Minutes of the 15th Council Meeting of UArctic
June 12-14, 2012 / Tromsø, Norway
Final version approved by Council June 3rd, 2013.

Pre-Meeting Session UArctic Today
Introductions from UArctic Strategic Areas and Units

Session I: Opening of the 15th Council Meeting of UArctic
Opening of 15th meeting of the Council of the University of the Arctic
Welcome addresses from local hosts and dignitaries, including a musical performance by Nina Therese Bakke
- Jarle Aarbakke, Rector of University of Tromsø
- Jens Johan Hjort, Mayor of Tromsø Municipality
- Johan Vasara, Political Advisor, Sámi Parliament of Norway

Session II: Council Business
Introductions to Council Officers:
- Lyubov Radnaeva, Buryat, Secretary
- Geir Gotaas, U Tromsø, Vice-Chair
- Jim McDonald, UNBC, Chair

Introduction to Local Planning Committee:
- Britt-Vigdis Ekeli, Chair
- Astrid Revhaug
- Geir Gotaas
- Ute Vogel

Introduction to International Planning Committee
- Outi Snellman, Chair
- Jim McDonald,
- Geir Gotaas
- Ljubov Radnaeva
- Britt-Vigdis Ekeli
- Lars Kullerud
- Jan Henry Keskitalo

Explanation of voting procedures
UArctic Today: Introduction to UArctic and its Programs

Introduction to UArctic and its Programs (Lars Kullerud) [Presentation]
Presentations by program leads:
- Thematic Networks (Kirsi Latola) [Presentation]
- Undergraduate Studies (Claudia Fedorova) [Presentation]
- Graduate Studies (Rich Boone)
- North2north (Isabelle Guissard)
- GoNorth (Ute Vogel)
- Mimir / Research (Marina Kalinina) [Presentation]
- Indigenous Issues (Jan Henry Keskitalo) Report from Indigenous Paradigms – Study Group session

1. Approval of meeting agenda
[2012 Council Agenda]
Suggestion to include a discussion on status of the Membership Fee in the agenda, in the context of the Report from the President, or Report from the Board of Governors. It was agreed that this issue would be addressed during Report from President.

Decision: Council unanimously accepts the agenda for the 15th meeting of the Council of the University of the Arctic.

2. Approval of minutes from 14th Council meeting
[2011 Council minutes - draft]

Decision: Council unanimously approves the Draft Minutes from the 14th Meeting of the Council of the Draft Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the Council of UArctic, Tornio and Rovaniemi, Finland, June 6-9, 2011

3. Membership Issues

a. Introduction of New Members
Full Member / Higher Education Institutions:
- Buryat State Academy of Agriculture, Russia [Presentation]
- Center for Circumpolar Studies, USA [Presentation]
- Komi Republican Academy of State Service and Administration, Russia [Presentation]
- Nordic School of Public Health (NHV), Sweden [Presentation]
- Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia [Presentation]
- Université de Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Canada [Presentation]
- Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR), Canada [Presentation]
- University of Stavanger, Norway [Presentation]

Full Member / Other Organizations:
- All-Russia Scientific Research Institute for Geology and Mineral Resources of the Ocean (VNIIOkeangeologiya), Russia
Council of UArctic – Meeting Minutes / June 2012 (final)

b. Approval of New Members
[Proposal and Background]

Decisions:

i. Council unanimously accepts Buryat State Academy of Agriculture, the Center for Circumpolar Studies, the Komi Republican Academy of State Service and Administration, the Nordic School of Public Health (NHV), Saint-Petersburg University, Université de Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR), and the University of Stavanger as Full Member / Higher Education Institutions of the University of the Arctic.

ii. Council unanimously accepts the All-Russia Scientific Research Institute for Geology and Mineral Resources of the Ocean (VNIIOkeangeologia), the Arctic Centre of Training Specialists, the Arctic Institute of North America, Arctic Portal, the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO), and the Nordisk Fond for Miljø og Udvikling as Full Members / Other Organizations of the University of the Arctic.

Council noted concerns about lack of presentation and lack of representation from the following new member applicants: Université du Québec à Rimouski (UQAR), All-Russia Scientific Research Institute for Geology and Mineral Resources of the Ocean (VNIIOkeangeologia), the Arctic Centre of Training Specialists, and the Arctic Institute of North America.

c. Membership Review – Removal of members
[Proposal and Background]

Following a review by the Membership and Nominations Committee, the committee recommends the removal of the membership status of certain UArctic members.

