MINUTES* of the 22nd Meeting of the Council of UArctic
September 18-20, 2019 / Stockholm, Sweden

Hosted by Stockholm University and KTH Royal Institute of Technology

In accordance with procedures, these draft minutes are first shared with the Executive Committee of the Council (Toyon) and UArctic’s Senior Leadership Team (Ma-Mawi) for comments, before being shared with all members and meeting participants for review.

22nd Meeting of the Council of UArctic

Minutes: These are minutes of the 22nd meeting of the Council of the UArctic. 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 are included.

Guest Speakers, Announcements & Presentations: Links to copies of the speeches, announcements and presentations given during various segments of the Council program are provide under agenda item 13: Other Business / Announcements.

Participation: 133 participants attended the 22nd meeting of the Council of UArctic, with 82 individual UArctic member institutions and organisation represented from 13 different countries.

Event photos: Photographs from each day of the Council program are available for download from the following link www.cutt.ly/uarctic

Council Breakout Sessions: As part of the Council program, participants took part in breakout sessions consisting of round-table discussions around UArctic Strategic Planning. Each of the 8 session groups had the same assignment to discuss the following questions:

1. What are main challenges facing the North and northerners in your region?
2. What are the real impacts that we as education institutions want to achieve?
3. What are the best ways that the UArctic network can collaboratively work to address those challenges and achieve that impact?

A summary of main conclusions from the sessions and reports is provided in Annex 1.
Council Business

Meeting Agenda / Note: As per UArctic Bylaws sub-section 2.3, only Arctic Members voted on the following agenda action items: 4, 7.2, 7.3, 8.1, 8.2, 9.1, and 9.3.

Agenda items:

1. Introduction to Council Officers, Proposals and Voting Procedures
   Presenter: Liisa Holmberg, Council Chair
   Document: Introduction to Council Proposals and Voting 2019

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda (Action item)
   Document: [Proposal - Decision]
   Decision: The members of Council voted unanimously in favour to accept the agenda for the 22nd Meeting of the Council of UArctic.

3. Approval of Minutes from 21st Council meeting (Action item)
   Documents: [Proposal - Decision]
   [Draft Minutes – 21st Council Meeting 2018]
   Decision: The members of Council voted in favour, with two abstention votes, to accept the Draft Minutes from the 21st Meeting of the Council of UArctic, held in Oulu, Finland, September 3-4, 2018.

4. Re-Election of Council Officer – Secretary
   Presenter: Lena Maria Nilsson, Chair of Nominations Committee
   Document: [Proposal - Decision]
   Decision: The members of Council voted in favour, with two abstention votes, to re-elect Lindsay Whaley as Council Secretary for a second three-year term (2019-2022).

5. UArctic Reports

5.1 Report from the President
   Presenter: Lars Kullerud, UArctic President
   Presentation: [President Report to Council 2019]
   Documents: [UArctic Annual Report 2018]
   [UArctic Financial Summary 2018]
5.2 **Report from the Board**

**Presenter:** *Peter Sköld, Chair of the Board of Governors of UArctic*

**Presentation:** [Board Report to Council 2019]

6. **Endorsement on Establishing UArctic as a legal entity – UArctic association** (Action item)

**Presenters:** *Lars Kullerud, UArctic President*

*Lauri Tarasti, Former Finnish government official, legal expert*

**Documents:** [Proposal - Decision]

[UArctic legal entity – General FAQ]

[UArctic Constitution with Annex explanations]

[UArctic Bylaws – redraft] [UArctic legal entity - Process Timeline]

[UArctic Task Force Report 2018 – Review of UArctic’s legal status]

**Decision:** The members of Council voted in favour, with four abstention votes, to support the following decisions and recommendations:

With the understanding that:

- this transition to legal status will have no substantial changes to how UArctic currently functions;

- that fundamental elements of the present bylaw are preserved in the combined UArctic Constitution and redrafted Bylaws;

- that the change will benefit members by freeing them from legal liability; and

- that members of UArctic will have stronger control of UArctic.

The Council:

a) Endorsed the process to establish UArctic as a legal entity in the form of a non-profit association under the laws of Finland.

b) Welcomed the work by Minister *Lauri Tarasti* in drafting the UArctic Constitution in line with the rules and obligations of Finnish Associations law.

c) Approved the UArctic Constitution as the governing document for the new legal entity, and calls on UArctic’s administration to submit a notice of registration to the Finnish Patent and Registration authorities for establishing the legal association UArctic ry.

d) Welcomed the redraft UArctic Bylaws, and agrees that this document may serve as an operation guideline for the new legal entity, while the UArctic Constitution shall take precedence over all legal interpretations and procedures.
e) Agreed that the Board and Council Executive Committees shall act together on UArctic’s behalf on all matters, within their authority, to ensure that the process of establishing a legal UArctic association moves forward as planned. Members look forward to receiving an update on the status of transitioning the organization towards legal status.

f) And with the successful registration of the UArctic association, members of Council look forward to the inaugural meeting of the Assembly of UArctic in early 2020, where key decision will be made, including the formal approval of regulatory documents (decisions c & d).

