

Minutes* 20th Meeting of the Council of UArctic

August 15-17, 2017 / Nuuk, Greenland

Hosted by [Ilisimatusarfik / University of Greenland](#)

* Draft minutes reviewed and supported by members of *Ofelas* and subsequently reviewed by members of *Council*.
These minutes are subject to final approval by member of Council at their meeting in September 2018 in Finland.

20th Meeting of the Council of UArctic (August 15-17, 2017)

These are minutes of the 20th meeting of the Council of the UArctic, held in Nuuk, Greenland.

Minutes: Each Council meeting agenda item is presented in order of the original agenda, even though they may have been dealt with out of sequence during the meeting. The minutes contain web links to proposals, presentations, and background documents. The focus of the minutes is on the final decisions; and where relevant, an overview of the views expressed during discussions were added.

Participation: During the 20th meeting of the Council of UArctic a total of [81 participants](#) from 12 different countries attend the congress, with 45 UArctic member institutions and organisations represented. A group photo of Council meeting participants can be [downloaded here](#).

Prior to the start of the Council meeting, an optional three day excursion to the town of Sisimiut was organized. Hosted by the Arctic Technology Centre (ARTEK) -Technical University of Denmark, the excursion included the [inaugural opening of the centres' new educational facilities](#). A group photo of participants of the Sisimiut excursion can be [downloaded here](#).

Networking Sessions: As part of the Council program, meeting participants took part in eight networking sessions with round-table discussions on topics important to UArctic's development. A full list of sessions, with descriptions and names of co-chairs can be [accessed here](#). Links to discussion notes from each networking session is provided in Annex 1 (below).

Council Meeting Opening:

Welcome and Greetings from: *Suzanne Møller*, Rector, Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland
Tove Søvndalh Gant, Vice-chair, UArctic Board of Governors
Lars Kullerud, President, University of the Arctic

Introduction to Council Officers: *Liisa Holmberg*, Council Chair
Ljubov Radnaeva, Council Vice-Chair
Lindsay Whaley, Council Secretary
Krister Stoor, Chair, Indigenous Issues Committee *
* sitting in for the Council Secretary during his absence.

Discussion with Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council:

Aleksi Härkönen, Chair, Senior Arctic Officials, Arctic Council
Hanne Fugl Eskjær, Senior Arctic Official, Denmark
Anniken Krutnes, Senior Arctic Official, Norway
Tomas Orri Ragnarsson, Deputy Senior Arctic Official, Iceland

Meeting Agenda items:

Note: Council meeting proposals and reference documents can be downloaded individually by selecting the links below.

1. Introduction to Council meeting Proposals and Voting Procedures

Presenter: *Krister Stoor*, Chair, Indigenous Issues Committee, and acting Council Secretary

Presentation: [[Introduction to Council Proposals and Voting](#)]

Document: [[Council Advance Vote 2017 – Results Summary](#)]

Comments: Voting to confirm and support the decisions made in the advance voting seems to be an ineffective way to reach consensus. Rather than holding a preliminary vote, a simplify approach would be to give members the opportunity for final comments on changing and/or opposing meeting proposals. This way most items can be presented to Council for consent approval, and the final vote remain with members present at the meeting (as stated in the Bylaws).

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda (Action item)

Document: [[Proposal - Decision](#)]

Council decision: Members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to accept the agenda for the 20th Meeting of the Council of UArctic as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes from 19th Council meeting (Action item)

Documents: [[Proposal – Decision](#)]

[[Approved Minutes –19th Council Meeting 2016](#)]

Council decision: Members of Council voted to approve the proposal with two abstentions, deciding to accept the Draft Minutes from the 19th Meeting of the Council of UArctic, held in St. Petersburg, Russia, September 13-15, 2016.

