China, China [[Presentation](#)]
- University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom [[Presentation](#)]

Associate Member / Other Organizations:

- Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences, China [[Presentation](#)]
- Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, China [[Presentation](#)]
- Environmental Development Centre-Ministry of Environmental Protection, China
- First Institute of Oceanography-State Oceanic Administration, China [[Presentation](#)]
- National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center, China [[Presentation](#)]
- Polar Research Institute of China, China [[Presentation](#)]
- Second Institute of Oceanography-State Oceanic Administration China [[Presentation](#)]
- Third Institute of Oceanography-State Oceanic Administration, China [[Presentation](#)]

Council noted concern about lack of presentation and lack of representation from the following new member applicant: Environmental Development Centre - Ministry of Environmental Protection, China. Toyon agrees with the concern of Council, and thus drafted a new proposal to address this concern (see agenda item 4d).

4b: Election of New Full Members of UArctic [\[Proposal\]](#)

Council decisions:

- a) *Council accepts the European University at St Petersburg (EUSP); Laurea University of Applied Sciences; Nord-Trøndelag University College (HiNT); Reykjavik University; the University of Eastern Finland (UEF); and the University of Tampere as Full Member / Higher Education Institutions of the University of the Arctic.*
- b) *The Council also accepts the Cold Climate Housing Research Centre (CCHRC); the Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP); and the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre as Full Members / Other Organizations of the University of the Arctic.*

4c: Election of New Associate Members of UArctic [\[Proposal\]](#)

Council decisions:

- a) *Council accepts Durham University; the Educational Studies School, Mongolian State University of Education (MSUE); Ocean University of China (OUC); and the University of Aberdeen as Associate Member / Higher Education Institutions of the University of the Arctic.*
- b) *The Council accepts the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences (CAMS); Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES); First Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration (FIO-SOA); National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center (NMEFC); Polar Research Institute of China (PRIC); Second Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration (SIO-SOA); and the Third Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration (TIO-SOA) as Associate Members / Other Organizations of the University of the Arctic.*
- c) *The Council defers the membership application for the Environmental Development Centre (EDC) - Ministry of Environmental Protection (China), and invites the applicant to present itself to Council at the next Council meeting in 2014.*

4d: Presentation Requirements for New member Applicants

[\[Proposal\]](#)

Council decision:

Council directs the Membership and Nominations Committee to modify its membership application procedures to require that new member applicants ensure that a presenter (i.e. either an applicant representative or proxy) is present at the Council meeting. Applicants who do not fulfill this requirement will have their membership application deferred to the following Council meeting, when the same conditions will apply.

5. Report from the President - Annual Report 2012

[\[draft Annual Report for 2012\]](#)

President, *Lars Kullerud* presents some facts about the overall state of the Arctic, details of the draft UArctic Annual Report for 2012, highlighting activities and outputs, including strong growth in the level of activities of Thematic Networks, as well as strong engagement with external partners in the region. Changes and developments with the Undergraduate and Graduate Studies programs were also explained. Details of the coming 2013 Rectors' Forum were also given, where the focus will be on mobility, and the concept of north2north+ and the process of engagement from state organisations with efforts to secure consistent funding for north2north mobility. A summary of UArctic Finance was presented, which shows approximately €5 million in activity reported through UArctic units, including in kind member contributions in the form of staff time.

6. Invitation to join the "Friends of UArctic" [\[Proposal\]](#)

Council decisions:

- a) *Council acknowledges the contributions made by **Claudia Fedorova** as Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and thanks her for her many years of dedication and commitment to helping guide the development of UArctic's Undergraduate Studies programs and activities.*
- b) *Council asks the Board to join in inviting **Claudia Fedorova** to the Friends of UArctic.*

7. UArctic engagement in ICARPP III / International Conference on Arctic Research Planning [\[Proposal\]](#)

Through an agreement between UArctic and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) it is specified, among other, that the three organisations shall work together towards the development of the third International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III). Thus as a lead up to the ICARP III event, hosted by Japan in 2015, both the 8th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS) organized by IASSA, and the 2014 Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) are being planned as lead up events.

