



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

MINUTES

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Of the meeting of the Council of the University of the Arctic, 5-7 November 2001

Luleå University of Technology, Luleå, Sweden

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 State University of Russia, Council Vice-Chair
Bård Berg, University of Tromsø, Council Secretary
Peter Johnson, ACUNS
Leslie King, ACUNS alternate
Judith Hughes, Athabasca University
Margaret Imrie, Aurora College
Jan Eirik Johnsen, Barents Secretariat (new member)
Steve Young, Center for Northern Studies
Robert Robson, Lakehead University (new member)
Per-Åke Nilsson, Mid Sweden University
Kaijaleena Serlo, Oulu Polytechnic (new member)
Paula Poikela, Rovaniemi Polytechnic
Johan-Daniel Haetta, Saami University College
Larissa Pissareva, Sakha State University of Russia alternate
Outi Korpilähde, Sami Education Centre
Maritta Mäenpää, Sami Education Centre alternate
Rune Rydén, Scandinavian Seminar Group
Jón Haukur Ingimundarsson, Stefansson Arctic Institute
Kari Strand, Thule Institute alternate (for Boris Segerstahl)
Wolfgang Greller, UHI Millennium Institute
Birgitte Jacobsen, University of Greenland
Outi Snellman, (CCO) University of Lapland (for Juha Pöyhönen)
Robin Fisher, UNBC
Noel Broadbent, Umeå University
Aron Senkpiel, Yukon College alternate

CCO

Outi Snellman
Scott Forrest
Kasia Kneblewski

Observers & Program Coordinators

Rector Ingegerd Palmér, Luleå University of Technology

Karen Axelsson-Grafstrom, Luleå University of Technology

Mika Flojt, BoG Student representative

Erling Olsen, BoG Representative

Manfred Lange, University of Münster

Kathleen Osgood Dana, Centre for Northern Studies

1. Opening and introductions

2. Adoption of Agenda [[Agenda](#)]

Council accepts agenda with the following changes:

- That Committee Chair reiterate a list of committee members when presenting the work of their committees
- That a five minute presentation on the Northern Collection of the Luleå University Library be inserted at end of Session II
- That in Session III discussion of roles of committee chairs, a discussion of the role of the Council Secretary be included
- That Item 8.3 precede 8.1
- That Item 10 precede item 9

3. Approval of Minutes from Rovaniemi [[Minutes](#)]

Council accepts minutes with the following changes:

- That Aurora College be included in the list of approved institutions under Item 3
- That the third committee listed under Item 5 read “Registrarial Committee” instead of “Program Committee”
- That under the list of Attendees, Robert’s last name be spelled “Kadas”, not “Kades”

4. Membership Issues [[Procedures](#)]

Members:

Leslie King (ACUNS alternate until replacement is identified), Chair

Cindy Dickson (CYFN)

Johan-Daniel Haetta (Saami University College)

Peter Johnson (ACUNS, until replacement is identified)

The Committee presently receives and reviews applications and makes recommendations to Council and will soon be going through the process of creating bilateral agreements between UArctic and each of the member institutions.

There are two vacancies on the Membership Committee; Committee will investigate addition of new members.

Council agrees that Oulu Polytechnic be accepted as a member of UArctic.

[Oulu Polytechnic](#) [[Application](#)]

Council agrees that Lakehead University be accepted as a member of UArctic.
[Lakehead University \[Application\]](#)

Council agrees that Barents Virtual University be accepted as a member of UArctic. Decision on UArctic reciprocal membership in BVU is pending (see Item 11.4).
[Barents Virtual University \[Application\]](#)

Council agrees that all membership applications should be accompanied by a letter from the head of the institution clearly stating their interest in joining the University of the Arctic.

Council tables application from Royal Roads University. The CCO will seek a letter of support from the head of the institution and the participation of an institutional representative at the next Council meeting. Council will seek proof of commitment to indigenous learning.

5. Developing Registrarial Capacity for the University of the Arctic

Gunilla Johansson and Karen Axelsson-Grafstrom (Luleå University of Technology) present a model for international student exchange and credit transfer, as used by Luleå University of Technology [report]

Discussion highlights that credit transfer and registrarial issues are a key concern, and beyond the ability of the Registrarial or Program committee, or the BCS Team to deal with.

