MINUTES
Of the sixth meeting of the Council of the University of the Arctic, November 11-13, 2003, hosted by Yukon College and Arctic Athabascan Council.

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

Participants

Council members:
Yukon College, Sally Webber, Chair of Council
Sakha State University, Claudia Fedorova, Vice-Chair of Council
University of Tromsø, Bård A. Berg, Secretary of Council
Athabasca University, John Ollerenshaw
Arctic Athabaskan Council, Chris Paci (rep. Cindy Dickson)
Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies, James McDonald
Aurora College, Margaret Imrie
Barents Virtual University, Igor Shpyakin
Bodø Regional University, Bjørn Sagdahl
Finmark University College, Ketil Hanssen
Gwichin Council International, Ethel Blake (new-member)
Harstad University College, Anne Riise (new-member)
Kemi-Tornio Polytechnic, Annikki Pulkkinen
Lakehead University, Chris Southcott
Lakehead University, Robert Robson
Luleå University of Technology, Sven Knutsson
McGill University, Laurie H.M Chan (new-member)
Northern Feminist University, Lindis Sloan (new-member)
Nunavut Arctic College, Malcolm Clendenning
Oulu Polytechnic, Kaajaleena Serlo
Roskilde University, Rasmus O. Rasmusen
Saint Mary's University, Jim Sharpe
Sami Education Centre, Outi Korpilähde
Sami University College, Johan-Daniel Häätta
Scandinavian Seminar, Rune Rydén
Stefansson Arctic Institute, Jón Haukur Ingimundarson
Tromsø University College, Tore Nesheim
Umeå University, Peter Sköld
University of Alaska Fairbanks, Richard Caulfield
University of Alberta, Nancy Gibson
University Courses on Svalbard, Eystein Markussen
University of Greenland, Birgitte Jacobsson
University of Lapland, Aini Linjakumpu
University of Manitoba, Leslie King (new-member)
University of Northern British Columbia, Deborah Poff
University of Oulu, Riitta Kataja
University of Regina, Michael MacLean
University of Saskatchewan, Walter Archer

Observers:
Vivian Elias, Athabasca University
Dave Roddick, Arctic Athabaskan Council, CYFN
Keith Maguire, Arctic Athabaskan Council, CYFN
Mr Andrew Robulack, Arctic Athabaskan Council
Ms Noeline Villebrun, Arctic Athabaskan Council
Päivi Soppela, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland
Timo Koivurova, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland
Robert Kadas, Dept. of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada
Ben Saylor, Healy Lake Traditional Council
Pat Saylor, Healy Lake Traditional Council
John Crump, ISP
Alyce Johnson, Kluane First Nations
Mary Easterson, Kluane First Nations
Leta Blackjack, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nations
Dawn Charlie, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nations
Lise Wolf, Mentasta Traditional Council
Joella Hogan, Na Cho Nyak Dun First Nations
Walter Stickman, Nulato Tribal Council
Terri Lee Isaac, Selkirk First Nations
Birgitte Åhman, Swedish University of Agric. Sciences
Isaac A. Juneby, Eagle Village Council
Anne Tayler, Yukon College

Presentations:
Piers McDonald, IPY
Andrew Bjerring, CANARIE
Paul Reichard, University Alaska Fairbanks

Administration:
Lars Kullerud, Director
Outi Snellman, Debuty Director, International Secretariat
Scott Forrest, Information Manager, International Secretariat
Riitta Aikio, Project Secretary, International Secretariat
Kirk Tyler, International Secretariat
Session I

1. Opening of the Meeting
Council observed a moment of silence for Board of Governors member Ingmar Egede (Greenland) who passed away in the summer.
Welcome address from Chair of the Council of the University of the Arctic, by Sally Webber (Yukon College)
Welcome address from meeting co-host, Yukon College, by Amanda Tayler
Welcome address from meeting co-host, Arctic Athabascan Council, by Nolene Villegram, National Grand Chief of Dene Nation

2. Approval of the Agenda
[Agenda]
Council approves the agenda, with the following changes:

- Item #11, addition of announcement by Larry Bagnell (MP, Yukon) on behalf of the Government of Canada
- Item #25, Next UArctic Council meeting, moved to the beginning of Session V
(Note: agenda items are presented according to their agenda numbers, even if they were handled chronologically out of turn in the actual meeting)

3. Introduction of Council Members
Council members introduce themselves and their member affiliation.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes
[Akurevri Draft Minutes]
Council approves the Minutes of the fifth Council meeting of the University of the Arctic, in Akureyri, Iceland, without changes.

Session II: Membership
Introduction from James McDonald (ACUNS), Chair of the Membership and Nominations Committee

5. Round of introductions
5.1 Gwich’in Council International (Other Organization), presented by Ethel Blake on behalf of Joe Linklater and Stephen Mills, who were unable to attend.
Gwich’in Council International is a permanent participant organization at the Arctic Council, representing the Gwich’in nations in Alaska, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. They support the goal of UArctic providing programs for indigenous students and issues, partnership between indigenous peoples and other northerners. Gwich’in Council International will support UArctic in developing learning resources and focussing on education for indigenous students and other northerners.