[\[Presentation\]](#)

Council decisions:

- a) *Council encourages UArctic's Knowledge and Dialogue Strategic Area to work with its members to conduct events hosted by members that locally identify key research questions on the Arctic.*
- b) *Council encourages all Council Members to take active part in this process.*
- c) *Council looks forward to sum up this process at the Council meeting in 2014.*

8. Proposed Amendments to UArctic Bylaws [\[ref. UArctic Bylaws\]](#)

8a: Bylaw amendments – Additional Term for Board Officers

[\[Proposal\]](#)

Council expressed concern about how this change could affect the Board's membership and the turnover of its leadership. These concerns were addressed through modifications by removing changes to section 4.4 of the proposed amendments.

Council decision:

Council accepts the amendments to section 4 of the UArctic Bylaws, and asks the Secretariat to implement the changes accordingly.

8b: Bylaw amendments – Membership Description and Obligations [\[Proposal\]](#)

The proposed changes to the bylaws seek to: a) clarify any ambiguity of interpretation by making explicit the intended meaning of subsidiary entities; and b) to reduce the reporting burden of programs and members without diminishing the responsibility members have in ensuring that their activities are adequately reported. These amendments clarify and streamline the UArctic Bylaws to bring them in line with UArctic's operational practices.

Council decisions:

- a) *Council accepts the amendments to UArctic Bylaws, sub-section 2.1.2 and asks the Secretariat to implement the change accordingly.*
- b) *Council accepts the amendments to UArctic Bylaws, sections 2.5 and 2.6 and asks the Secretariat to implement the change accordingly.*

9. Election on Board Members

9a: Re-election of Board members to 2nd term [\[Proposal\]](#)

Board members *Lasse Lønnum*, *Lauri Lajunen* and *Tove Søvndahl Pedersen* have accepted the invitation of the Membership and Nominations Committee to serve on the Board for a second term, while Board member *Evgeniya Mikhailova* is stepping down at the end of her first term.

Council decisions:

- a) *Council re-elects **Lasse Lønnum** as member of UArctic's Board of Governors for a second three-year term (2013-2016).*
- b) *Council re-elects **Lauri Lajunen** as member of UArctic's Board of Governors for a second three-year term (2013-2016).*

- c) Council re-elects **Tove Søvndahl Pedersen** as member of UArctic's Board of Governors for a second three-year term (2013-2016).
- d) Council acknowledges the contributions made by **Evgeniya Mikhailova** during her term as Board member and thank her for her contribution to UArctic.
- e) Council joins the Board in inviting **Evgeniya Mikhailova** to join the Friends of UArctic.

9b: Election of new Board members

[\[Proposal\]](#)

With five vacancies on the Board an open call for proposals was made to UArctic member institutions in late 2012. In responds to that call, and based on the names put forward, the Membership and Nominations Committee nominated four individuals as new members of the Board.

During discussions various issues on the current balance and the overall competencies of the Board's membership were raised (i.e. gender balance, indigenous representation, the extent of institutional leadership verses the need to have external representation).

On the issue of balance, the Council was reminded that the Membership and Nominations Committee operates independently from other core bodies of UArctic, and that it is responsible for overseeing UArctic's key nominations processes, including evaluating potential candidates for the Board. Further, in making nomination recommendations to the Council for their selection, the committee's evaluations are based on UArctic's current priorities and needs, while reflecting on its values, goals and desire to ensure a balanced Board representation and continuity.

In response to questions on competencies, Council was informed that the Board has itself has seen the need for an assessment of gaps and competencies and has requested the Membership and Nominations Committee to undertake a competency review of the Board's membership.

Council decisions:

- a) Council accepts the nomination of **Kjell Åke Jonsson** to serve as a member of UArctic's Board of Governors for an initial three-year term (2013-2016).
- b) Council accepts the nomination of **Denis Mayrand** to serve as a member of UArctic's Board of Governors for an initial three-year term (2013-2016).
- c) Council accepts the nomination of **Mikhail Yurievich Prisyazhny** to serve as a member of UArctic's Board of Governors for an initial three-year term (2013-2016).
- d) Council accepts the nomination of **Lindsay Whaley** to serve as a member of UArctic's Board of Governors for an initial three-year term (2013-2016).
- e) Council acknowledges the contributions made by both **Barry Scherr** and **Andrew Greenshaw** as Board members, and thanks them for their dedication and commitment to helping guide the development of the University of the Arctic.
- f) Council joins the Board in inviting **Barry Scherr** and **Andrew Greenshaw** to join the Friends of UArctic.

