



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

MINUTES

Of the seventh meeting of the Council of the University of the Arctic, May 16 – 19, 2004, hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks

N.B. Decisions are presented in the order of the original agenda, even though the items may have been dealt with out of sequence during the meeting.

Agenda Items:

Session I: Welcoming Session

1. Opening of the Meeting

Welcomes from Sally Webber, Chair of the Council; Rick Caulfield, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Paul Reichardt, Provost of University of Alaska Fairbanks; and Clara Johnson, Director of the Interior Aleutians Campus of the College of Rural Alaska at UAF.

2. Approval of the Agenda

[\[Agenda\]](#)

Council approves the proposed agenda.

3. Introduction of Council Members

[\[Participants\]](#)

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

[\[Whitehorse Draft Minutes\]](#)

Council approves the previous minutes from the last meeting in Whitehorse, Canada, with the note that small editorial changes will be made automatically.

5. New Member Introductions

Thirteen (5 in the higher education category, 9 in the other organization category) new members made general presentations on their institutions/organizations.

6. New Member Approval

James McDonald

Council accepts

- [Arkhangelsk State Technical University](#) (presented by Igor Shpyakin for Galina Komarova)
- [Grand Prairie Regional College](#) (presented by Deborah Poff for Doug Hart)
- [Murmansk State Pedagogical University](#) (presented by Harri Malinen for Oleg Klimov)
- [Northern State Medical University](#) (presented by Igor Shpyakin for Pavel Ivanovitch Sidorov)
- [Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a](#) (Deanna Nyce and Jacob McKay)

into the UArctic membership in the category of Higher Education Institutions.

Council accepts

- [Churchill Northern Studies Centre](#) (LeeAnn Fishback)

- [Consortium for Alaska Native Higher Education Inc.](#) (Merritt Helfferich)
- [Institute for the Problems of the Indigenous Small Peoples of the North](#) (IPISPN) (presented by Claudia Federova for Vasili Robbek)
- [Institute of Humanitarian research of the Sakha Republic \(Yakutia\) Academy of Sciences](#) (presented by Claudia Federova for Sardana Il'inichna Boyakova)
- [International Institute for Sustainable Development](#) (IISD) (presented by Leslie King for Carolee Buckler)
- [Nunavut Sivuniksavut](#) (NS) (Morley Hansen)
- [Skeria Utveckling](#) (Gary Webster)
- [Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S.](#) (ARCUS) (Dave Klein)

into the UArctic membership in the category of Other Organizations.

Council approves the Membership and Nominations Committee proposal that asks the Council reconsiders Professional Specialized School No.26's application at the 2005 Council meeting, once the issue regarding the required education level of member institutions has been addressed.

Council welcomes these new members to the University of the Arctic.

Session II: Strategic Development

7. Council Rules of Procedure

[\[Council Rules of Procedure\]](#)

[\[Council Rules of Procedure Proposal\]](#)

Rune Rydén

Council approves these amended Rules of Procedure, which include changes on the three following points: Timelines for developing, submitting, and sharing proposals with the Council, as well as clear roles for all parties in this process; Clear tasks and behaviours for the Officers of the Council to follow, which will hopefully ensure fuller participation during Council meetings; and clarification on how the practical process of making decisions and reaching consensus.

Noted: Need to enhance virtual meeting formats in order to reach Council members who cannot afford to travel to annual meetings and clarify the language on consensus in the document.

8. Board Report

Erling Olsen

The Board understands the Council's expectations: a commitment to sustainable economic and cultural development of the North, and the creation of networks for fundraising. The Board is aware of the Council's implementation role, and the contributions made by member institutions. The Board members in attendance are listening to the Council's considerations for the development of the next Strategic Plan. The Board is committed to raise funds for core activities: in Finland predictable funding is available, and Canada and Norway have recently followed suite. The Board has been actively lobbying Denmark and Sweden, but no success as of yet.

9. Q & A Session with attending Board members

Council members had the opportunity to ask questions of the present Board members. Discussion.

10. [Director's Report](#)

Lars Kullerud

Council approves that the University of the Arctic's program structure be composed of five strategic areas: Undergraduate Studies, Graduate Studies, Mobility, Access, and Knowledge and Dialogue.

UArctic programs are organized under these strategic areas, each with a Program Chair, and normally with a Program Team.

Council approves that the Open Learning Program is moved to the Undergraduate Studies strategic area.