**Note on agenda item 6 decision:** With the favourable decision by members, immediately following the Council meeting an establishment meeting for the new UArctic association was held, with an official signing ceremony of the UArctic Charter of Association. Subsequent to that, UArctic’s administration submitted an application to the Finnish authorities to register UArctic as a non-profit association, with the decision anticipated by mid-November. Once officially registered, the transition process will begin, and with operational guidelines and key agreements in place, the new entity will start on January 1, 2020.

**Document:** [UArctic Charter of Association 2019 - signed]

**Agenda items:**

7. **UArctic Membership**
   **Document:** [Summary of Current UArctic Members]

7.1 **Introduction to New Member Applicants 2019**
   **Presenter:** *Liisa Holmberg*, Council Chair
   **Document:** [Summary of Membership Applicants 2019]

   **Presentations:**
   
   **Arctic Member / Applicants:**
   
   1. Agricultural University of Iceland
   2. Alaska Pacific University (USA)
   3. Finlandia University (USA) / no presentation - application deferment to 2020
   4. Hólar University College (Iceland)
   5. Norwegian University of Life Sciences (Norway)
   6. University College Copenhagen (Denmark)
7. \textbf{University of New Hampshire (USA)}
8. \textbf{University of Southern Maine (USA)}
9. \textbf{Anchorage Museum (USA)}
10. \textbf{ARCTICenter - University of Northern Iowa (USA)}
11. \textbf{Battelle (USA)}

\textbf{Non-Arctic Member / Applicants:}

12. Liaocheng University (China) / no presentation - application deferment to 2020
13. Grandview Institution (China) / no presentation - application deferment to 2020
14. National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (India) / verbal presentation only

\textbf{Extra Presentation:}

- \textbf{Centre for Polar Ecology - University of South Bohemia (Czech Republic)}
  The member was elected in 2017, but was unable to attend until now.

\section*{7.2 Election of New Arctic Members of UArctic (Action item)}
\textbf{Presenter:} Ljubov Radnaeva, Council Vice-Chair
\textbf{Document:} [Proposal - Decision]
\textbf{Decision:} The members of Council voted in favour, with one abstention vote, to:

\begin{itemize}
  \item a) Accept the Agricultural University of Iceland; Alaska Pacific University; Hólar University College; Norwegian University of Life Sciences; University College Copenhagen; University of New Hampshire; and the University of Southern Maine as Arctic / Higher education institution members of the University of the Arctic;
  \item b) Accept the Anchorage Museum; the ARCTICenter - University of Northern Iowa; and Battelle as Arctic / Other organization members of the University of the Arctic; and
  \item c) To defer the Arctic membership application from Finlandia University, and invite the applicant to send a representative to present their institution at the next meeting of the Council in 2020.
\end{itemize}

\section*{7.3 Election of New Non-Arctic Members of UArctic (Action item)}
\textbf{Presenter:} Lindsay Whaley, Council Secretary
\textbf{Document:} [Proposal - Decision]
Decision: The members of Council voted in favour to:

a) Accept the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research as a Non-Arctic / Other organization member of the University of the Arctic;

b) Defer the Non-Arctic membership application from Liaocheng University and Grandview Institution, and to invite the applicants to send a representative to present their institutions at the next meeting of the Council in 2020.

8 & 9 Introduction to Nomination and Election processes
Presenter: Outi Snellman, Secretary of Nominations Committee

8. Council Committees

8.1.1 Re-Election of member to Indigenous Issues Committee (Action item)
Presenter: Lena Maria Nilsson, Chair of Nominations Committee
Documents: [Proposal - Decision] [Rules of Procedure – Indigenous Issues Committee]

Decision: The members of Council voted unanimously in favour to re-elect Johan Mathis Turi as member of UArctic’s Indigenous Issues Committee for a second three-year term (2019-2022).

8.1.2 Election of new member to Indigenous Issues Committee (Action item)
Presenters: Lena Maria Nilsson, Chair of Nominations Committee
Tosh Southwick, UArctic Vice-President Indigenous
Documents: [Proposal - Decision] [Rules of Procedure – Indigenous Issues Committee]

Decision: The members of Council voted unanimously in favour to elect Eeva-Liisa Rasmus-Moilanen as member of UArctic’s Indigenous Issues Committee for an initial three-year term (2019-2022).