Decisions:

Council unanimously removes the following members from the membership roster of the UArctic, for having failed to comply with UArctic’s membership obligations.

i. Grande Prairie Regional College
ii. Institute of Language, Literature and History of Komi Science Center of the Ural Division of Russian Academy of Sciences
iii. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
iv. Northeast State University (Magadan)

d. Membership Designation - Acknowledgements

In late 2010, the Board offered members who organized a private donation of €10,000 to the UArctic Fund by the summer 2011 a lifetime exemption from the membership fee. In
recognition of those members that helped support the UArctic Fund in this way, the Board decided to create a member designation – Aurora Members. Members who contributed are hereby recognized as ‘Aurora’ members:

a. GRID Arendal
b. Lakehead University
c. Scandinavian Seminar
d. University of Alaska Fairbanks
e. University of Lapland
f. University of Tromsø

Session III: UArctic Strategic Plan 2020 & Breakout sessions

Lars Kullerud introduces the UArctic Self-Study and the development of the UArctic Strategic Plan 2020.

Council Breakout Sessions

See Breakout Session Reports, under Item 10.

4. Report from the Board of Governors [Report]

Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, Lasse Lønnum presents a report from the activity of the Board of Governors, including the outcome of the meetings at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Dec 2011 and in Nuuk, Greenland in June 2012. Highlights from Board meeting include initiating the process of an external review that will contribute to the development of the next UArctic Strategic Plan (2014-2020). The Board also addressed funding issues including modifying the membership fee to reflect the economic capacity of our members, since access to stable unrestricted funding is too limited. Board is considering the possibility of another membership category ‘Observer’ for important funders and partners. The Board also decided to nominate Lars Kullerud another term as President for six years starting in 2014. Board also will create a position of Vice President Academic for UArctic, and will invite member institutions to nominate individuals and to support the position from the institution, including travel.

5. Report from the President - Annual Report 2011

[UArctic Annual Report 2011] [UArctic Finance Activity Report 2011]

Lars Kullerud presents the UArctic Annual Report for 2011, highlighting activities and outputs, including strong growth in Thematic Networks, strong engagement with external partners in the region, remarkable meetings of the Rectors’ Forum in Inari and Kautokeino, as well as the UArctic 10 Years celebrations in Lapland during the Council meeting there. Changes to Undergraduate Studies, and development in the Graduate Studies program were also explained, as well as efforts to secure consistent funding for north2north mobility. Significant restructuring to the Mimir group has taken place and strengthened capacity in Knowledge and Dialogue has resulted from the establishment of the UArctic Research Office at the Northern (Arctic) Federal University (NArFU). GoNorth and Catalogue are improving in content and usability. UArctic Institutes also make good progress. Finance summary shows approximately €4.5 million in activity reported through UArctic units, including in kind member contributions in the form of staff time. This figure includes a limited amount of
‘non-restricted’ funding (less than €500k) that the Board can control, from national contributions, membership fees, and the UArctic Fund.

6. Bylaws amendment - Board Student Representation

[Background and Proposal]

In order to improve student representation on UArctic’s Board of Governors, some changes to the UArctic bylaws were proposed. The initiative stem from the Board who discussed various approaches on how to broaden its student representation, while also exploring possible ways of giving a direct role to the UArctic Student Association in the process.

Comments noted that it would be useful to have the Student Representative present also at Council meetings, where practical. It is common practice in any case that all Board members are invited to Council meetings. Consequently, the following amendments to Section 4 of UArctic’s Bylaws are proposed

Section 4. “UArctic Board of Governors”

No change to section 4- paragraph 1 above. Changes below in italics

The Board is a group of elected individuals, numbering at least five and not more than eleven, all of whom serve in their personal capacities on behalf of UArctic. Each member of the Board serves a three-year term, renewable once. In addition to this number, a student representative shall be a member of the Board.

The student representation within the Board shall consist of three individuals, each appointed for a three year / non-renewable term.

Over a 3-year cycle each student would, in the 1st year of appointment serve as representative elect, in the 2nd year serve as the representative, and in the 3rd year serve as the outgoing representative.