5.2 **University of Manitoba** (Higher Education Institution), presented by Leslie King.

The University of Manitoba has a new faculty of the Environment which includes a number of northern- and aboriginal-focussed programs and activities. The institution as a whole has a particular expertise in Arctic Systems Science, and a field station in Churchill. The University is also engaged in educational delivery across the north of the province.

5.3 **Harstad University College** (Higher Education Institution), presented by Anne Riise

Founded in 1996, Harstad is located just south of Tromso. The University College has 1250 students in Bachelor-level programs, with particular focuses in travel and tourism, retail management, and business administration with plans to develop more programs in English and more programs with an Arctic profile.

5.4 **Northern Feminist University** (Other Organization), presented by Lindis Elisabeth Sloan

Located north of Bodo, the Northern Feminist University is a centre of knowledge, research, and exchange. It cooperates with Bodo Regional University, which gives exams and accreditation. It has a number of cooperative northern programs, including a research network on violence against women in Fennoscandia and Russia and Women in the Northern Landscape. The Northern Feminist University is also a regional resource centre for northern ecology.

5.5 **Centre for Indigenous Peoples’ Nutrition and Environment (McGill University)** (Other Organization), presented by Laurie Chan

The Centre for Indigenous Peoples’ Nutrition and Environment (CINE) was created by the initiative of indigenous organizations as a research centre specializing in the effects of environmental changes on traditional lifestyles, diets, and food traditions. Located at McGill University, it is an autonomous unit, with a governing board of representatives of Canadian indigenous organizations. The Centre also organizes extension courses through the three northern colleges, as well as online.

It is noted that this is not an institutional application from McGill University, which is free to apply later as a Higher Educational Institution.

6. **Approval of New Members**

Council approves the membership applications of Gwich’in Council International, the University of Manitoba, Harstad University College, the Northern Feminist University,
and the Centre for Indigenous Peoples’ Nutrition and Environment, and warmly welcomes them to the University of the Arctic.

Session III: Strategic Program Development

7. Board report

[Minutes of Board Meeting, October 2003]

Presented by Outi Snellman on behalf of Oran Young

The Board of Governors met for a very busy and productive session in Reykjavik, Iceland, October 24-25, 2003. The Board discussed the process for initiating an Arctic Educational Ministerial, to be hosted by Iceland prior to the conclusion of its term as Chair of the Arctic Council. A draft work plan for fundraising was also developed, based on the previously approved Strategic Plan and Funding Strategy. The Board approved a blueprint for programs organization, which established the Senior Management Group for coordination of UArctic programs.

Additionally, the Board reviewed its procedures and membership. The terms of current Board members expire just after the next Council meeting in Fairbanks, though most indicate their willingness to continue. The Board also expressed a desire to nominate two additional Board members, a representative of indigenous peoples and with background and experience in the private sector. The Board is also developing procedures for the selection of its student representative.

8. Director’s report

Presented by Lars Kullerud

The University of the Arctic is shifting steadily from planning and development to actual delivery, and the reorganization of its programs and the operation of the Senior Management Group reflects this new reality.

The roles of the Board, Council, programs and administration in shaping UArctic are all critical. The message is clear that UArctic cannot become just like any other university, but needs to keep its northern and community focus, and meaningfully incorporate indigenous perspectives in its programs. This discussion about who and what we are is critical and will continue.

The University of the Arctic has a strong relationship with the Arctic Council. UArctic has participated in numerous Arctic Council related activities, including organizing background papers to the conference on Information and Communications Technology in the Arctic, and initiating programs-level cooperation between the organizations. The process to initiate an Arctic Education Ministerial is important to promote the role of education in northern cooperation and sustainable development.

Fundraising is key to the future of the University of the Arctic, and the Strategic plan and the Fundraising Strategy are guiding tools for this work. Members of the Council, Board, and some Friends are actively engaged in national-level fundraising teams seeking
relevant sources of stable funding in each country. There has been good progress in many Canada and several Nordic countries, with good early discussions also in Alaska and Russia. Representatives of the national fundraising teams give a brief summary of activities in each country.

Council is reminded to communicate funding approaches to the relevant program chair and/or the International Secretariat. The Director is working with the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat to seek funding to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples’ representative in UArctic meetings.

9. **International Polar Year and UArctic**

Piers Macdonald, Canadian Polar Commission

Presentation of the proposed International Polar Year, 2007-2008, which is designed to promote a coordinated and collaborative approach to scientific research and bring public attention to current scientific activities in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions. The major themes of the IPY will be Exploration of New Frontiers, Understanding Change at the Poles, Decoding Polar Processes. The International Council for Science (ICSU) has established an IPY working group. An important issue will be how to include the human dimension in the IPY.