8.2 Election of member to Nominations Committee (Action item)
Presenter: Outi Snellman, Secretary of the Board of UArctic
Documents: [Proposal - Decision] [CV of Candidate - Nominations Committee 2019]
9. **Elections to UArctic Board of Governors**

**Presenter:** Lena Maria Nilsson, Chair of Nominations Committee

9.1 **Re-Election of members to the Board of Governors** *(Action item)*

**Document:** [Proposal - Decision]

**Decision:** The members of Council voted unanimously in favour to:

a) Re-elect **Jouko Niinimäki** as a member of UArctic's Board of Governors for a second three-year term (2019-2022).

b) Re-elect **Peter Sköld** as a member of UArctic's Board of Governors for a second three-year term (2019-2022).

9.2 **Election of New members to the Board of Governors** *(Action item)*

**Documents:** [Proposal - Decision]

[Call for Nominations – UArctic Board of Governors 2019]

[Nomination letters and References – Board Candidates 2019]

**Decision:** The members of Council voted unanimously in favour to:

a) Accept the nomination and elect **Magnús Tumi Guðmundsson** to serve as member of UArctic's Board of Governors for an initial three-year term (2019-2022).

b) Accept the nomination and elect **Lene Kielsen Holm** to serve as member of UArctic's Board of Governors for an initial three-year term (2019-2022).

c) Accept the nomination and elect **Robert Sauvé** to serve as member of UArctic's Board of Governors for an initial three-year term (2019-2022).

d) Acknowledge the contributions made by **Edwin Bourget, Tove Søvndahl Gant, Lasse Lønnum, Mikhail Jurievich Prsyazhny** and **Alexei Zavarzin**, and thank them for guiding the development of the University of the Arctic as members of the Board of Governors.
9.3 **Election of Board Student Representative** *(Action item)*

**Documents:** [Proposal - Decision]
[UArcitc Call for Board Student Nominations 2019]
[Student Nomination letter & Statement of Motivation]

**Decision:** The members of Council voted in favour, with one abstention vote, to:

a) Accept the nomination and elect **Laurie-Ann Lines** of the University of Alberta, to serve as Board Student Representative of UArctic’s Board of Governors for a fixed three-year term (2019-2022); and

b) Thank Board Student Representative, **Zachary Anstey** of Memorial University of Newfoundland for his contributions as Board Student Representative (2017-2019), and to wish him success in his future endeavours.

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

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

**Document:** [Proposal - Decision]

**Web-link:** [Current list of Friends of UArctic]

**Decision:** The members of Council voted unanimously in favour to:

a) Acknowledge the dedication and commitment of **Tove Søvndahl Gant**, **Lasse Lønnum**, **Mikhail Jurievich Prysyazhny** and **Edwin Bourget**, and to thank them for helping guide the University of the Arctic forward; and

b) Join the Board in inviting **Tove Søvndahl Gant**, **Lasse Lønnum**, **Mikhail Jurievich Prysyazhny** and **Edwin Bourget** to the Friends of UArctic.

11. **UArctic Thematic Networks**

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

11.1 **Introduction to proposed New Thematic Networks**

**Link:** [Guidelines for Establishing New Thematic Networks]

**Presentations:** [New TN on Arctic in Asia and Asia in the Arctic]
[New TN on Collaborative Resource Management]
[New TN Local-scale Planning, Climate Change, Resilience]
11.2 Approval of New Thematic Networks 2019 (Action item)
Documents: [Proposal - Decision]
[Application - New TN on Arctic in Asia and Asia in the Arctic]
[Application - New TN on Collaborative Resource Management]
[Application - New TN Local-scale Planning, Climate Change, Resilience]
Decision: The members of Council voted unanimously in favour to support the evaluation by the UArctic Thematic Networks Leadership Team and approve the provisional establishment of the following networks:
- **Thematic Network on the Arctic and Asia & Asia in the Arctic**, hosted by the Barents Institute of UiT The Arctic University of Norway.
- **Thematic Network on Collaborative Resources Management**, hosted by Nordisk Fond for Miljø og Udvikling (NORDECO), Greenland, Kingdom of Denmark.
- **Thematic Network on Local-Scale Planning, Climate Change and Resilience**, hosted by the University of Alberta, Canada.