Council agrees that registrarial and credit transfer issues should be made a special priority. The Executive Committee and the CCO will develop a draft document to present to Council at the next meeting. These issues will also be directed to the network of national mobility agencies within the Circumpolar Mobility Program.

6. Governance Issues

6.2 Roles of Committee Chairs, Officers, CCO

Council agrees that Committee chairs are members of Council (primary or alternate), and that this should be added to the Rules of Procedure and reflected in individual committee terms of reference .

Council agrees that the role of secretary would mainly be to assist the Chair, Vice-Chair and CCO by monitoring the work of committees, and assisting/encouraging that work, where appropriate, between Council meetings. This role would also include assisting the committees to develop fuller terms of reference, and coordinating committee membership with the CCO.

6.2 Nominations of New Committees

6.2a Indigenous Issues Committee [\[Draft Terms of Reference\]](#)

Council approves Cindy Dickson (CYFN) as Chair of the Committee.

Council agrees that Cindy Dickson (CYFN) should initiate consultations for additional members, and bring back nominations to Council. Council suggests that:

- all members of the Committee be indigenous
- include Council members, as well as community members including elder and student representatives.
- Gordon Pullar and Oscar Kawagley (both University of Alaska Fairbanks) were suggested as possible members. Council members should send other suggestions directly to Cindy Dickson.

Council agrees that the committee develop its own terms of reference to be submitted to Council for approval. Council suggests that these terms of reference strongly reflect that the Committee is a full committee of Council, not merely an advisory committee.

6.2b External Relations Committee [\[Draft Terms of Reference\]](#)

Council tentatively approves draft of committee terms of reference, with the change that “normally” is to be removed from Chair description, in accordance with the Council decision that Committee chairs be primary or alternate members of Council. The Committee will further develop these terms of reference.

Council approves Rune Rydén (Scandinavian Seminar Group) as Chair of the Committee.

Other membership (chosen in consultation with the Chair):

Karen Erickson (UAF)

Wolfgang Geller (UHI)

Larissa Pisareva (Sakha State University)

Margaret Imrie (Aurora College)

Outi Snellman (CCO, Secretary)

Bill Heal (Circle of Elders)

This committee will coordinate with the Board of Governors on key issues, but its organization will be kept separate.

7. Nominations Issues

7.1 Director process

Robin Fisher (UNBC), Chair of Nominations Committee, presents a report on the director selection process. Committee gives its recommendation of two candidates to be given to the Board of Governors to conduct interviews and complete the selection process.

The director position is initially funded by the Finnish government. Additional funds for travel are to be sought by the Board of Governors prior to the appointment, as well as by the Director upon appointment. The candidates were selected according to the following criteria:

- leadership
- interdisciplinarity of scholarship
- understanding of arctic peoples
- formal educational qualifications
- amount of circumpolar experience

Council approves the two short-listed candidates (names withheld for confidentiality).

Council approves the following recommendations to the Board of Governors for the final selection process:

- There should be a face to face interview with both candidates.
- The two other potential candidates (not forwarded to the BoG) will drop off, and not be held in reserve.
- A representative from Council and a representative of the CCO should be in the interviewing group.
- Interviewing group should pay special attention to the candidate's understanding of indigenous peoples, and ability to work with a wide variety of peoples and cultures.

- The interviewing group should act as quickly as possible to put complete the recruitment process.

7.2 New Board of Governors Nominations

The Board of Governors requested to have a student member, on the understanding that this is an interim role until a more formal process of student representation could be established. The BoG nominates Mika Flöjt.

Council approves nomination of Mika Flöjt to the Board of Governors.

7.3 New Elders Nominations

Council acknowledges acceptance of appointments to the Circle of Elders.

Membership:

Asgeir Brekke

Sheila-Watt-Cloutier

President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson of Iceland

Bill Heal

Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen of Finland

President Mikhail Efimovich Nikolaev of Sakha Republic (Yakutia)

Ingegerd Palmer

Esko Rieppula

8. Program Issues

8.1 Program Committee issues [\[report\]](#)

Peter Johnson (ACUNS), Chair of Program Committee presents.