**Council approves** a motion to set up a Council Task Force to plan and coordinate UArctic IPY activities, with one member from each country, one indigenous representative, and a student/youth representative, with the Director as general UArctic representative. Representatives on the Task Force should have strong links to the scientific community. The Task Force will organize itself once representatives have been chosen by the next Council meeting.

10. **ICT/CANARIE**

Andrew Bjerring, President and CEO of CANARIE

CANARIE is Canada's advanced Internet development organization, and its role in developing Canada's electronic information network, higher education learning network, and future plans for infrastructure are presented. Founded 1990, incorporated 1993, CANARIE operates the CA*Net national backbone, and participates in national access projects such as Connecting Canadians (1994) and the recently announced National Satellite Initiative (October 2003). CANARIE also operates in partnership with international activities like the European E-Infrastructure Initiative (6th framework, e-learning grids), US Cyberinfrastructure Initiative, and UK E-Science Initiative.

ICT access to Canada's North is presented, showing the connectivity to centres in Iqaluit, Fort Smith, and Whitehorse. Stresses that in the North, that the more remote the community, the more compelling the case for having broadband access. Nunavut users will continue to use Satellite for education and health. Colleges in NWT and Yukon have DS3, new fibre, or satellite options. Discussions are continuing on how to improve northern access. CANARIE is also participating in the development of an educational Learning Object Repository with EduSource Canada.
11. **North2north Program**

Chris Southcott (Lakehead University), north2north Program Chair  
Kaijaleena Serlo (Oulu Polytechnic), north2north Program Vice-Chair  

The basic structure of the program is presented, with practical information for members on how to participate in the program, institutional requirements, and advice for recruiting students. Suggestions for support services for both outgoing and incoming international exchange students is also presented, highlighting updated web information, student housing, ‘survival courses,’ peer and teacher tutoring, international coordinators in faculties/departments, international clubs, student unions, and the international office. The experience Nordic institutions with Nordic, European and other international exchange programs is a great resource for UArctic institutions with less international experience or capacity.

North2North announcement  
[Press Release]  
Larry Bagnell, Member of Parliament, Yukon  

Canada announces it participation in the north2north program, with a funding base of $440,000Cdn from Human Resources Development Canada. This funding will be leveraged by seeking additional private funds for student mobility grants. The participation of Canadian institutions is organized through a consortium that acts as the Canadian national agency. Chris Southcott will follow-up with practical information for exchanges between participating Canadian institutions and existing north2north participants.

IV: Program Team Reports and Program Team Action Items

12. **Reports from Programs (including action items)**

12.1 Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies  
[Program Report]  
Greg Poelzer, Dean of Undergraduate Studies  

Presents current status of BCS program:  
- Canadian funding from DFAIT has enabled the establishment of the position of Dean of Undergraduate Studies  
- Danish funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is supporting Russian participation in BCS and the development of Russian curriculum materials  
- Courses have been launched, with Introduction and all Core courses scheduled for online delivery in 2003-2004 academic year
• Continued support from Athabasca University (web support and editing), Yukon College (teaching resources), and UNBC (registrarial support)

• Process for TEMPUS application to support BCS degree development and Bologna process in Russia.

• Four Advanced Emphases approved: Arctic Governance, Scandinavian Politics and Society, Arctic Environmental Technology and Arctic Meteorology and Oceanography


• Review process for existing BCS curriculum materials underway, with a planned three year revision cycle, and strong indigenous participation in review process.

• Developing a delivery model for teaching consortia, where teaching resources and enrolment places would be shared between the consortium members

• Established an academic year that can accommodate the plurality of start dates. Fall: Sept 15 start date, Dec 15 end date. Spring: Feb 1 to April 30

• Actively working with members to incorporate BCS courses and programs locally. University of Lapland and Bodø Regional University are already putting BCS courses on their calendars

• Plans to more actively promote BCS program on member campuses and in communities

12.2 North2North
Overall, the success of the pilot has been limited by the lack of Canadian participation, which has resulted in low numbers of student exchanges due to the limited number of participating institutions outside the Nordic countries (only UAF and Sakha State University).

Key Issues:

1. Bring north2north successfully through the pilot phase and extend the program to include all relevant countries.

2. Secure funding for the Dean of Mobility. Sent a proposal for that possibility.

3. Funding for Russian students. Piecemeal process for Russian students.

4. Funding for the northTREX faculty mobility program. Danish govt provided funding for four exchanges. Lakehead is making a grant for one northTREX position.

5. Organize a Conference on Circumpolar Mobility. Lakehead may host such a conference.
6. Assist in establishment of a National Agency in Russia, perhaps along the model of the Canadian consortium.

7. Internship Mobility. A possible New Mobility Program with UArctic, in cooperation with IISD’s Arctic Council Internship Program.

8. Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Both programs will have two program teams with the same composition. Chris Southcott (Chair of north2north), Kaijaleena Serlo (Chair of northTREX)

Council approves the north2north program’s plans to conduct an evaluation of the pilot, in cooperation with the participating national agencies, Senior Management Group, and UArctic Administration. The Program Team will take immediate action and present the status of the evaluation at the next Council meeting.

Council approves motion to thanking the government of Canada and HRDC for joining in this exciting program. Canada is instrumental in making this program truly Circumpolar. Mobility is a key capacity building instrument as recognized both by the University of the Arctic, indigenous peoples organizations and the Arctic Council. This commitment is a key step in meeting the goals for mobility set out in the UArctic Strategic Plan.

12.3. Northern Research Forum

Jón Haukur Ingimundarsson, NRF Secretariat

Third NRF Open Meeting will take place in Yellowknife in 2004. Proceedings of second NRF will be published in November/December 2003.

The Third Open Meeting will include a session on how indigenous perspectives can be brought into the curriculum development and revision process of BCS.

Seeking funding from private sources to bring young researchers to the Open Meeting in Yellowknife, NWT.

12.4. UArctic Field School

Rasmus O. Rasmussen, Phd Networks chair and Field School vice-chair

UArctic Field School Workshop was held Nov 8/9, preceding the Council meeting. Good discussions and welcome suggestions from a small but efficient group. The meeting was supported by NorFA funding, with participation from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Russia.

Decision to separate the PhD Networks and the Field School into two separate program. The annual courses of the PhD Networks will be listed on the Field School Catalogue. Rasmus O. Rasmussen proposed as Chair of the PhD Networks, and Vice-Chair of the Field School, with Eystein Markusson as Chair of the Field School.

Field School is refining its criteria for listing courses and programs in the online Field School Catalogue, and making improvements to the presentation of information. The
courses listed in the Field School will be regularly kept up to date, with an annual ‘refresh’ in the Fall coinciding with a call for programs.

Notes that while UArctic does not accredit course participants, it will work with the Open Learning program and UArctic Administration to develop a standard practice for issuing certificates for course completion and certificates of appreciation from UArctic, jointly with course organizers.

UArctic can host a collection of papers by students and faculty, proceedings, and other publications arising from Field School activities. These resources can serve as free online resources for BCS students.

Field School will work with the Secretariat to develop a marketing poster for the Field School, which can be downloaded and printed by members or other interested organizations.

13. Proposals for Council on program development

13.1 Arctic Learning Environment
Outi Snellman, Deputy Director, Administration

UArctic has been involved in numerous ALE-related activities over the past months:

- Developed background papers for the ICT in the Arctic Conference, held in Akureyri in October. The papers will be edited into a publication to be published by UArctic by the end of the year.
- University of the Arctic conducted a baseline overview of ICT Strategies in the Arctic countries.
- International Secretariat conducted a survey ICT use in higher education among UArctic members.
- UArctic assisted the Chair of the ICT conference in producing recommendations.

ALE team has not completed formal terms of references, or defining its membership. Wolfgang Greller was unable to attend this meeting. He wants to continue in the ALE program, but not as chair.

Council approves a proposal to invite representatives of members with specific interest/expertise in distance pedagogy and ICT to form the ALE program team. Program team members need not be Council members. The Senior Management Group will form the team on the basis of these suggestions. Council asks the new team to present its membership, terms of reference, and work plan at the next meeting.

13.2 Circumpolar Universities Association

[CUA MoU]
Sally Webber, Chair of Council
The Circumpolar Universities Association General Assembly has endorsed the Memorandum of Understanding between the CUA and UArctic (previously approved by the Council in its meeting in April 2003). Under the MoU, the biannual CUA conference will serve as a networking and research activity of UArctic. The next CUA conference will be hosted by Petrozavodsk State University, Russia. UArctic will also provide sustained secretarial support for the CUA. The agreement also creates provides the synergy of a brain trust of rectors, presidents, and research chairs to advise on various UArctic issues.

Under the agreement, UArctic should nominate a representative to the CUA Steering Committee, and establish the relationship between the International Secretariat and the CUA.

Council approves the appointment of Paul Reichart (Provost, UAF) to be the representative of UArctic to the Steering Committee of CUA.

Council approves the appointment of the Deputy Director, Administration as ex officio member of the Steering Committee of CUA.

Council welcomes the engagement of the International Secretariat in providing sustained secretarial support to the work of the CUA Steering Committee, and looks forward to the biannual CUA cooperation conference as a UArctic activity.

Council welcomes the CUA’s proposal to establish an international foundation for the support of projects on sustainable development in the Arctic and northern territories, to be held by the University of the Arctic.

13.3 Open Learning

[Background Paper]

Lars Kullerud, Director

The proposal to include a program for Open Learning was endorsed by Council in November 2002, and outlines for development were discussed in a break-out session in April 2003 in Akureyri. Those discussions have been incorporated into the accompanying background paper, as well as proposals from the CUA conference, member institutions. The Open Learning program will address areas of capacity building and training arising from needs identified by the Arctic Council and other stakeholders. This program area has tremendous support from the Board of Governors.