Council endorses the process for the revision of the Strategic Plan, and will provide regular input, and encourages the Board to approve a revised Strategic Plan in their Fall 2004 meeting.

Council approves that north2north and northTREX are separate programs with their own Chairs under the Mobility strategic area.

Session III: Program Team Reports and Action Items

11. Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies

[\[Program Report\]](#)

Greg Poelzer

Council approves that UArctic institutional members accept Circumpolar Studies courses for credit by May 2005 with strong a recommendation that Circumpolar Studies courses be listed in course calendars.

Note: Members strongly encouraged to use the UArctic logo on their websites.

12. north2north

[\[Program Report\]](#)

Chris Southcott

13. northTREX

[\[Program Report\]](#)

Kaijaleena Serlo

14. Field School

[\[Program Report\]](#)

Eystein Markkuson

15. Arctic Learning Environment

[\[Program Report\]](#)

Outi Snellman

Council approves that the Council ask the the Program Team present a strategy for their future activities at the next Council meeting.

Council approves that the Council ask the ALE team to seek funding for research and development activities, particularly those that concern distance learning in northern communities with modest to low access to information and communications technologies.

16. Circumpolar Universities Association

[\[Program Report\]](#)

Outi Snellman

Council approves that Paul Reichart carry the suggestions of the Council breakout sessions to the CUA Steering Committee for discussion on the 2005 conference. Paul Reichart is asked to report to the Council in Spring 2005 on the activities of CUA and the conference plans.

17. Open Learning

[\[Program Report\]](#)

Outi Snellman

General invitation for members to join the Open Learning program team..

Council approves that the Open Learning strategic area be merged into the Undergraduate Studies strategic area, with the Open Learning Program placed under it.

Council approves that the Dean of Undergraduate Studies lead the search for a Program Chair, with the decision to be taken by Director in consultation with Pomot.

Council approves that the Open Learning Program team is asked to bring their Terms of Reference to Council for approval at the next Council meeting, and to report on their activities.

18. Northern Research Forum

[[Program Report](#)]

Lassi Heininen

Session IV-VI: Program Breakout Sessions

Please see [Appendix B](#) for breakout session reports on program development.

Session VII: Committee Business

19. Membership and Nominations Committee issues

James McDonald

19.1 [Officers:](#)

Council approves that the following people are nominated to continue as officers:

- Sally Webber, Chair
- Claudia Fedorova, Vice-Chair

Council and the Membership and Nominations committee acknowledge that the following person is stepping down from their position as officer:

- Bård A. Berg, Secretary

Council approves that, based on the University of Tromsø's proposal that Geir Gotaas, manager of the Roald Amundsen Centre at University of Tromsø, who they have appointed as the new alternate council member, be put forward as candidate for the Secretary position, the Council nominates Geir Gotaas as the Secretary officer

Council approves that the Council accept Sally Webber as Chair and Claudia Fedorova as Vice-Chair to continue for another term.

Council accepts Geir Gotaas as Secretary.

19.2 [Board of Governors:](#)

Council approves that Oran R. Young, Shirley Adamson, Lloyd Axworthy, Jan Henry Keskitalo, Audrey McLaughlin, and Erling Olsen continue for another three-year term on the Board of Governors.

Council approves that Mika Flöjt continue as student representative for one year to overlap with the new student representative, and nominates Ms Ekaterina Ecseyeva as the new student representative for a three-year term on the Board of Governors.

Council nominates Mr. Antero Ikäheimo as the Board of Governors business representative for a three-year term.

19.3 Membership and Nominations Committee:

Council approves that Johan Daniel Haetta will retire from this committee. The new committee membership is: James McDonald, Chair, University of Northern British Columbia; Rick Caulfield, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Karen Langgård, University of Greenland; Gerd Karin Bjørhovde, University of Tromsø; Claudia Federova, Sakha State University; Deanna Nyce, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a; Cindy Dickson, Arctic Athabaskan Council; Lars Kullerud, ex officio; and Outi Snellman, ex officio.