9c: Election of Board student Representatives [\[Proposal\]](#)

Comments noted that it would be useful to have the Student Representatives participate in the development and activities of UArctic's student body, and also in various UArctic meetings, where practical. Council was informed that the student association is still not yet in place, but that these are noted as clear needs which are to be incorporated.

Council decisions:

- a) *Council accepts the interim decision by Toyon to appoint **Jamie Reschny** as student representative member of UArctic's Board of Governors for the term (December 2012 – June 2015).*
- b) *Council accepts the nomination of **Monika Margrét Stefánsdóttir** to serve as student representative member of UArctic's Board of Governors for the fixed three-year term (2013-2016).*
- c) *Council acknowledges the contributions made by **Ingá Elisa Páve** during her term as Board student representative member, and thanks her for her contribution to UArctic.*

10. Proposed change to UArctic Annual Membership Fee [\[Proposal\]](#)

UArctic's Vice-President Finance presented UArctic past and current funding structure, explaining that additional unrestricted UArctic funding is necessary to, increase and stabilize revenue, help diversify funding sources, and document member commitment to other funders. Consequently, increasing membership dues is one of only a few methods available to the Board of Governors for increasing unrestricted operational revenue.

Concerns were raised over the higher fees, and it was questioned if any of UArctic's larger members had been consulted in the process. Council was informed that consultations with institutional leaders were done during the UArctic Rectors' Forum in Winnipeg (November, 2012) and with those representative members in the Board. All had found the increased fees to be reasonable.

[\[Presentation\]](#)

Council decisions:

- a) *Council accepts the proposed changes to the annual membership fee schedule as presented.*
- b) *Council supports the implementation of the proposed membership fee schedule starting in 2014.*
- c) *Council asks the Board and UArctic's administration to review the current membership fee implementation procedures and to amend according to the proposed membership fee schedule.*

11. Review of draft UArctic Strategic Plan 2020 and External Review Report [[UArctic Strategic Plan 2020 draft v.2](#)] [[External Review Report](#)] [[Strategic Plan – External Review Action Plan](#)]

Lars Kullerud presents the current draft UArctic Strategic Plan 2020 and gives further details on the various stages of development since the last Council meeting in 2012. In response to the External Review Team's recommendations, the Board submitted its own list of concrete recommendations; and during this Council meeting two Breakout Sessions will address the issue of UArctic's future. With feedback from both this Council meeting and the coming Rectors' Forum, the Board will prepare a final draft by the fall of 2013.

UArctic Snowy Owl Talks Presented by: *Lawrence Hislop*

UArctic's Snowy OWL Talks are a talk series named in honour of Erling Olsen (1927-2011), founding board member of the University of the Arctic, Member of the Danish Parliament for almost 30 years, twice Minister, and Speaker of the Danish Parliament. When, as Minister of Justice, he was asked whether he was a political dove or a hawk, his reply was that he would be an owl. The Snowy Owl Talks can also be read as an acronym for Olsen World Lectures (OWL).

Based on short lectures of 5-15 minutes in length, which are videotaped and then edited and distributed online through the UArctic website, the concept of the talks is modelled after the popular TED talks, which have spread prolifically over the internet.

The primary audience for the Snowy OWL Talks is students across the North, from secondary to all levels of higher education. Secondary audiences include the northern policy community, local stakeholders, and the general public. Specific talks will be linked via partners' websites, as well as employing social media channels. Descriptive data for indexing and archiving the talks will be maintained together with other UArctic learning materials that support education programs such as the Circumpolar Studies program.

The following Snowy Owl Talks videos were shown to Council:

- 1) [Snowy Owl Talks with Krister Stoor, Senior Lecturer at Umeå University](#)
- 2) [Snowy Owl Talks with Nina Kircher, Ice-Sheet Modeller at Stockholm University](#)

12. Reports from individual Breakout Sessions

Session A: Joint session for New Thematic Networks:

Thematic Network on Natural Hazards [[Presentation](#)]
Presented by: *Pavlov Izbekov*

Thematic Network on Permafrost [[Presentation](#)]
Presented by: *Kenji Yoshikawa*

Council voted on the approval of these two new Thematic Networks in agenda item 13.