Council approves a proposal to invite representatives of members with specific interest/expertise in open learning and continued education to the Open Learning program team. Program team members need not be Council members. The Senior Management Group will form the team on the basis of these suggestions. Council asks the new team to present its membership, Terms of Reference and work plan at the next meeting.
Session V: Programs Development Sessions

14. Introduction and Group formation

[Lars Kullerud introduces the goals and guidelines to the program development breakout sessions.]

Outi Snellman gives practical instructions on the organization of the groups and assignments for conveners and reporting. Based on participation, it is agreed that Sessions A and E will be combined into a joint session.

15. Program Breakout Sessions

Council members meet separately in groups discussions:

a) Traditional Knowledge in UArctic programs (Convener: Chris Paci)
b) Developing the Open Learning program (Convener: Mac Clendenning)
c) BCS: Challenges and Barriers to Delivery of BCS at Your Institution (Convener: Greg Poelzer)
d) BCS: Advanced Emphases: Areas for Development (Convener: Margaret Imrie)
e) BCS: Indigenous Participation in BCS (Convener: Bård Berg)
f) Arctic Learning Environment: Roadmap (Convener: Rick Caulfield)
g) UArctic research networks: NRF; CUA, and IPY (Convener: Sally Webber)

16. Reports and Recommendations

Summary reports and recommendations from the breakout sessions are provided as Appendix A.

17. Follow-up Planning and Recommendations arising from Breakout Sessions

Lars Kullerud summarizes the main cross-cutting points raised by the program development sessions, and program chairs present initial feedback to the suggestions. The Senior Management Group will develop a work plan for the various programs, based on the recommendations presented by the sessions.

It was agreed to address both agenda points #17 and #24 at the same time.

Major cross-cutting themes identified in the sessions:

- Need for UArctic to implement a system for recognizing smaller-than-degree (ie, course/program-level) credentials, such as certificates of completion.
- Need for UArctic to broaden communications and awareness within member institutions beyond individual Council members by creating networks of other functional contacts within institutions.
- Need for UArctic to examine the critical question of how it supports the use and teaching of other languages in its programs, particularly smaller northern and indigenous languages.
A major priority for UArctic is to address how we include indigenous peoples into our programs at all levels, from the identification of educational needs, through the development of programs and curricula, to access for students.

**Arctic Learning Environment**

- The Senior Management Group welcomes the suggestions by the ALE session, and the proposal that the ALE team seek members from outside UArctic’s membership. It also recognizes the urgent need for a chair and plans to have one in place by Feb 1, 2004.
- Supports the idea that ALE should prioritize those who have limited access to ICT, consistent with our Strategic Plan, Goals and Values.

**Council endorses** the Recommendations of the ICT in the Arctic Conference.

**Open Learning**

- The Senior Management Group will identify a chair and organize the program team, to develop its structure and program team by the next Council meeting. Asks members to identify possible candidates.
- The Open Learning recommendations from this meeting and from Akureyri will be forwarded to the new program team.

**Knowledge and Dialogue**

- The Senior Management Group will develop a process to organize the work of setting research priorities within the Knowledge and Dialogue Strategic Area.
- Supports the inclusion of indigenous and traditional knowledge within UArctic research and networking programs like the CUA and NRF.
- The Academic Quality Committee will examine the issue of ethical guidelines for research, and make a recommendation on how this issue should be handled within the University of the Arctic.
- The Administration is developing a Print Publication Strategy, which will be presented prior to the next Council meeting.

**Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies**

- The BCS program team thanks the session for the suggested themes for Advanced Emphases. The Undergraduate Office will work with the program team to develop a set of priorities for Advanced Emphases that will be posted online.
- Reiterates the suggestion that joint Advanced Emphasis proposals from multiple institutions are particularly encouraged.
- BCS program team urges member to become involved in the practical local delivery of the BCS courses and program.
• Supports the promotion of the BCS program to indigenous institutions, leadership, communities

• BCS team welcomes the willingness of indigenous representatives to work to further develop the curriculum to incorporate traditional knowledge by providing indigenous educational resources, assistance with curriculum review, teaching or co-teaching courses and other support.

• BCS team supports the notion that students can use their own language in BCS course work, facilitated by local site coordinators.

Session VIII: Committee Reports

18. **Membership and Nominations Committee**
James MacDonald, Chair of Membership and Nominations Committee

Summary of Membership and Nominations Committee activities and issues:

- Arthur Churigorov has accepted the nomination to the Board of Governors, as a Russian representative

The Board of Governors has identified the need for two more members, one an indigenous northerner with appropriate circumpolar experience, and one someone with appropriate business experience.

**Council approves** the nomination of Mary Simon, Canada’s former Circumpolar Ambassador, and Seppo Säynäjäkangas, CEO of Polar Heart Rate Monitors to the Board of Governors, and asks the Membership and Nominations Committee to take immediate action.