Each representative has the opportunity to attend a meeting of the board, with the voting member receiving financial support from UArctic. With only one vote allowed at meetings of the Board, a recorded vote shall be made by the student representative or either the representative elect or outgoing representative when the student representative is unable to be present.

Section 4.2 “Election of the Board”

No change to section 4 – paragraphs 1-4 above

Once operational, UArctic’s Student Association shall have the responsibility for the annual appointment of a student representative, through a selection process which is consistent with UArctic values and mission. In the event that the UArctic Student Association is unable to appoint a representative elect, Council shall assume the nomination and selection process.

Decision: Council unanimously accepts the amendments to the UArctic Bylaws, sections 4 and 4.2.

7. Election of Board members

Current Board Members:

- Barry P. Scherr (Chair), Dartmouth College
- Lasse Lønnum (Vice-Chair), University of Tromsø
- Brian Rogers, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- Frits Pannekoek, Athabasca University
- Evgeniya Mikhailova, North-Eastern Federal University
- Elena Kudryashova, Northern (Arctic) Federal University
- Tove Søvndahl Pedersen, Greenland Self-Government
- Ingá Elisá Påve, Student Representative, Sami University College

a. Re-election for 2nd term
[Background and Proposal]
Board member Brian Rogers has been a valuable and active member of the Board of Governors, and served UArctic in his first term. He has expressed his wish to continue as a Board member for a second 3-year term.

Decision: Council unanimously re-elects Brian Rogers to an additional three-year terms on the Board of Governors.

b. Election of new Board member
[Background and Proposal] [Annex 7b]
In order to ensure continuity of Canadian representation on UArctic’s Board, a call for nominations was made through UArctic member institutions in Canada. In response to that call, the University of Northern British Columbia nominated its President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. George Iwama.

Decision: Council unanimously accepts the nomination and elects George Iwama to serve as a member of the Board of Governors of the University of the Arctic for an initial three-year term (2012-2015).

c. Election of 2nd student representative
[Background and Proposal] [Annex 7c]
Given the approved change in Bylaws, Council should elect an additional student representative to the Board of Governors, to serve as student representative elect in the first year.

Decision: Council unanimously elects Stina Roos to serve as student representative (first as representative elect) member of the Board of Governors of the University of the Arctic for a three-year term (2012-2015).

8. Council Committees Issues
a. Membership and Nominations Committee – Approval of new member
The Membership and Nominations Committee is currently composed of 7 elected members:

- Rune Rydén (Chair)
- Joan Nymand Larsen (Vice-chair)
- Karen Langgård
- Yury Alexandrovitch Sumarokov
- Sonni Olsen
- Mike Sfraga
- Sara Wright-Cardinal

Karen Langgård is now concluding her second and final term as member of the Membership and Nominations Committee.
Decisions:

i. Council unanimously elects Liisa Holmberg to serve as members of the Membership and Nominations Committee for an initial term of three years (2012-2015).

ii. Council unanimously joins the Board in thanking Karen Langgård for her important contributions to the Membership and Nominations Committee.

b. Academic Quality Committee – Way forward and approval of new committee members

The Board decided to review the role of the Academic Quality Committee, through a Task Force that would report prior to this Council meeting.

In their review, Task Force members focused on answering four key questions: 1) Who is responsible for academic quality? 2) Should common staffing standards be considered? 3) Should a survey on the development of UArctic academic programmes be done? 4) Should an external evaluation be done? The Task Force made a series of seven recommendations.

i. Council unanimously approves the seven summary recommendations, and asks the new members of the Academic Quality Committee to adhere to these recommendations and to give full consideration to the supplemental recommendations presented by the Task Force.

ii. Council unanimously elects Rich Boone as Chair, Bob Corell, Christer Jonasson, Liudmila Kulikovskaya, and Raimo Väyrynen as members of the Academic Quality Committee, and in addition, elect Krister Stoor as Adjunct member of the committee. All are elected for an initial term of three years (2012-2015).

iii. Council unanimously joins the Board in thanking Jim McDonald and the members of the Task Force for their work.

c. Student Association – Way forward

Outi Snellman presents a status update on the UArctic Student Association, and announces a ‘time out’ on this issue to give UArctic administration time to will focus efforts to develop a model and a way forward to define and create a UArctic student body. The Secretariat will also focus on student communications and information services that benefit students in their current work plan. Stina Roos will be employed by the Secretariat as a Student Communications Coordinator to facilitate this work.