Session B: Strategic Plan 2020: UArctic as a Member Organization

Presented by: *Geir Gotaas* [[Presentation](#)]

Notes from this breakout session and the consequent decision by Council on the approval to create a Task Force on UArctic's Organizational Structure (agenda item 16) will serve as references for developments in this area.

Session C: Strategic Plan 2020: UArctic Academic and Education Priorities

Presentations by: *Karla Hardcastle* [[Presentation](#)]

Session D: Strategic Plan 2020: Arctic Research Priorities [[Presentation](#)]

Presentations by: *Peter Sköld*

The outcomes and reports from both breakout sessions B, C and D, as well as the views of Council on agenda item 11 will be brought forward to the UArctic Rectors' Forum and to the Board, for consideration in the next development stage of the UArctic Strategic Plan 2020.

Session IV: Networking Focus

[[Session descriptions and objectives](#)]

The session chairs, UAF Chancellor, *Brian Rogers*, and Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, *Pat Pitney* introduced the main topics of the session: “*Collaborating with Other Arctic-Focused Organizations*” and “*UArctic: What's working? What's next?*”

Following introductory remarks a presentation was given by *Alice Rogoff*, Publisher / owner of Alaska Dispatch Publishing and Arctic Circle co-founder. She introduced Council to the concept of the Arctic Circle, which is a new mechanism for existing institutions, organizations, forums, think tanks, corporations and public associations to reach a global audience of those interested in Arctic affairs in an efficient way. The mission of the Arctic Circle is to facilitate dialogue and build relationships to confront the Arctic's greatest challenges. We aim to strengthen the decision-making process by bringing together as many Arctic and international partners as possible to interact in one large "open tent." The Arctic Circle aims to support, complement and extend the reach of the work of the Arctic Council. By facilitating broad international dialogue at an open gathering held in mid-October of each year, the Arctic Circle will foster greater cooperation on Arctic issues.

Afterwards, Council engaged in a series of special sessions designed to address questions of strategic importance to UArctic's future. The sessions were divided into five strategic focus areas, and each session was guided by a UAF facilitators. Each session has three discussion segments, so each participant could attend and contribute to three of the five topic areas. A summary of the resulting session discussions was produced.

[[Session Summaries](#)]

Session 1: Expanding Faculty Engagement in UArctic

Facilitator: *Ashley Munro*

Session 2: Strengthening UArctic Functional Meetings

Facilitator: *Pamm Hubbard*

Session 3: Increasing student awareness of UArctic programs

Facilitator: *Libby Eddy*

Session 4: Making UArctic related research and academic decisions

Facilitator: *Faye Gallant*

Session 5: Developing Shared Programs integrated with Thematic Networks

Facilitator: *Mike Cox*

13. Approval of New and Provisional Thematic Networks [[Proposal](#)]

In 2013 the Thematic Network Coordination Office received and the Thematic Networks Program Team reviewed the following new thematic networks:

Thematic Network on Permafrost

Hosted by: the University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA

Led by: *Kenji Yoshikawa*, Professor

Reference document: [Proposal and Support letter – TN Permafrost](#)

Thematic Network on Natural Hazards

Hosted by: the University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA

Led by: *John Eichelberger*, Dean of UAF Graduate School

Reference document: [Proposal and Support letter – TN Natural Hazards](#)

In 2012 the following Thematic Networks were given provisional status and have since shown that activities have been planned and/or initiated. Select web-link to see each TN web-page.