The Board of Governors is committed to having student representation on the Board. The Committee is developing a procedure to nominate student representative to the Board. Suggestions include having the student come from whichever country is hosting the Arctic Council, and having overlapping terms with previous student representatives. The student representative will have to have participated in UAric courses to be eligible.

Terms for most Board Members expire a month after Fairbanks, but most are willing to continue on for another term.

**Council approves** the proposal to invite the current members of the Board of Governors to continue on for a second term.

The Committee has reviewed its Terms of Reference and the current composition of Council membership. Committee notes that representation is quite good for most regions except Alaska and Russia, which could be strengthened. The Committee is also developing thoughts with how to deal with applications from a variety organizations and bodies as ‘other organizations.’ The Committee is also developing thoughts and procedures about how to examine the relationship between members and the Council for the five-year membership review.
The terms of the current Council officer expire in Fairbanks. The Committee will accept suggestions and nominations from Council and present a slate of candidates for officers at the next Council meeting.

19. Standing Committee on Indigenous Issues

Council approves an amendment to the Terms of Reference, concerning membership, to read: “Among the committee members there will be elders as well as young people.” The committee will propose an elder as a committee member at the next Council meeting.

Council approves an amendment to the Council Rules of Procedure, to read: “All committees should include indigenous representation”

Committee approves the addition of Chris Paci (Arctic Athabascan Council), Aili Keskitalo (Sami University College) and Edna MacLean (Ilisagvik College), as members of the Indigenous Issues Standing Committee.

20. External Relations Committee

Program cooperation is developing between programs of the Arctic Council working groups and UArctic programs, including collaboration with SDWG and AHDR, and Arctic Telemedicine.

The Committee will discuss general fundraising, and in particular with the ‘South,’ with the Board of Governors and Director. Scandinavian Seminar is investigating how UArctic might best cooperate with southern stakeholder, and the Committee will present information on their findings.

The Committee intends to have two meetings per year, one in conjunction with Council meetings, the second in conjunction with Board of Governors, or Arctic Council. The committee is currently reviewing its membership.

21. Registrarial Committee

In recognition of the critical need for registrarial support in the University of the Arctic UNBC has prepared a proposal to host the International Academic Office as approved in Akureyri, which is going forward for funding to DFAIT in Canada. UNBC is prepared to hire a senior undergraduate co-op student in the interim to develop the background to the registrarial system, and establish a network of registrars among UArctic member institutions.

22. Academic Quality Committee

University of the Arctic, Coordination Office, Box 122 Arctic Centre, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland, cco@uarctic.org
www.uarctic.org
Council approves the Terms of Reference for the Academic Quality Committee.

The Committee will present its membership and work plan at the next Council meeting. Suggestion for Craig Fleener from Gwich’in Council International as an indigenous representative on the Academic Quality Committee.

23. Action items arising from the reports
Addressed in each Committee report agenda item

24. Discussion on program development from Programs Session
Addressed in Item #17

25. Next Council meeting
Next Council meeting is being held May 15-19, 2004 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Other joint events include:

- May 15 Pre-Session Workshop on Indigenous Higher Education (jointly sponsored by UArctic and the Council of Alaska Native Higher Education)
- May 19-23 Intl Congress of Arctic Social Sciences ICASS (www.iassa.org)
- Excursions following the ICASS conference.

The hosts will work with the Secretariat to make practical arrangements and organize registration. Contact Rick Caulfield for further information: r.caulfield@uaf.edu

26. Proposals for Spring 2005 Council Meeting
Offers presented from Bodö Regional University, (Norway), Pomor State University (Russia), and the University of Oulu/Oulu Polytechnic (Finland).

Council approved Oulu as the site of the 2005 Council meeting. Bodö and Pomor will bring proposals at the next Council meeting to host future meetings.

Council notes the need to hold separate meetings for the Board of Governors, Senior Management Group, program team, standing committees, and is open to offers from hosts.

27. Other Business
No other business

28. Closing
The Council warmly thanks Yukon College and the Arctic Athabascan Council for the hosting the meeting and their hospitality in Whitehorse.
Appendix A: Program Development Session Reports

A/E. Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous Participation in BCS

The group enjoyed fruitful discussions on how to increase indigenous participation in BCS. Discussion focused on ensuring an emphasis of traditional knowledge within BCS activities and programs, access to BCS courses, relevance of the courses, language issues and obstacles for member institutions. Above all, the group wanted to ensure that the BCS is available and meaningful to Indigenous students from around the circumpolar world, those for whom UArctic was intended to serve.

To that end, this working group has developed a series of recommendations to the Senior Management Group.