20. Indigenous Peoples Issues Committee

Bård A. Berg and Jan Henry Keskitalo

The Joint Meeting between UArctic's Indigenous Issues Committee and The Consortium for Alaska Native Higher Education (May 15, 2004): - Jan Henry Keskitalo

Members of the UArctic Council meeting in Fairbanks May 16-19, 2004, had the opportunity to attend the Indigenous Higher Education Colloquium organized jointly by UArctic's Indigenous Issues

Committee and the Consortium for Alaska Native Higher Education May 15, 2004. The colloquium was organized around various themes covering important aspects with regard to Indigenous Higher Education (IHE) by members or collaborators of UArctic. The colloquium contained important information about the former and current efforts organizing cooperation and improvement for IHE in the Alaska region. This information was highly appreciated by those UArctic Council members attending the colloquium and provides informative examples of the status of IHE efforts in the region. The colloquium also contained reports on current issues from each indigenous region represented. The reports presented gave examples of IHE institutions and programs and challenges in a diversity of issues of importance for future priorities with regard to IHE within UArctic institutions and fellow institutions and efforts in other regions of Indigenous Peoples. The colloquium further provided examples of current Indigenous Higher Education Collaboration informative and useful for UArctic members that want to further develop cooperation to materialize mutually prioritised values. The UArctic council members attending the colloquium want to express their thanks to the organizers and recommend the UArctic member institutions to take active steps to recognize the need for further promoting and valuing IHE efforts.

Council approves the delegation of responsibility to the Director for follow-up, and adopts the report as presented.

Council approves that Kristine Nystad (Saami University College, Norway), as a new member of the standing committee of indigenous people's issues, replace Aili Keskitalo on the Indigenous Issues Committee.

21. Academic Quality Committee issues

[\[Report\]](#)

Bård A. Berg

21.1 Membership:

Council approves that the new membership of this committee is as follows: Francois Trudel, Université Laval, Canada; Lindis Sloan, Feminist University, Norway; Rune Fjellheim, Sami Council, Norway; Aileen Espiritu, UNBC, Canada; Peter Sköld, Umeå University, Sweden; and Edna MacLean, Ilisagvik College, US.

21.2 [Ethical Guidelines for Research in the Arctic:](#)

Council approves (with two abstentions) and agrees that, based on the multitudes of ethical guidelines already in place, and it is not necessary for UArctic to draft another set.

Council approves that it is unnecessary that UArctic endorse and/or enforce an existing set of ethical guidelines, as many other agencies already have this responsibility as part of their mandate.

Council encourages the Academic Quality Committee to ensure that there is discussion and awareness on ethics in research from the circumpolar perspective in UArctic's programs and policies.

Session VIII: Council Business

International Polar Year, 2007 – 2008 – John Kelley, Member of the US Committee to the IPY
The International Polar Year (IPY) evolved from the bottom up, with scientists receiving input from the community. The IPY provides a framework and impetus to undertake various projects that normally could not be achieved by any single nation. The aims are to increase international cooperation, elevate polar science, and accelerate initiatives that otherwise would be slow in developing. Major recommendations:

- To assess environmental problems
- To understand human natural systems, which are critical to societal, economic, and strategic interests
- To explore new scientific frontiers
- To design and implement multi-disciplinary polar observing networks that will provide long term understanding of variability and change
- To invest in critical infrastructure to guarantee that IPY will leave a legacy for future generations
- To excite and engage the public, with the goal to increase awareness of the importance of Polar Regions but also to increase scientific literacy

- To improve education and outreach, with an emphasis on the expertise of the University of the Arctic

22. Development of Registrarial Capacity

John DeGrace

Please see [Appendix C](#) for the complete presentation.

23. UArctic Print Publication Strategy and UArctic Press

[[UArctic Print Publication Strategy/Guidelines](#)]

[[Print Publication Strategy and UArctic Press Editorial Board](#)]

Outi Snellman

Council approves the establishment of the UArctic Press Editorial Board as an ad hoc committee, and approves its [Terms of Reference](#).

Council mandates the Executive Committee to conduct the process for selecting the Chair of the Editorial Board and its other members.

Session IX - X: Breakout Sessions

Please see [Appendix B](#).

Session XI: Closing

25. Next Council Meeting: Oulu, Finland, Spring 2005

Riitta Kataja

Representative of the University of Oulu made a presentation on behalf of the joint organizing committee of Oulu Polytechnic and University of Oulu. The organizers have made good progress in their preparations.

26. Proposals for 2006 Council Meeting

Outi Snellman

Call for tentative proposals – decision on the 2006 meeting must be made next year in Oulu, so process should begin soon. No offers received.

27. Other Business

No other business raised.