8.1a Terms of Reference

Council approves changes to Program Committee's Terms of Reference, reflecting the previous Council decision that the Director *not* be Chair of the Program Committee, but an *ex officio* member.

8.1b Field School [\[proposal\]](#)

Council approves concept of a UArctic Field School, and asks that the Program Committee develop the proposal further. Council suggests that the Committee examine the possibility of including local youth in these field courses, as a way of encouraging participation in higher education in the North.

8.1c Program Development and Cooperation

Presented in Committee report.

8.2 Reports from Existing Programs

8.2a Northern Research Forum [\[Report\]](#)

Jon Haukur Ingimundarsson (Stefansson Arctic Institute), NRF Secretary, presents.

Themes have been prepared for next Forum, Sept 2002, in Novgorod, Russia, mainly focussing on Russia. Search for funding is underway

8.2b Circumpolar PhD Network in Arctic Environmental Studies (CAES) [[web](#)]
Katja Ruth (Luleå University of Technology) presents.

Katja Ruth presents CAES PhD network report, outlining structure of the network, its activities. Interdisciplinary network, with an electronic discussion forum supporting interdisciplinarity. Discussion questions are focussed around a key topic in the course:

- Industrial impacts on natural and social environments (NW Russia) - 2001
- The role of tourism in northern development (Iceland) - 2002

8.3 Reports from Core Program Development Teams

8.3a Arctic Learning Environment (ALE) [[report](#)]
Judith Hughes (Athabasca University), ALE Team Chair, presents.

What ALE really needs is funding for web designers. Teachers who have subsequent studies in web design are ideal for this purpose.

ALE Team notes decisions required of the Council before ALE development can fully proceed:

- whose students are these? (registrarial and student services issues)
- library resources—how they be shared among institutions?
- what services will be provided by home institution?
- what strategy will we follow with regard to stable funding?
- Membership of ALE Team, expansion. Seeks expansion of the team.

It is noted that Program Development Teams are not formal committees, and do not have the same formal rules for membership. Therefore, the ALE Team can follow its own process in expanding membership, bearing in mind the need for broad representation of different regions, cultures, and interests.

8.3b Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies (BCS) [[report](#)]
Aron Senkpiel (Yukon College) and Jón Haukur Ingimundarsson (Stefansson Arctic Institute), BCS Team co-chairs, present.

Team notes that there is not yet a document of the same type as the ALE and CMP documents, but a new one should be available for the next Council meeting. Team expresses thanks to CCO, many people at Athabasca University to the development of BCS. Remarks on the significant progress in developing real content for the BCS100 course. BCS100: 9 of 15 modules complete. Next BCS meeting follows Luleå Council meeting. Ready to pilot course in January.

Notes that issues of copyright and library access need to be addressed generally between institution, perhaps through memoranda of understanding. Institutions involved in BCS pilot delivery should have their administrations focus on these issues.

Council endorses work of BCS Team, and recognizes the Team's stress on the importance of a balanced and consultative process.

8.3c Circumpolar Mobility Project (CMP) [[report](#)]
Outi Snellman (University of Lapland), CMP Team Chair presents report.

New membership additions, Thorleifur Bjornsson (University of Akureyri), Margaret Imrie (Aurora College). For the moment Claudia is the only Russian member, but we would like to approach a Russian member from the Barents region. Seeks suggestions from the Council.

Team will not hold a physical meeting until there are funds to do so. Team has developed its terms of reference.

North2north Program. Finnish government has allocated 80,000USD for the establishment of a CMP, and sought parallel funding from other Arctic states. Only Sweden committed by June. North2north currently being addressed by Arctic Council. Program includes a network of national agencies for student mobility in each Arctic country. International meeting will be held in March 2002, involving national agency network, reps of program administrators from participating institutions, and CMP team. Finland's initial funding may be used to organize this meeting.

NorthTREX program. Stresses the need for Council members to register for Mobile Faculty Roster, and apologizes for previous technical difficulties.

Barents Secretariat notes that it may be able to use its funding for bilateral exchange with Russia in place of Norwegian national funding for CMP north2north.