1. That elders and other indigenous people be involved in BCS curriculum development.
2. That the Indigenous Issues Standing Committee be used for curriculum review purposes, and that indigenous representatives be made part of the BCS curriculum review team.
3. That UArctic makes sure that member institutions consult with indigenous peoples in their region when developing course curriculum.
4. That indigenous [educational resources] readings be included with course materials in BCS courses, and that some of these could be in indigenous languages, when appropriate. Members of individual language groups could come forward with [educational resources] readings to that end.
5. That home institutions offer at least some of the BCS courses in their home language, and that site coordinators offer to grade their students' work for the on-line courses should those students prefer to write it in a language other than English.
6. That some on-line translation be used for the on-line discussion groups, when technologically and financially feasible, to allow students to engage in discussions in their own language and learn each other's languages.
7. That member institutions approach, encourage and assist the development of BCS course delivery on-site at learning centres and indigenous communities within their region.
8. That the Indigenous Issues Standing Committee submit a list of indigenous educators to the BCS PT to enable them to call on them to teach or co-teach BCS courses and review BCS curriculum.
9. That the BCS is well publicised to students and potential students in indigenous communities, and advertised to be relevant to indigenous communities.
10. That the creation of advanced emphases relevant to indigenous communities be developed, such as the Politics of Sustainable Development.

11. That indigenous students be given priority when determining student slots in BCS courses, should availability be limited.

12. That technological barriers to indigenous participation from remote communities be addressed. For example, community libraries should be taken advantage of, and access to virtual libraries for BCS students should be developed. When possible, existing indigenous materials and databases should be utilized to save time and money.

13. That the overall direction of the BCS ensure that students are both educated consumers as well as producers.

B: Developing the Open Learning program

What is Open Learning

- Improve access to education for people who are not in institutions; capacity building: grass roots,
- Community-based curriculum development and implementation, in response to community need
- Credit/non-credit,
- Flexible strategies for delivery,

Options for Program Team organization

1. Fairly large group (~20), representing circumpolar regions and indigenous peoples (operating through committee structure)
2. Small core group, using workshop to engage larger advisory group with wider representation. Representation from other program groups.

Process

- Consultative processes with communities, indigenous groups, other stakeholders
- Processes to determine needs through institutions, indigenous groups, Arctic Council
- Regional and local workshops to engage stakeholders
- Assessment of what is on offer at member institutions, and where are the gaps
- Need to link to other UArctic programs and Indigenous Issues Committee, Registrarial Committee

Recommendations:

1. that program team address question of how to identify needs from regions and communities
2. that the program team support the recommendations of the previous breakout session on Open Learning in Akureyri

3. that the Senior Management team review options and decide on the structure and membership of the program team

4. that an initial meeting be held early in the New Year to develop the program team’s Terms of Reference, structure and work plan

C: BCS Local Delivery

This session had a slightly different goal than some of the other sessions, as it served as an information session for institutional representatives who wanted to learn more about how to implement the BCS program locally in their institutions. The session also generated valuable feedback for UArctic and BCS in how best to support this process. The session benefited from the presence of representatives from Bodø Regional University and the University of Lapland, two institutions who are already well along in the process of adapting BCS to fit into their institutions. The dominant message from the meeting is that BCS has the flexibility to be adapted into a variety of institutional frameworks, from partial elective courses to the full degree program, but requires committed and creative individuals to do the groundwork within their institutions.

Flexible options for local delivery:

- Core courses, or even partial elements of courses can be offered through various departments and faculties
- Core courses are perfectly suited for independent study courses, with or without supplementary local or online tutoring and seminars
- The core courses can be broken apart and repackaged to fit different program structures
- Lapland has a model built around a 12-credit theme area (ie, Peoples and Cultures), with different lectures, excursions, assignments, exams comprising the student workload, each with their own credit value
- Bodø is supplementing the 6-credit core courses with additional readings, seminars, lectures, exams, etc to bring it up to a 10 ECTS standard
- The core is well suited for Open Learning type solutions, where a certificate can be attained prior to completing a full degree

Recommendations:

1. Institutions need to put the courses on the books locally first,
2. Institutions should then develop the program locally
3. Institutions need to market the program locally both to students and faculty/administration
4. Institutions need to find creative solutions that work for their own institutional and national contexts. Current examples can be shared online.
5. UArctic needs to develop credentials for smaller-than-degree level academic completion.
6. BCS needs to develop resources to assist institutions in local delivery, such as Learning Outcomes
7. BCS needs means to communicate the quality assurance of the curriculum material and course design
8. The program should be promoted among indigenous institutions, leadership, and communities

**D: BCS Advanced Emphases**

**Wish List**
The first group of suggestions deals with issues or problems of particular relevance to a region and its people:

Art & Crafts
Languages of Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples
- To be developed and delivered by indigenous peoples
- Methodologies and theoretical approaches
- Ethno-semantics / development & teaching / language policy & planning

Building Sustainability in the Arctic
- History of circumpolar economic development
- Impact and change in economic relationships
- Current economic situation and how this relates to cultural survival, indigenous rights and environmental protection
- Field school

Sustainable Tourism in the North
Northern Resource Management
Nutrition & Traditional Foods
Climate Change
Community Problem Solving
- Social Work
- Criminal Justice
- Elders