28. Joint session with Indigenous Higher Education Colloquium

Ray Barnhardt and Linda Pemik

Linda Pemik summarized key points on indigenous teacher training and the importance of this theme for the University of the Arctic. Special mention was also made of the proposals for teacher exchanges between Saami University College in Norway and the three northern Canadian colleges: Yukon College, Aurora College, and Nunavut Arctic College.

Ray Barnhardt, Co-Director of the Alaska Native Knowledge Network and Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative, acknowledged that indigenous teacher training is an area of common concern. It is vital to provide a support structure and create avenues for participation that can accommodate variability and reach people in their daily context. Every three years, representatives from all over the world gather for World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education, which led to the creation of the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium. This body produced an accreditation system to review and accredit institutions and programs based on indigenous standards (see www.win-hec.org). The National Science Foundation has created research centres, which are intended to have an international component. These centres are thematic in nature, and one addresses indigenous knowledge systems: another opportunity to draw together institutions that focus on this area.

29. Closing

The Board of Governors, members of the Council, and observers expressed many thanks to Rick Caulfield, Edna Telford, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks for their excellent organization and hospitality. Thanks also to Outi Snellman and the International Secretariat for their hard work preparing the proposals, and the executive committee for the handling of the meeting. Appreciation expressed to the Council members for their contributions and participation.

Appendix A: Participants

Officers:

Yukon College, Sally Webber, Chair of Council
Sakha State University, Claudia Federova, Vice-Chair of Council
University of Tromsø, Bård A. Berg, Secretary of Council

Council Members:

Arctic Research Consortium of the United States, Kayt Sunwood (new member)
Arctic Research Consortium of the United States, Dave Klein (new member)
Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies, James McDonald
Athabasca University, Vivian Elias
Aurora College, Margaret Imrie
Barents Virtual University, Igor Shpyakin
Bodø Regional University, Bjørn Sagdahl
Canadian Polar Commission, Gordon Miles
Consortium for Alaska Native Higher Education, Merritt Helfferich (new member)
Churchill Northern Studies Centre, LeeAnn Fishback (new member)
Finnmark University College, Ketil Hanssen
Finnmark University College, Mona Johnson
Harstad University College, Kjetil Nilsen
Kemi-Tornio Polytechnic, Annikki Pulkkinen
Lakehead University, Chris Southcott
Lakehead University, Susan Burton
Nunavut Arctic College, Linda Pemik
Nunavut Sivuniksavut, Morley Hanson (new member)
Oulu Polytechnic, Kaijaleena Serlo
Roskilde University, Rasmus Ole Rasmussen
Rovaniemi Polytechnic, Kristiina Jokelainen
Saami University College, Johan Daniel Heatta
St. Mary's University, Trudy Sable
St. Mary's University, Shelley Tulloch
Skeria Utveckling, Gary Webster (new member)
The University Centre in Svalbard, Kjell Tore Hansen
The University Centre in Svalbard, Eystein Markusson
Tromsø University College, Tore Nesheim
Umeå University, Peter Sköld

University of Northern British Columbia, John DeGrace

University of Northern British Columbia, Deborah Poff

University of Northern British Columbia, Heather Myers

United Nations Environment Programme/GRID-Arendal, Tiina Kurvits

University of Akureyri, Thorleifur Björnsson

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Richard Caulfield

University of Greenland, Karen Langgård

University of Lapland, Lassi Heininen

University of Lapland, Harri Malinen

University of Lapland, Scott Forrest

Université Laval, Francois Trudel

University of Manitoba, Leslie King

University of Oulu, Riita Kataja

University of Oulu, Kari Laine

University of Saskatchewan, Carin Holroyd

University of Tromsø, Gerd Karin Bjørndhovde

University of Tromsø, Geir Gotaas

Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a, Jacob McKay (new member)

Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a, Deanna Nyce (new member)

Yukon College, Amanda Graham

Board of Governors:

Jan Henry Keskitalo

Erling Olsen

Rune Rydén

Observers:

Northlands College, Glenys Plunz

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Edna Telford

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, Robert Kadas

Ministry of Education and Research Norway, Lene Oftedal

Swedish Institute, Ulla Rylander

University College of the North, Peter Geller

University College of the North, Don Roberston

Speakers:

Paul Reichardt, Provost, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Clara Johnson, Director of the Interior-Aleutians Campus of the College of Rural Alaska, University of Alaska Fairbanks

John Kelley, Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and member of the US National Committee to the International Polar Year

Administration:

Lars Kullerud, Director

Outi Snellman, Deputy Director Administration

Greg Poelzer, Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Tuula Thomlinson, Circumpolar Studies Science Coordinator

Heather Exner, Program Assistant

Alicia Kennedy, Communications Assistant

Appendix B: Breakout Session Reports

Session VI: Program Breakout Sessions Wrap-up

1. Developing Registrarial Capacity for UArctic

– John DeGrace and Deborah Poff

Brief overview of the duties of the International Academic Office, which is being created at the University of Northern British Columbia. Activities will begin over the next year: coordinating student records, overseeing credit transfer, etc. Office will have a major coordinating role, while official records are still kept at the member institutions. Office will only focus on records management, not program management.

Circumpolar Universities Association: Ideas for themes for the 2005 conference – Rune Rydén

For the next meeting of the CUA, which will be held in Petrovodsk, Russia, this group recommends the theme: “Balancing economy and environment in a changing society: the contribution of research and education.”

2. UArctic and the Science Agenda

– Rasmus Ole Rasmussen

The International Polar Year will be held 2007 – 8. UArctic needs to build a closer relationship to the national and international organizing committees. Courses, field school offerings, and PhD networks could all be used to reach this goal. A general call put forward to contact Hanne Petersen with the Danish Polar Centre, who is responsible for the IPY's education and outreach activities. There is a need to push for research regarding traditional and local knowledge in the science agenda, link IPY activities to communities, and incorporate cross-disciplinary discussions. UArctic has been asked to participate in the 2005 Copenhagen ICARP II meeting. One way to contribute could be “Arctic Science in the Public Interest”: possibility to develop themes and presentations. UArctic has a unique role to influence the research agenda – balancing the natural and social sciences.

Recommendations:

- That the POMOT to identify individuals to help develop an IPY education and outreach action plan by June – invitation for nominations.
- That the POMOT to identify individuals and working groups to plan the UArctic ICARP II contribution – invitation for nominations, please send to Lars Kullerud or the International Secretariat by June 1.
- That UArctic act as the vital link between education and research, offer support for thematic networks for research and infrastructure.
- That UArctic explore avenues for the follow-up and use of Arctic Council working group reports, i.e. public hearings or courses, and be involved as an institution in selected research planning.
- That POMOT set priorities and identify individuals for the Arctic Council working groups.
- That the thematic networks and the NRF's thematic workshops be linked.
- That the CUA “go back to its roots.”
- That UArctic promote science and higher education in the north at the Ministers of Science and Education meeting in Reykjavik as its number one priority.

3. north2north and northTREX: Focus on Faculty Mobility

– Chris Southcott

There is a recognized need for faculty exchanges to promote student exchanges and provide professional development opportunities. The north2north program could support short-term faculty exchanges. The northTREX program may still be necessary, having a long-term faculty exchange may help fundraising for national agencies for north2north. northTREX may not need immediate funding, as institutions could pay salaries for away faculty and faculty members could find their own funding for travel.

Recommendations:

- That north2north funding can be used to fund short term faculty exchanges when the primary purpose of this exchange is the promotion and support of student exchanges
- This would be a decision made by each national agency
- That northTREX be continued as a separate program for teaching exchanges
- northTREX activities would be coordinated by the north2north program office
- Once a year all UArctic teaching institutions would be asked if they have any courses that they would like to be taught by an exchange faculty
- The institution would only be responsible for the course salary
- Finding travel funding would initially be the responsibility of the teacher or home institution
- The program office would assist the institution in finding suitable faculty by:
- Maintaining an up to day mobile teacher roster
- Posting the teaching possibilities on the web and maintaining an application form

4. Issues of Membership: Who does UArctic serve?

Gerd Karin Bjørhovde

Suggestion to revisit the proxy rule in the future, as the organization grows. Having one member act as proxy for many institutions could encourage abuses of power. Should the University of the Arctic have three membership categories? One for ECTS granting institutions, one for cooperating with degree granting institutions, and others. With the current rate of growth in the Council, should consider a 5 year membership period, which would address the issue of non-contributing members. Suggestion regarding a list of points that member institutions should submit information about, i.e. budget, activities, meetings, travel, courses, etc.