8.4 Introduction and approval of new programs

In the context of discussion new program additions, Council discussed the need to maintain focus on Core Programs (BCS, ALE, CMP) and issues of access for UArctic's primary client group. The Council reiterated that these were the main areas of development and for which funding should be sought. Council also stressed that the inclusion of advanced-level courses were entirely consistent with UArctic's mission, and as they generally come to UArctic as already operational programs, they demand very little in terms of administration, development work, or fundraising. In this sense they provide a genuine added value, and bring valuable partners into the process. This discussion speaks to concerns voiced by some members of the Council and Board of Governors, that UArctic may become distracted by new programs that are not focussed on Core programs or address access for our primary client group.

Council agrees that the Executive Committee start a process to develop a 10-year Strategic Development Plan.

Suggestion that a theme of the next CUA Conference, in Whitehorse, Yukon, directly address issues of access to higher education in the North.

Council agrees to respond formally to the Board of Governors on this issue.

8.4a Expert course in Environmental Assessment [\[proposal\]](#)

Kathrine Johnsen (GRID Arendal) presents program.

Program is notable, in that it is not a ready-made program, but requires active cooperation from UArctic and its partners to develop. Strong indigenous partners (Sami Council, RAIPON), and purpose that is very consistent with UArctic goals and values in its combination of western and traditional knowledge. These factors make it a worthy project for partnership. Arctic Centre will take the lead in the programmatic development. GRID Arendal will act as project coordinator and overall administrator.

Council approves program as a Expert course in Environmental Assessment as a UArctic Program. Endorses the Committee's suggestion that an undergraduate course in Environmental

Assessment be developed as an outcome of the program. The Council seeks regular updates on this program's development.

8.4b Glacio EuroLab proposal [\[proposal\]](#)

Scott Forrest (University of Lapland) presents on behalf of John Moore (Arctic Centre/University of Lapland).

A parallel course in northern Canada is now also being developed.

Council approves GlacioEuroLab as a UArctic Program.

8.4c Archaeology and Environmental Archaeology proposal [\[proposal\]](#)

Noel Broadbent (Umeå University) presents proposal.

Council approves Archaeology and Environmental Archaeology as a UArctic Program.

8.4d Tourism Program [\[proposal\]](#)

Per-Åke Nilsson (Mid-Sweden University) presents proposal.

Concern is raised over the inclusion of indigenous perspectives on tourism in the program. BCS Team states that they are about to begin development of Advanced Emphases, and Tourism proposal would make a good candidate for such development.

Council instructs the BCS PDT to work with Mid-Sweden University to develop the proposal further for possible eventual inclusion as an advanced emphases, noting the need for focussed attention to be given to the issue of the role of indigenous peoples in northern tourism.

8.4e IRISEN II [\[proposal\]](#)

Manfred Lange (University of Münster) presents proposal, which is based on the first IRISEN course, previously a UArctic program.

Field course is carried out at Abisko, in northern Sweden, and funding is available for students from EU countries, accession states, and Russia. Other students are welcome to participate if parallel funding can be secured. All UArctic institutions may participate through video broadcasts of lectures.

Council notes the need to address ways to bring complimentary funding to bear for such courses, where it is not provided by regional program funders (EU).

Council approves IRISEN-II as a UArctic Program.

9. Communications Issues

Scott Forrest (CCO) reports

Notes that UArctic internal web site is to be used for all Council and committee documents. Members participating in Council meetings should download and make hard copies of documents prior to coming to meeting. Those with technical difficulties should contact CCO.

An online 'membership package' will be developed with resources for member institutions. The UArctic Graphic Guidelines will be put online, to direct the proper usage of the UArctic logo and other graphic materials. [\[membership package\]](#)

10. Board of Governors Issues

10.1 Draft Budget 2000-2005 [\[draft budget\]](#)

Outi Snellman (CCO) presents draft budget.

Stresses that this is a draft budget, and requires considerable guidance from Council regarding funding strategy, the inclusion of unplanned programs (Masters program?) and capacity (academic office?), and other key assumptions (definitions of in kind vs. new funding, national budgeting variations). Key issue is the need for sustained funding for the infrastructure of the University, not just its core programs.