Arctic Health
- Telemedicine
- Traditional health care

Literature & Oral Traditions of the Circumpolar World
- Published literature
• Oral literature

In addition, several of these programs, along with others, would be preparing students for employment in specific professions:

Sustainable Tourism
• marketing,
• business

Northern Resource Management,
Nutrition and Traditional Foods

Secondary
Arctic Engineering
• Mining
• Arctic Oil & Gas
• Construction

Current Slate
• Balance: wish list rounds out balance, but there may be more to do in this respect
• Items on the current slate meet the mission and goals of UArctic

Recommendations
1. BCS Undergraduate Office should do research to determine what courses are already being offered in the subject areas proposed and/or identified in the Wish List for Advanced Emphases. It is important to know what is being done at our partner institutions. Post the results of this research to the website, to enable members to identify partnership opportunities.

2. Post the Advanced Emphases Wish List on the website and encourage member institutions to contribute/add to the list. Also post Advanced Emphases that have been approved, as well as Proposed Advanced Emphases. Lists should reflect current status of each potential/actual Advanced Emphases.

3. Development and delivery of Advanced Emphases, including subject areas on the Wish List, may take place at more than one institution.

F: Arctic Learning Environment

Recommendations:
1. That the Senior Management Group endorse, in principle, the goals outlined in Appendix d of the Background Paper prepared for the Conference of the Arctic Council on October 20-21 in Akureyri, Iceland.
We further recommend that the Senior Management Group accept and endorse the Suggested Actions to the Arctic Council for the initiation and implementation of these goals which are directed in the same document.

2. Recognizing that the University of the Arctic needs to maintain the ALE conversation in a meaningful way, we recommend that the Senior Management Group identify a chair for the ALE Working Group who will provide clear direction to the work of the committee, carry out the recommendations of the committee, and report to the University of the Arctic Council at their meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska, May 19-23, 2004.

3. Further to the above, we recommend that, by February 1, 2004, that a mechanism or process be developed to identify ALE Working Group members, both inside and outside UArctic membership, who have the background and interest to further the goals and ideals of the ALE and the University of the Arctic. We suggest that, as well as academics and administrators from institutions, that members be drawn from instructors, site administrators, and students. We particularly encourage participation by the six Permanent Participants group.

4. While recognizing our commitment to Internet delivery of courses, we must ensure that technology does not become a barrier to education rather than a conduit, and we must ensure that we do not impose technology on people whose learning experience is not supported by ICT.

Therefore, recognizing that we serve a diversity of users, we recommend that priorities be given to those who have reasonable access to the Internet, but that special attention be given to those who are currently underserved by ICT.

5. In regard to regional cultural diversification, we recommend that site coordinators be chosen who are aware of the problems and peculiarities of local history and culture, to ensure appropriate local delivery. We further recommend that site coordinators be given, and be encouraged to use, a method to report problems back to ALE or the BCS PT.

6. We recommend to the Council as whole, that the University of the Arctic focus attention on mechanisms for incorporating local and traditional knowledge into all UArctic courses.

**G: UArctic Knowledge Networks: CUA, NRF; IPY**

- The Council of the University of the Arctic recognizes traditional circumpolar indigenous knowledge as a fundamental component of all circumpolar knowledge.
- We also recognize the existence of a network of international scientific knowledge.
- We strive to recognize the importance of integrating both forms of knowledge in the programs and activities of the University of the Arctic.
Recommendations:
1. The Indigenous Issues Standing Committee be the link to the indigenous knowledge network and that this committee be involved in the development and review of curriculum
2. That we create a database of indigenous graduate students and an indigenous graduate student network to assist in the integration of these two knowledge networks
3. That research done under the auspices of the UArctic be returned to indigenous communities
4. That traditional indigenous knowledge be part of the activities of both the NRF and the CUA

Northern Research Forum
- We support the Northern Research Forum’s objectives of linking academic research to the practical concerns of circumpolar communities and groups
- We promote the engagement of community leaders in the activities of the Northern Research Forum
- It would be helpful if the Northern Research Forum put the word “international” in its name
- We see the opportunity for a pilot project to be presented at the Yellowknife meetings of the NRF
  - This project would include the Dene Nation and the Gwich’in Council and would be related to the application of traditional knowledge to curriculum development

Circumpolar Universities Association
- We see the value of the Circumpolar University Association as an academic research network of the University of the Arctic
- We suggest that the CUA have the role of:
  - Linking traditional indigenous knowledge to academic research
  - Promoting academic research relating to the UArctic
  - Serve as a link to Southern academic institutions for the UArctic
  - Linking researchers and research departments to the UArctic
  - Coordinating personal research networks for the UArctic

Research and Publications
- The UArctic has identified circumpolar issues that need greater research and discussion
• The UArctic has already established personal and institutional networks throughout the circumpolar world that would facilitate this research and discussion

• The UArctic has been asked to be a resource for several international activities such as the International Polar Year

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