5. Teaching Circumpolar Studies Courses on the Web: An Introduction

– Heather Myers

Recommendations:

- Develop regionally appropriate means of evaluating students
- Cap web courses at 25-30
- Instructors collect & archive examples of “best practices”/ knowledge production from courses
- Develop readings/resources
- Make them available regionally
- Set up collections of texts/maps with site coordinators
- Develop non-English reading lists
- Publish readings a journal special edition

Circumpolar Studies office:

- Develop a directory of site coordinators and other contacts
- Develop/make available a *good* map (paper and digital)
- Continue to develop/support on-line/virtual libraries
- Develop a training program for site coordinators/instructors:
- Introductory powerpoint, available on UArctic web site
- “Practice” webCT shell
- Introductory “course” for coordinators/ instructors on webCT & Circumpolar Studies content
- Make BCS 100 (and core courses?) a prerequisite for N2N participation
- All UArctic members need to promote this program more

6. Open Learning

– Glenys Plunz

Recommendations:

- Appoint Chair and Committee Members ASAP-seek funding
- Terms of Reference, Work Plan with deliverables and timelines
- Survey existing potential courses
- Develop Guidelines for course development (similar to Circumpolar Studies Implementation Handbook) and approval
- Promotion Strategy
- Access and Delivery Issues
- Instructor training
- Endorse recommendations of Whitehorse meeting
- Chair and program team develop work plan
- Identify key areas/ priorities
- Sharing best practices, avoid duplication

Session X: Reports of Breakout Sessions

1. Mobility for Young Researchers

– Rasmus Ole Rasmussen

The discussion revolved around five main issues: What type of mobility, strategies to achieve funding, facilitation of exchange arrangements, new avenues for mobility, and identification of potential funding sources. Ways to increase mobility: offering short-term focused courses (i.e. 1 – 2 weeks), 2 – 3 week moving field courses connected with CASS/CAES, series of week-long courses at cooperating universities, 2-3 month exchanges through n2n, internships like the Northern Scientific Training Program, field work assistance, involvement in cross-institutional research projects, young faculty mobility on short term responsibilities, and faculty mobility in general. Examine new avenues for mobility, such as south to north.

Recommendations:

PRIORITY: University of the Arctic should seek funding, keeping in mind the focus on existing ethical guidelines for external funding. Potential sources: international sources, multinational sources, private foundations, multinational industries, Arctic and non-Arctic governments, NGOs, and university cooperations.

- Immediate action: National approaching of the Ministers of Education and Research before and after the Ministerial meeting in Iceland.
- UArctic committee for mobility of young students and researchers - to help in generating both financial and institutional support
- UArctic liaison with for instance ARCUS, NorFA, NSF or similar organizations in developing a procedure protocol for advancing a funding strategy
- UArctic distribute information about funding possibilities...
- UArctic listing large on-going project where the students could look for opportunities...
- UArctic encourage inclusion of young researchers in joint research projects
- A list of students, with their field of interest, how to contact etc..
- Research grants with a component either pre-defined by the researcher, or a more open formulation ...
- UArctic approach international Arctic research networks (ARCTIC-NET , ARKTIS,..) and encourage involvement of young researchers
- UArctic approach governments to include young researchers in existing logistic programs providing infrastructure

- UArctic approach NGO's (World Wildlife Fund, National Audubon, ...) promoting support for young researchers
- UArctic Promote the system of graduate and post-graduate students paying tuition at local institutions but open to go to other UArctic universities
- UArctic approach int. airlines to promote student fares for young researchers

2. Developing Thematic Networks: Natural Resource Management

– Tiina Kurvits

Priority areas for this area: Community-based natural resource and environmental management; Co-management; Integrated ecosystem management, indigenous education; course development (in Circumpolar Studies, etc.), and need for dialogues

Recommendations:

- That “content/field” working groups be established
- Create UArctic Thematic Network on Environment and Natural Resources, to: Link with communities re: environment and resource issues, needs; and Promote UArctic Course development including short courses, plus support, in this area through open learning and other UArctic Programs (Circumpolar Studies)
- Promote dialogue with, link open learning, science agenda, field school
- Conduct a needs assessment of communities for education and research in environment and natural resources
- Inventory existing resources, courses, etc. of member institutions and communities
- Needs assessment of member institutions, research and courses
- Host a meeting to create a work plan for the working group
- Consider delivery options and promote WEB linkages
- Training trainers and community-based researchers (nr/env management skills, conflict resolution, etc.)
- Inventory and link to community monitoring and assessment projects such as ECORA, St. Mary's, St. FX,
- Provide advice to other UArctic bodies, NRF, Circumpolar Studies, UArctic Press, Open Learning.
- Develop and promote support network for communities: develop a roster of environment experts available to travel to communities