Consensus is that the development of the budget is important and work-intensive, and beyond the capacity of the CCO or External Relations Committee to handle alone. The Director will play a key role in developing the budget.

Council approves the creation of a Task Force for budget development: Outi Snellman (CCO), Robin Fisher (UNBC) for Nominations Committee/Executive Committee, Rune Rydén (Scandinavian Seminar Group) for External Relations Committee, Judith Hughes (Athabasca University) for Core Implementation Team. Task force is to be easy to expand and short-term. It is not to develop the long-term Strategic Plan.

10.2 BoG Priorities and Action Plan

Dr. Polit. Erling Olsen presents on behalf of Board of Governors.

Notes appointment of Oran Young as Chair of BoG, and role of BoG in seeking funding and developing budgets for UArctic. Encouraged by development of ALE and BCS, and stresses the opportunities these programs present for government funding. Expresses some concern over spreading ourselves too thin with new members and programs. Recommends focus on development and delivery of BCS.

11. Future Strategies + External Relations

11.1 Northern eDimension [\[document\]](#)

Outi Snellman (University of Lapland) presents.

Strong interest in Finland, from Rector Esko Rieppula (University of Lapland, member of Circle of Elders) to keep UArctic on the EU agenda in the context of the Northern Dimension. Northern eDimension paper is an outcome of that process, to define UArctic interests in emerging IT infrastructure development in the northern dimension of the EU. Paper serves as an advocacy document in the EU political context, and is presented for Council's information.

11.2 Russian Needs and Priorities

Larissa Pisareva (Sakha State University) presents.

Initial consultation among higher education establishments involved in UArctic activities concluded that main obstacle to Russian participation is financial. Need to address development of computer networks/technology, as well as the language barrier, and issues of access in Russia.

Now evident that main problem may not be financial, but in assessing capacity across northern Russia. Need to coordinate development between the Russian northwest (Kola/Karelia) and far East (Yakutsk), and find where programs and resources can be shared with UArctic.

The issue of Russian membership on the Council is also addressed. Two representatives have participated thus far for practical and financial reasons (Kola Science Centre for the Russian northwest, Yakutsk State University for the far East). The issue of expanded Russian membership could be addressed in more detail at the next Council meeting, and also in the Northern Research Forum in Novgorod.

Council agrees that the BCS Committee and Registrarial committee will address ways to deal with issues of accrediting UArctic courses in Russia.

11.3 Arctic Council Observer Status [\[proposal\]](#)

Otti Snellman (CCO) presents proposal.

UArctic seeks observer status on the Arctic Council as a way of formalizing its relationship with that body.

Council agrees to proceed with application to the Arctic Council first as an *ad hoc* observer, then as a permanent observer.

11.4 Membership in Barents Virtual University

BVU applied for membership in UArctic with the expectation that UArctic become a member of BVU. However, there is not yet any formal process for UArctic to become a member of another organization.

Council delays decision on this issue until general rules for UArctic's participation in other organizations can be developed by the External Relations Committee.

12. Next Meeting

12.1 Proposal from Yakutia for Spring 2002 meeting

Claudia Fedorova (Sakha State University) presents invitation to hold next meeting in Yakutia. Venue will be a river boat with full accommodation and conference facilities on board. Notes possible difficulties in obtaining visas. Yakutsk will work with CCO to provide instructions for obtaining visas and other practical information on the internal web site.

Council thanks Yakutia for the invitation, and **approves** Yakutia as the venue of the next Council meeting, with the date tentatively scheduled for mid-June, 2002.

12.2 Tentative agreement on Fall 2002 meeting

Offer from Aurora College to organize a meeting in Yellowknife, NWT. Suggestions of Alaska, Novgorod, and Dartmouth for Fall 2002 Council meeting. An Alaskan venue is to be explored in consultation with Alaskan representatives on Council. No decision taken.

12.3 Tentative agreement on Spring 2003 meeting

Suggestion to hold the meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon, in conjunction with the next CUA conference, in May/June 2003.

13. Other Business

Council meeting concludes, with thanks to Gunilla Johansson and organizers from Luleå University of Technology.