Comment noted that we should also continue to work closely with APECS, and not replicate or overlap in efforts.

Session IV: Indigenous Methodology

Council engaged in a special session on Indigenous Methodology – A contribution to Developing Academic knowledge, chaired by Council Chair Jim McDonald. Following introductory remarks by Bjørg Evjen, University of Tromsø (Norway) and Jelena Porsanger, Sami University College (Norway), the session featured a panel discussion highlighting various approaches to indigenous methodology from cases around the Circumpolar North.

This discussion was a rich exchange of models and ideas that served as examples that can be adapted and adopted by other member institutions of the University of the Arctic. In addition to the speakers who gave opening remarks, the panelists included Anatoly Sleptsov, North-Eastern Federal University (Russia), Mauri Ylä-Kotola, University of Lapland (Finland), and Kristin Solberg, Student, M.A. Indigenous Studies (Norway).
9. Undergraduate Studies – Way Forward

a. Introduction to new Dean and Regional North-American Office
Lars Kullerud announces that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between UArctic and the University of Northern British Columbia during the recent Board meeting in Nuuk, Greenland to host the North American Regional Undergraduate Office. UArctic and UNBC are working to name a new Associate-Dean of Undergraduate Studies, who will be appointed by UNBC in consultation with the UArctic Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Claudia Fedorova of NEFU.

b. Introduction to new BCS Program Team
The new program team will work to ensure the continuity of BCS international online delivery and complete the full core courses curriculum revision process, as well as updating the list of advanced emphasis, and working with institutions to integrate Circumpolar Studies into locally delivered degree program. Other future plans include adapting BCS to Russian language, and developing professional development versions of the BCS curriculum.

The Circumpolar Studies program team shall be a small team that understands the issues of circumpolar content, and the development and delivery of the Circumpolar Studies curriculum. The Program Team membership is now being reviewed. A slate of names is being prepared and will be submitted to Ma-Mawi for approval.

10. Reports from individual Breakout Sessions

a. Strategic Plan 2020: Thematic Networks as the core activity of UArctic.
Rich Boone presents summary of the breakout session. [Report]

b. Strategic Plan 2020: Linking BCS/CS curriculum and North2north mobility to Thematic Networks.
Pål Markusson presents summary of the breakout session. [Report]

c. Strategic Plan 2020: Membership and Integrity.
Jim McDonald presents summary of the breakout session. [Report]

d. Strategic Plan 2020: Quo Vadis UArctic
Jan Henry Keskitalo presents summary of the breakout session. [Report - Presentation]

e. Thematic Network on Polar Ice, Climate and Land Dynamics
Lars Kullerud presents summary of the breakout session on behalf of Oyvind Paasche. [Report]

f. Thematic Network on Geology of Arctic
Kåre Kullerud presents summary of the breakout session. [Report]

g. Thematic Network on Communicating Arctic Research
Ute Vogel presents summary of the breakout session on behalf of Lawrence Hislop Comments: Should embrace open access principles, ambition is to make as much of the materials as open as possible. Aarhus University would offer StationNord, northern Greenland as a field location for the network. Inclusion of repeated photography. [Report]
h. Thematic Network on Arctic Extractive Industries
Gunhild Hoogensen presents summary of the breakout session. [Report]

11. Approval of new Thematic Networks
[Background and Proposal]

a. Thematic Network on Communicating Arctic Research [annex 11-1]
Led by UNEP/GRID-Arendal, Norway (Lawrence Hislop)
Partners:
- University of Lapland (Michael Jacobs, Tomi Knuutila)
- Tampere University of Applied Sciences (Juha Suonpää)
- University of Oulu, Oulanka Research Station (Riku Paavola)
- Chung-Ang University in Seoul, South Korea (Walter Bergmoser)
- Uummannaq Polar Institute (Ann Andreasen)

b. Geology of Arctic Thematic Network [annex 11-2]
Led by the University of Tromsø, Norway (Jurgen Mienert)
Partners:
- University of Tromsø (Kåre Kullerud)
- St. Petersburg State University (Andrey Khudoley)
- North-Eastern Federal University (Valery Fridovsky)
- University of Manitoba (Andrey Bekker)