11.3 Approval of Provisional Thematic Networks (Action item)
Documents: [Proposal - Decision]
[Activity reports – Provisional Thematic Networks 2019]
[UArctic Annual Report 2018 – Thematic Networks Activity Table]
Decision: The members of Council voted unanimously in favour to support the assessment of provisional networks by the UArctic Thematic Networks Office, and to approve the granting of full network status to the:
- **Thematic Network on Circumpolar Archives, Folklore and Ethnography (CAFE)**, hosted by the University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom.
- **Thematic Network on Renewable Energy**, hosted by the University of Saskatchewan, Canada.
- **Thematic Network on Smart Societies in the High North (SmartNorth)**, hosted by the High North Center, Nord University, Norway.
- **Thematic Network on Arctic Indigenous Skills**, hosted by the Sámi Education Institute, Finland.
- **Thematic Network on Arctic Plastic Pollution**, hosted by GRID-Arendal, Norway.

12. Plans and Dates for UArctic Congress 2020
Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, UArctic Vice-President Organization
13. Other Business / Announcements

**Guest Speakers, Announcements & Presentations:** The following speeches, announcements and presentations were given during various segments of the Council program:

- **Dag Avango**, Council representative, KTH Royal Institute of Technology [Presentation]

- **Eirik Sivertsen**, Member of the Parliament of Norway, and Chair of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region. [Intervention / Speech]

- **Ambassador Björn Lyrvall**, Senior Arctic Official for Sweden. [Remarks / Speech]

- **Lotten Gustafsson Reinius**, Prof., Stockholm University. [The Arctic – While the Ice is Melting]

- **Marina Kalinina**, UArcict Vice-President Interregional Cooperation. [Presentation]

- **Bengt Novén**, Professor of French, Stockholm University. [Accelerator – Exhibition space]

- **Michael Castellini**, Dean, University of Alaska Fairbanks. [One Health Conference 2020 - video]

- **Trudy Sable**, Director, St Mary’s University. [Nakatuenita: Respect / Innu Nation / Film trailer]

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Meeting Closed
ANNEX 1.

Summary of Council Meeting Breakout Sessions: UArctic Strategic Plan 2030 Development

This is a summary of main conclusions of the breakout sessions and the summary reports from these sessions held during the Council meeting in Stockholm on Sept 19 and 20, 2019. The input from Council members is a key input into the development of the UArctic Strategic Plan 2030, and will be reviewed by UArctic’s senior leadership (Ma-Mawi) and the Board.

All participants were divided into groups and each asked to address three questions:

1. What are main challenges facing the North and northerners?
2. What are the real impacts that we as education institutions want to achieve?
3. What are best ways that the UArctic network can collaboratively work to address those challenges and achieve that impact?

As there was considerable overlap in the presentation of the latter two questions, feedback from these were grouped together (Solutions/UArctic Actions).

Main Challenges

- Climate crisis exacerbates all other pressures
- Shifting migration patterns (out-migration, aging, depopulation, brain drain, gender dimension)
- Persistence of colonial legacies and power structures
  - Implementing indigenous self-determination
- “Access and Autonomy” generally - how to overcome to create capacity in:
  - Quality, relevant education
  - Health care
  - Skilled/specialist local labour (doctors, teachers, etc)
  - Transportation infrastructure
  - Communications infrastructure and connectivity
  - Food security
  - Sustainable energy
  - Sanitation
- Lack of innovation/opportunities for innovation (public-sector dominated)
- Gaps between universities, communities, and decision-makers
  - Knowledge of the Arctic is low outside the region, where decision-making power resides, both politically and economically
  - Gaps between research/researchers and indigenous and local communities, limited co-production of knowledge (who sets research questions)
  - Universities/HEIs are not delivering the education that communities need (educated for jobs in the South?)
- Increased attention and pressure from outside the region (tourism, energy, transportation, resource extraction)
Council Breakout Sessions / Summary

Solutions / UArctic Actions

• Accessible, relevant and high-quality education
• Educating others about the North (newcomers, decision-makers outside the region)
• “Empowering/Empowerment” language problem. The word empowering implies that we (universities, UArctic?) have the power, and they (northerners) don’t.
• UArctic as a clearing-house for knowledge - Sharing knowledge, sharing experiences
• General support to go beyond just sharing practices, to UArctic being more prescriptive towards its members, esp. decolonizing academic institutions and structures (transformative)
  o Bylaws, Policies, guidelines, best practices for how members should work on relevant issues
  o Co-production of knowledge, decolonization of academia education systems, guidelines for ethical research
  o Internationalization - opening up institutions, breaking down barriers
  o Changing education markets and structures. How education is “consumed” and experienced.
  o Connectivity and distance delivery
  o Concrete suggestions that UArctic adopt a climate/carbon footprint policy for its own operations (travel, meeting organization, program operation, etc)
• UArctic cannot save the world on its own, but we can make it a better place.
  o Need for allies from outside the region
  o UArctic can shift academic paradigms and create new innovative partnerships