4. Report from President: 2016 Annual Report and Finance Summary

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, UArctic President

Documents: [[UArctic Annual Report 2016](#)]

[[Year-End Finance Summary 2016](#)]

[[UArctic Strategic Implementation Plan 2017-2020](#)]

5. UArctic Membership

Document: [[Summary of Current UArctic Members](#)]

5a. Introduction to New Member Applicants 2017

Presenter: *Liisa Holmberg*, Council Chair

Document: [[Summary of Membership Applicants 2017](#)]

5b. Election of New Arctic Members of UArctic (Action item)

Presenter: *Ljubov Radnaeva*, Council Vice-Chair

Document: [[Proposal - Decision](#)]

Council decisions: Members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to:

- a) Accept the Baltic State Technical University; Kajaani University of Applied Sciences; New Jersey City University; Technical University of Denmark; and Western Kentucky University, as Arctic / Higher Education Institution members of the University of the Arctic.
- b) Accept Aleut International Association; Arctic Research Center of the Yamal-Nenets autonomous district; Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology - Simon Fraser University; International Sámi Film Institute; and The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy - Tufts University, as Arctic / Other Organisation members of the University of the Arctic.

5c. Election of New Non-Arctic Members of UArctic (Action item)

Presenter: *Lindsay Whaley*, Council Secretary

Document: [[Proposal - Decision](#)]

Council decisions: Members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to:

- a) Accept Beijing Normal University as a Non-Arctic / Higher Education Institution member of the University of the Arctic.
- b) Accept Alfred-Wegener-Institut; Arctic Centre - University of Groningen; and Centre for Polar Ecology - University of South Bohemia, as Non-Arctic / Other Organisation members of the University of the Arctic.

6. Election of Nominations Committee Member to 2nd term (Action item)

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, UArctic Vice-President Organization and Committee Secretary

Document: [[Proposal - Decision](#)]

Council decision: Members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to re-elect Barry Scherr to serve as member of the Nominations Committee for a second and final three-year term (2017-2020).

7. Election of Chair, Indigenous Issues Committee (Action item)

Presenter: *Krister Stoor*, Chair, Indigenous Issues Committee

Document: [[Proposal - Decision](#)]

Council decision: Members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to accept the nomination of Leanna Ellsworth as the new Chair of UArctic's Indigenous Issues Committee.

8. **Closure of the Academic Quality Committee (Action item)**

Presenters: *Lars Kullerud*, UArctic President
Michael Castellini, UArctic Vice-President Academic

Document: [[Proposal - Decision](#)]

Links: [2012 Academic Quality Committee Evaluation Summary and Recommendations](#)
[2015 Approval of next steps for Council Academic Quality Committee](#)
[UArctic Guidelines for Organization and Management](#)

Council decisions: Members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding:

- a) To close the Academic Quality Committee, and look forward to receiving regular updates about UArctic's Academic activities from the Vice-President Academic and Academic Leadership Team.
- b) That reference to the Academic Quality Committee be removed from the UArctic Bylaws (i.e. clause 3.1.3 on Council Committee), and from any other guideline.

9. **Amendments to UArctic Bylaws – Board of Governors (Action item)**

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, UArctic Vice-President Organization

Document: [[Proposal - Decision](#)]

Link: [[UArctic Bylaws](#)]

Council decisions: Members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to:

- a) Accept the change to the minimum and maximum number of Board members (i.e. from nine to fifteen, instead of five to eleven), and approve the corresponding amendment to section 4 / second paragraph of UArctic's Bylaws.
- b) Accept the addition giving UArctic's Nominations Committee the strategic responsibility to define the length of each Board member's term, and approve the corresponding amendment to section 4 / third paragraph of UArctic's Bylaws.
- c) Accept the addition clarifying the duration of a Board member's term, and approve the corresponding amendment to section 4 / third paragraphs of UArctic's Bylaws.
- d) Accept the addition specifying the formal role of UArctic's Nominations Committee in reviewing each Board member who is eligible for re-election, and approve the corresponding amendment to section 4 / fourth paragraph of UArctic's Bylaws.
- e) Accept the addition of the Chair of the Board Finance Policy Committee as an Officer of the Board of Governors of UArctic, and approve the corresponding amendment to sub-section 4.4 / first paragraph of UArctic's Bylaws.
- f) Accept the addition of a second Board Vice-Chair as Officer of the Board, with the Board Vice-Chairs designated as Vice-Chair I and Vice-Chair II; and approve the corresponding amendment to sub-section 4.4 / third paragraph of UArctic's Bylaws.
- g) Support the interim decision taken (October 25, 2016) by the Council Executive Committee to include the Chair of the Board Finance Policy Committee as a member of

the Board Executive Committee; and concurrent with decisions e & f above, approve the amendment to sub-section 4.4 / fourth paragraph specifying that all Board Officers are on the Board Executive Committee.