c. Thematic Network on Polar ice, climate and land dynamics (PICD) [annex 11-3]
Led by the University of Bergen, Norway (Oyvind Paasche)
Partners:
- Stockholm University (Arjen Stroeven)
- Bert Bolin Centre for Climate Research (Johan Kleman)
- University of Bergen (Oyvind Paasche, Tore Furevik)
- Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research (Kerim Nisancioğlu)
- Centre for Climate Dynamics (Tore Furevik)
- Bergen Marine Research Cluster (Oyvind Paasche)
- University of Massachusetts (Ray Bradley)
- International Arctic Research Center (Vladimir Alexeev)
- University of Alaska Fairbanks (John Walsh)
- Northern (Arctic) Federal University (Marina Kalinina)
- University Centre on Svalbard (tba)
- Norwegian Polar Institute (tba)

d. Thematic Network on Arctic Extractive Industries [annex 11-4]
Led by the University of Lapland, Finland (Jessica M. Shadian, Florian Stammler)
Partners:
- Memorial University (Jeff Parsons)
- Ilisimatusarfik, the University of Greenland (Uffe Jakobsen)
- University of Oulu
- University of Tromsø (Gunhild Hoogensen)
- European University, St. Petersburg (Nikolai Vakhtin)
Decisions:

a) Council unanimously approves the Thematic Network on Communicating Arctic Research, led by UNEP/GRID-Arendal, Norway.

b) Council unanimously approves the Geology of Arctic Thematic Network, led by University of Tromsø, Norway.

c) Council unanimously approves the Thematic Network on Polar ice, climate and land dynamics (PICD), led by the University of Bergen, Norway.

d) Council unanimously approves the Thematic Network on Arctic Extractive Industries, led by the University of Lapland, Finland.

12. Development of Strategic Plan 2020 – Approval

Lars Kullerud presents the plan on the development of the UArctic Strategic Plan 2020. He notes that the breakout sessions were important to give guidance from the Council to the new Strategic Plan (2014-2020). The process from this Council input, as well as from unit leads and Board are the basis of the Self-Study. An external review and independent input to the strategy will as reported by the Board be commissioned this fall. A new Strategic Plan will be developed in spring 2013, and at least one e-mail based round of inputs and comments from the full council will be organized winter or early spring 2013.

The next Council meeting will be the place for the final discussion on the Strategic Plan, which will be finally decided by the Board of governors early fall 2013.

Decision: Council welcomes the draft self-study, and joins the Board in asking UArctic’s administration to finalize the “Self-Study of the Strategic Plan 2008-13” based on discussions from the Board meeting in Nuuk (June 4-6, 2012), and discussions from the 2012 Council meeting Breakout sessions.

13. Council Meeting 2013 – Presentation of plans

Keryn Fisher, UAF, presents information on the hosting plans for the Council meeting of 2013 in Fairbanks and introduces the members of the local organizing committee. Preliminary dates for the meeting are June 3-7, 2013.

Decision: For the Council meeting held in Fairbanks, USA, in June 2013, Council unanimously requests that the local planning committee works closely with Toyon (International Planning Committee) on defining the program and thematic focus of the Council meeting.


For the 2014 Council meeting, the University of Northern British Columbia is planning to arrange the event back-to-back with the 8th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS VIII) at the end of May, 2014.

The preliminary dates for the 17th Meeting of the Council are May 20-22, 2014.

Decision: Council unanimously approves the preliminary dates for the 17th Meeting of the Council of UArctic, to be held in Prince George, British Columbia, Canada, from May 20-22,
2014, and requests that the local and international planning committees continue with preparations for the Council meeting 2014.

15. **Council Meeting 2015 – Invitation / Approval**

[Background and Proposal] [Annex 15: Letter of Invitation] [Presentation]

Following a visit by representatives of Buryat State University to the office of the UArctic International Secretariat in February 2012, the President of UArctic, Lars Kullerud received an invitation letter from the Rector of Buryat State University, indicating that the university would be ready to host the Council meeting in Ulan-Ude, Buryatia, Russia in 2015.

**Decision:** Council unanimously accepts the invitation from Buryat State University to host the 2015 Council meeting in Ulan-Ude, Buryatia, Russia.
## List of Participants (by Country)

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