3. Developing Thematic Networks: Indigenous Teacher Training

– Linda Pemik

There is a need to break out of our communities, and establish cooperative ties on this issue. The importance of teaching teachers is growing. Possible agreement between Saami University College in Norway and the three northern Canadian colleges: Nunavut Arctic College, Yukon College, and Aurora College to exchange students and teachers. These institutions have a common interest in culturally appropriate pedagogy. The Saami word “verddet,” which means mutually beneficial exchange, describes the intent of the initiatives to enrich indigenous teacher training that we hope will develop. Nunavut Arctic College and the Saami University College have agreed to work on a pilot exchange to support these fledgling links.

4. Developing Thematic Networks: Culture, Identity, Literature

– Vivian Elias

Importance of sharing stories related to personal identity and recognizing the power and politics of language – particularly in the life of UArctic students. Possibility to use this as an area for future Circumpolar Studies advanced emphases, incorporating items from the rich pool of literature which is available in every Circumpolar country. Also the idea to associate this area with a PhD, research, or thematic network.

Next steps:

- Call for members
- Developmental meetings / side events at NRF, CBNRM workshop (fall 2004)
- Meeting of thematic network (spring 2005)

5. north2north Pilot Evaluation

– Scott Forrest

Meeting recently held in Stockholm to produce an internal evaluation report. An external evaluation is now being held to assess if this internal view is accurate. Suggestions: Revision of the student selection criteria and process, including internships and practicums. Also, improving reciprocity, particularly amongst the Canadian and Alaskan institutions. Improvements to credit transfer, marketing, communication, and the application process, to make it easier for sending institutions. Work needed on visas and visa assistance, particularly in US and Iceland. Development of a Russian national agency while Russia holds the Chair of the Arctic Council.

6. Circumpolar Studies: Member Participation

– Amanda Graham

Recommendation to erase the uncertainty surrounding students who take Circumpolar Studies: i.e. in the case where one institution relies on another to provide online spaces so that students can get the required credits. Major recommendation: Need to list Circumpolar Studies courses in Catalogues, clearly identified as UArctic. A critical need to increase promotion of the program. Module materials should be available in CDROM format for distribution amongst members – the Undergraduate Office will do this in summer 2004. Recommendation to hold regional meetings to discuss common solutions. Members should create a UArctic bulletin board in a high-traffic area to publicize information amongst students and faculty. Call for all members to feature the UArctic logo on their websites, even institutional letterhead. Need to share best practices with other members, and create a web forum for other instructors and site coordinators.

Appendix C: University of the Arctic - Proposed Academic Administration

John R. DeGrace, 12 June 2004

Operational Principles

- Keep it simple.

UArctic does not operate as a credential-conferring academic entity, but instead monitors and coordinates activities among member institutions, and adds its imprimatur to designated credentials offered by those institutions. The UArctic imprimatur will “add value” to the credentials in question. Explicitly this plan is concerned with BCS courses, leading to credentials at students’ home institutions.

- Avoid conflicting records.

The only official academic records held should be those of the home institution. If UArctic were to keep parallel “official” records, there would be the danger of disagreement and of double-counting students. UArctic is to be concerned explicitly with its own records management and not with program management, which is the concern of member institutions in consultation with the UArctic council.

- Respect the academic autonomy of member institutions.

As the member institutions will hold the official records and issue the credential to which UArctic will add its imprimatur, the absolute autonomy of those institutions must be respected. The only “leverage” that UArctic will have will be to withhold its imprimatur.

Laying the Groundwork

The plan set out herein works only if the participating institutions offering UArctic credentials agree to the ground rules set out herein:

- Credential-granting UArctic institutions will enter a Memorandum of Understanding to the effect that:
 - a) For all designated UArctic courses, participating (i.e. credential-granting) institutions agree on a “blanket” Letter of Permission (LOP) for all UArctic students identified by that institution to the UArctic International Academic Office (IAO). Institutional LOP forms will be adjusted to provide for a UArctic identifier as appropriate, to notify the institutions receiving those students of the UArctic affiliation.

The UArctic Program Teams will define what is a UArctic course, but explicitly these must be courses which can be counted towards UArctic credentials.
 - b) For all UArctic LOP students, student-paid tuition (if any) for BCS courses will be paid to the home institution, as if for an official exchange. Similarly, UArctic courses taken by UArctic students on LOPs will be considered as counting towards the residency requirements of the home institution.