Thematic Network on Communicating Arctic Research Permafrost

Hosted by: UNEP/GRID-Arendal, Norway

Led by: *Lawrence Hislop*, Head, Polar Programme

Geology of Arctic Thematic Network

Hosted by: University of Tromsø, Norway

Led by: *Jurgen Mienert*, Professor

Thematic Network on Polar ice, climate and land dynamics (PICD)

Hosted by: the University of Bergen, Norway

Led by: *Dr. Øyvind Paasche*

Thematic Network on Arctic Extractive Industries

Hosted by: the University of Lapland, Finland

Led by: *Florian Stammer*, Senior Researcher

Co-lead: *Jessica M. Shadian*, Researcher

Council decisions:

- a) *Council approves the establishment of the **Thematic Network on Permafrost**, hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA.*
- b) *Council approves the establishment of the **Thematic Network on Natural Hazards**, hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA.*
- c) *Council supports the Thematic Network Office's decision to grant full endorsement to:*
 - i) *The **Thematic Network on Communicating Arctic Research**, hosted by UNEP/GRID-Arendal, Norway.*
 - ii) *The **Geology of Arctic Thematic Network**, hosted by University of Tromsø, Norway.*
 - iii) *The **Thematic Network on Polar ice, climate and land dynamics (PICD)**, hosted by the University of Bergen, Norway.*
 - iv) *The **Thematic Network on Arctic Extractive Industries**, hosted by the University of Lapland, Finland.*

14. Council Committee Issues

14-a Membership and Nominations Committee–Approval of New Member [\[Proposal\]](#)

Council decisions:

- a) *Council accepts the nomination of **Christopher Fletcher** to serve as a member of the Membership and Nominations Committee for an initial three year term (2013-2016).*
- b) *Council acknowledges the contributions made by **Sara Wright-Cardinal** during her time on the Membership and Nominations Committee.*

14-b Re-election of Member to 2nd term on UArctic's Indigenous Issues Committee [\[Proposal\]](#)

Council decisions:

- a) *Council re- elects **Janne Hansen** as member of UArctic's Indigenous Issues Committee for a second three-year term (2013-2016).*
- b) *Council acknowledges the contributions made acknowledges the contributions made by **Jan Henry Keskitalo** during his term as Secretary of UArctic's Indigenous Issues Committee, and thanks him for his many years of dedication to the University of the Arctic.*

15. Words from outgoing UArctic Vice-President Indigenous

Jan Henry Keskitalo thanked UArctic for providing him with the opportunity to serve on the Board of Governors and for the appointment of Vice-President Indigenous, and duly noted that as members of UArctic, all institutions and organisation are doing a very important job for the Arctic.

16. Creation of Task Force on UArctic's Organisational Structure

[\[Proposal\]](#)

The mission of the Task Force will be to evaluate and suggest, if relevant, changes in the present role distribution between Board, Council and Rectors Forum and their linkages to the implementation structures of UArctic inspired by, but not limited to, the observations of the UArctic External Review Team. The task force is further guided by the mission, goals and values as expressed in the new strategic plan and other basic assumptions given in the presently agreed Governance document of UArctic.

Council decisions:

- a) *Council supports the Board in its call for the creation of a joint Task Force to review and assess UArctic's Organizational Structure.*
- b) *Council appoints the Council Chair, **James McDonald** to co-chair the Task Force together with Board Chair, **Brian Rogers**.*
- c) *Council asks the Board Executive Committee and Toyon (Council Executive Committee) to jointly decide on the task force members and to approve the Terms of Reference for the Task Force.*
- d) *Council looks forward to discussions, and if relevant, making decisions as appropriate based on the outcome of the Task Force and recommendations from the Board.*

17. Council Meeting 2014 – Presentation of plans [\[Proposal\]](#)

For the 2014 Council meeting, the University of Northern British Columbia has decided to arrange the event back-to-back with the 8th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences ([ICASS VIII](#)). The proposed dates for the 17th meeting of the Council of UArctic are the 20th and 21st of May, 2014, with Ofelas and pre-meeting scheduled for May 19. Joint IASSA / UArctic sessions are planned, and Council participants are welcome to attend the ICASS conference (May 22-26, 2014).

Council decision:

For the Council meeting held in Prince George, Canada in May 2014, the Council requests that the local planning committee works closely with Toyon / International Planning Committee on defining the program and thematic focus of the 17th meeting of the Council of UArctic.

18. Council Meeting 2015

[\[Proposal\]](#)

Presentations given by Buryat State University [\[Presentation A\]](#) [\[Presentation B\]](#)

Council decision:

The Council approves the preliminary plans by Buryat State University to host the 18th Meeting of the Council of UArctic, in Ulan-Ude, Buryatia, Russia, in June 2015, and requests that the local and international planning committees continue with preparations for the Council meeting in 2015.

Closing of meeting