10. Elections to UArctic Board of Governors

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, UArctic Vice-President Organization and Nominations Committee Secretary

10a. Election of new Member to the Board of Governors (Action item)

Documents: [\[Proposal - Decision\]](#)
[\[Dr. Paulsen – Short Biography\]](#)

Council decision: Members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to accept the nomination of Frederik Paulsen to serve as member of UArctic's Board of Governors for an initial three-year term (2017-2020).

10b. Election of Board Member to 2nd term (Action item)

Document: [\[Proposal - Decision\]](#)

Council decision: Members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to re-elect Gary Kachanoski as a member of UArctic's Board of Governors for a second three-year term (2017-2020).

10c. Election of Board Student Representatives (Action item)

Documents: [\[Proposal - Decision\]](#)
[\[Board Student Representative – Ambassador Invitation 2017\]](#)
[\[Letter of Motivation and Support – Zachary Anstey\]](#)
[\[Letter of Motivation – Anastasia Sokolova\]](#)

Council decisions: Member members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to:

- a) Accept the nomination of Zachary Anstey of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, to serve as Board Student Representative of UArctic's Board of Governors for the fixed two-year term (2017-2019).
- b) Accept the nomination of Anastasia Sokolova of Siberian Federal University, Russia, to serve as Board Student Representative of UArctic's Board of Governors for the fixed three-year term (2017-2020).
- c) Thank Board Student Representative, Chen Yitong of Ocean University of China, for her three years of service on UArctic's Board of Governors, and wish her success in her future endeavours.

11. Invitation to join the Friends of UArctic (Action item)

Presenter: *Liisa Holmberg*, Council Chair

Document: [\[Proposal - Decision\]](#)

Link: [\[List of Friends of UArctic\]](#)

Council decisions: Members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to:

- a) Acknowledge the contributions made by Elena Kudryashova, Kari Laine and Krister Stoor, and thank them for their dedicated engagement with the Board and the Council, and for their commitment to guide the development of the University of the Arctic.
- b) Join the Board in inviting Elena Kudryashova, Kari Laine and Krister Stoor, to join the Friends of UArctic.

12. Report on UArctic Student Ambassadors

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, UArctic Vice-President Organization

Link: [\[UArctic Student Ambassador\]](#)

13. UArctic Thematic Networks

Presenter: *Kirsi Latola*, Director of UArctic Thematic Networks Office

13a. Introduction to proposed New Thematic Networks

Presentations by individual network leads

Documents: [\[Thematic Network on Arctic Lingua\]](#)
[\[Thematic Network on Arctic Migration\]](#)
[\[Thematic Network on Arctic Research Administration\]](#)
[\[Thematic Network on Arctic WASH\]](#)
[\[Thematic Network on Arthropods of the Tundra / NeAT\]](#)
[\[Thematic Network on Global Ecological and Economic Connections in Arctic and Sub-Arctic Crab Fisheries\]](#)
[\[Thematic Network on Science Diplomacy\]](#)

13b. Approval of Provisional Thematic Networks (Action item)

Documents: [\[Proposal - Decision\]](#)
[\[Activity Report - Provisional Thematic Networks\]](#)

Links: [Thematic Network on Arctic Coastal Communities for Sustainability](#)
[Thematic Network on Arctic Economic Science](#)
[Thematic Network on Arctic Safety and Security](#)
[Thematic Network on Language Documentation and Language Technologies for Circumpolar Region](#)
[Thematic Network on Arctic Sustainable Resources and Social Responsibility](#)
[Thematic Network on Sustainable Production and Foraging of Natural Products in the North](#)

Council decision: Members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to grant full network status to the:

- Thematic Network on Arctic Coastal Communities for Sustainability, hosted by University of the Faroe Islands;
- Thematic Network on Arctic Economic Science, hosted by UiT- The Arctic University of Norway;
- Thematic Network on Arctic Safety and Security, hosted by Nord University, Norway;
- Thematic Network on Language Documentation and Language Technologies for Circumpolar Region, hosted by Buryat State University, Russia;
- Thematic Network on Sustainable Arctic Resources and Social Responsibility, hosted by Copenhagen Business School, Denmark;
- Thematic Network on Sustainable Production and Foraging of Natural Products in the North, hosted by University of Helsinki, Finland.

13c. Approval of New Thematic Networks (Action item)

Document: [\[Proposal - Decision\]](#)

Council decision: Members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to approve the provisional establishment of the:

- Thematic Network on Arctic Lingua, hosted by International Ethno-Linguistic Center “Arctic Lingua”, Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University, Russia;
- On Arctic Migration, hosted by the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland;
- Thematic Network on Arctic Research Administration, hosted by Pitirim Sorokin Syktyvkar State University, Russia;
- Thematic Network on Arctic WASH, hosted by Arctic Technology Centre – ARTEK, Technical University of Denmark, Greenland;
- Thematic Network on Arthropods of the Tundra / NeAT, hosted by the Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark;
- Thematic Network on Global Ecological and Economic Connections in Arctic and Sub-Arctic Crab Fisheries, hosted by the Department of Sociology Environmental and Business Economics, University of Southern Denmark;
- Thematic Network on Science Diplomacy, hosted by The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA.

14. Approval of Dates for Next Meeting – UArctic Congress 2018 (Action item)

Presenters: *Outi Snellman*, UArctic Vice-President Organization
Jouko Niinimäki, Rector, University of Oulu

Document and link: [\[Proposal - Decision\]](#)

Link: [\[UArctic Congress 2018 website\]](#)

Council decision: Members of Council voted to approve the proposal with one abstention, deciding to accept the planned dates for its next meeting in September 2018, in Oulu, Finland; and request that the local planning committee works closely with the UArctic International Secretariat and the Congress International Planning Committee on defining the program and thematic focus for the 21st meeting of the Council of UArctic.

15. **Approval of Invitation to host the 2019 Council Meeting (Action item)**

Presenters: *Outi Snellman*, UArctic Vice-President Organization

Elisabet Idermark, Senior Advisor International Relations, Stockholm University

Documents: [[Proposal - Decision](#)]

[[Summary of UArctic Meetings 2001-2018](#)]

[[Call for Expression of Interest to Host UArctic Meetings 2019](#)]

[[Expression of Interest – Stockholm University](#)]

Council decision: Member members of Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal, deciding to accept the invitation from Stockholm University to host the 22nd Meeting of the Council of UArctic, in Stockholm, Sweden in 2019; and request that the local organizers work closely with the UArctic International Secretariat and the Council International Planning Committee to find suitable dates, and define a program and thematic focus for the 22nd meeting of the Council of UArctic.

16. **Other Business / Announcements**

Meeting closed.

Annex 1

Council Networking Sessions

The following list of sessions consisted of round-table discussions on topics important to UArctic's development. The discussion notes from each networking session is provided (below), and the questions, comments, and feedback received will be shared broadly with UArctic's leadership and administrative staff.

Session 1: [Multidisciplinary PhD Summer/ Field courses](#)

Session 2: [How do we demonstrate the value of UArctic to those not already participating both inside UArctic universities and those outside?](#)

Session 3: [From your own Universities, what are the main barriers to expanding the UArctic program?](#)

Session 4: [How the newly signed Agreement on Scientific Cooperation in the Arctic affect the university cooperation across the borders?](#)

Session 5: [UArctic Fundraising – How can Council Members Assist?](#)

Session 6: [Strategies to more efficiently reach out to indigenous students for mobility](#)

Session 7: [How to make mobility program support/ closer interlinkage with Thematic Networks and UArctic academic activities?](#)

Session 8: [Circumpolar studies: What next?](#)