The fact of the LOP notwithstanding, a UArctic student identifier is required to ensure that these students do not pay tuition at the distant institution but *do*

pay full tuition (if any) at their home institution. It is important that the records be clear so that students are neither double-charged nor given “free” tuition. The principle of typical exchange agreements is that, over the long term, the exchange will balance and that approximately equal numbers of students will be received as sent. If systemic imbalances occur among UArctic LOPs, participating institutions may wish to revisit the matter.

- c) All identified UArctic students will sign a waiver to permit information sharing among member institutions, and with the IAO, as specified below.

This is required to satisfy the Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy laws of the various jurisdictions, and to ensure that UArctic can receive a complete accounting of identified UArctic students.

- Students will be subject to the Academic Regulations at the applicable institution, and to the Program Regulations and graduation criteria of their home institutions. The “applicable institution” is the institution at which courses are being taken, and the regulations referred-to are those relating to (but not restricted to) grading practices, course delivery, academic misconduct, and examinations.
- Students on LOPs will be responsible for arranging transcript delivery to their home institutions for transfer credit. It is recommended that UArctic credits be transferred on a Pass/Fail basis for the sake of simplicity, but home institutions can opt out of this provision. The grade which is truly significant, of course, is that which appears on the transcript at the institution where the course was taken.
- Participating institutions will be solely responsible for their own academic records of identified UArctic students, for credential audits, for authorizations to confer credentials, and for informing the UArctic IAO of the successful completion of credentials.
- Participating institutions will agree to, and provide for, the presence of the UArctic identifier on their official transcripts and diploma parchments for credentials bearing the UArctic imprimatur. The UArctic imprimatur is the presence of the UArctic crest on the degree parchment, as negotiated on a case-by-case basis; and reference to the UArctic connection on the student’s official transcript, as negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

International Academic Office Procedures

- The IAO will use Microsoft Access or another relational database to enter student information, and to assign a unique UArctic student identifier. The home institution will be the sole repository of *official* academic records. The purpose of the IAO record will be to identify UArctic students among participating institutions and to follow their academic progress at the home institution for the purpose of information-sharing among participating institutions. A student must “become” a UArctic student the day he/she requests an LOP to take a UArctic course at another institution; otherwise they would evade the exchange student protocol. Other students may self-identify as working towards a UArctic credential once they have taken one or more BCS courses at their home institution. Identified UArctic students, however, will always be a subset of those students taking BCS courses - not all of which will choose to self-identify as UArctic.

One reason for “keeping it simple” is to avoid the use by UArctic of a complex student record system such as Banner. The use of Banner would have personnel implications which would more than double the operational cost of the IAO. If UArctic grows very rapidly, a more complex record-keeping system may become necessary, however.

- The IAO will communicate with member institutions so as to maintain an institution-by-institution program awareness, and to ensure that the substance of UArctic credential criteria are met for all credentials that will bear the UArctic imprimatur. This will be a major activity

of the IAO, and will require a periodic certification to the UArctic Council as to the conformity of programs in the participating institutions to UArctic criteria.

- The IAO will identify all of the BCS courses offered among the participating institutions, and share the information among those institutions. The IAO will be the agency that ensures currency among all participating institutions as to the availability of courses and programs relevant to UArctic.
- The IAO will communicate with member institutions, so as to receive basic student demographic and academic information on all identified UArctic students. “Basic student information” includes address and contact information, student number at the home institution, academic status at the home institution (for example, notification of academic dismissal) and periodic degree or credential audits, or transcripts, from the home institution.
- The IAO will ensure that all participating institutions are given a current awareness of the identities of all UArctic students, so that UArctic LOPs are recognized by those institutions. While an LOP may arrive making reference to the UArctic connection, participating institutions still need to be able to cross-check, with the IAO, that the students in question have also been made known to UArctic.
- The IAO will receive advance notices of conferral from participating institutions, and authorize use of the UArctic imprimatur as appropriate.

Note that institutions which cannot confer a credential have the option of partnering with those that can – either to allow students to complete their credential at the other institution, or to have the other institution be the “home” institution for the purpose and confer the credential.

- The IAO will review, for comment, the content of all publications by participating institutions presenting information on UArctic and/or its programs.
- The IAO will report to the UArctic Council as required by the Council.