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UArctic Thematic Networks Program Team Meeting Kilpisjärvi Biological Station, January 17-18, 2009

Minutes

Since all Strategic Area Leaders were present in the meeting it was started with introductions on strategic areas and their leaders. So if thematic network is developing new Advanced emphasis studies they should contact Undergraduate studies and Hayley Hesseln, regarding the new graduate studies the contact is Pierre-André Forest at Graduate studies, on mobility contact Mona Johnson at N2N and mobility area, on research and linking together with other Arctic organisations such as Arctic council's working groups or IASC contact Chris Southcott at Knowledge and dialogue.

For fundraising it is important that UArctic Strategic area leaders including President Lars Kullerud and Head of Administration Outi Snellman know what Thematic Networks are doing. It is important to have *selling phrases from each Thematic Network* so that when Lars and others meet fundraisers they are able to promote the networks.

Presentations of the Thematic Networks

TN Global Change/Kirsi Latola

TN on Global Change is almost ready in their goal on developing new curriculum on global change. The work with curriculum development was started in spring 2006 when Nordic council of ministers granted funding. Since then several workshops and team meetings have been held and finally the five new global change courses are ready to be launched in March 24th at Bergen, Norway during Arctic Science Summit Week.

New courses are:

- Health, security and well-being in the North (Academic Lead Res Prof. Arja Rautio, Centre of Arctic Medicine, University of Oulu, Finland)
- Arctic Economies and Livelihoods in a Changing World (Academic Lead Dr. Joan Nymand Larsen, Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland)
- Institutional Dimensions of Global Change (Academic Lead Prof. Alf Håkon Hoel, University of Tromsø, Norway)
- Global Change Technology, methodology, and analysis (Academic Lead Dr. John Moore, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland)
- Adaptation to the globalization in the Arctic (Academic Lead Prof. Svein Mathiesen, International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, Norway).

Plans fro 2009:

One of the newest initiatives is partnership in Climate Change — Adapting to The Impacts, by Communities in Northern Peripheral Regions project which is funded by the European commission Northern Periphery program for 2008-2011 (see <http://www.clim-atic.org/>). Network has also applied for new funding together with undergraduate and UArctic Atlas for UArctic open textbooks project. If money is granted the contents of two courses: Arctic Economies and Livelihoods and Adaptation to the globalization will be edited as electronic books and translated to Russian as well (that is one goal of that new project).



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TN Arctic Medicine/Arja Rautio

Jointly developed new Master's program on Health and Wellbeing in the circumpolar Area was started in January with 11 students representing Canada, United Kingdom, Finland, Russia and Australia. The southern students have worked closely with aboriginal people, some students have more closely link to indigenous peoples than some. One third of the courses is on-line courses, and exchange period is important. Some of the courses are also included in Masters Program on social work (U Lapland, Cross-Border University program). Other important aspect is also that students can continue to PhD level.

Network is also collaborating in research projects with University of Tromsø on Health of Sámi (dementia research) and joint research will be started with NSMU, Russia on alcohol and tobacco.

It was asked if is it possible others to join to MCH later and right now it is difficult since pilot is going on, but after that it is possible to join.

Keeping in mind the Arctic Parliamentarians statement - it is time to make a use of it. There is also a rumour going on that Denmark with the upcoming Arctic Council chairmanship will invest on health issues.

TN on Local and Regional Development in the North/Tor Gjertsen

First network meeting was held during the Borealis conference in 2007 (so the TN really started to work a year after establishment). The list of partners has not been updated but the list of active partners in co-operation has risen from Tri-angle to the gang of six:

- Department of State and Municipal Government and Institute of Management and Law/Pomor SU (Rus.) and Arkhangelsk State Technical University (ASTU)
- Lönnrot Institute, Kajaani U. Consortium (Fin.)
- Finnmark U. College (Nor.)
- University of Saskatchewan (Can.)
- Sakha State University (Yakutia, Russia)
- St. Mary's University (Halifax, Canada)

Activities in 2008:

- Network meeting, international conference on rural development, Arkhangelsk (March)
- Network meeting and workshop, represented at UArctic Council meeting and Canadian Arctic Summit 2008, in Edmonton, Canada (May-June)
- Elaboration of web based network home page
- Seminar on Local Development and Youth Involvement in Voukatti, Finland (June)
- The Gargia Conference 2008: on Northern Innovation and Development and following Excursion to Sørøya (Oct.)
- Start of planning process for an applied international masters degree in Northern Innovation and Development - and a multidisiplinary international bachelor study with a similar thematic focus

Plans for 2009:

- Network meeting/workshop in Arkhangelsk (April)
- Joint meeting with TN on Northern Governance in Saskatchewan, Canada (May)
- Network meeting, seminar and development workshop in rural community in Yakutia (June)
- One or two local development workshop in Finnmark (June)



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- The international Gargia Conference 2009 (Octobre)
- Joint comparative study and book project on: Socioeconomic development in remote, sparsely populated, rural areas in Northern Canada, Norway and Russia New funding was granted from Russian for co-operation between Finnmark Univ College and Sakha State University for summer school and workshop.

TN on Northern Governance/Bjørn Sagdahl

The biggest challenge in network has been fundraising that lead Greg Poelzer has been doing quite a lot. It is clear that without funding a network can do very little. The goal is to develop a joint Master's program on Northern Governance, which would also feed students working with their theses into a research.

Bjørn also talked about BCS graduates who would like to continue to Master's programs. However, it was questioned how competence the graduates are? In Bodø University College they have a Norwegian Master's program in Politics and Development which could be also taught in English, however so far it is only in Norwegian.

Network will co-operate more closely with TN on Local and Regional Development, also in Master's program development. In addition network is working on Advanced emphasis course together with Northern British Columbia and Nunavut.

Program team discussed about the BCS graduates, Lars suggested that it would be good to list the universities and colleges where student can do BCS courses on site and check if student can continue to Master's program there. UArctic Graduate studies programs goal is to help students and build some supportive actions. It would also be very interesting to get feedback from BCS graduates. We should also discuss about joint Master's program together with thematic networks that would give a lot of flexibility for courses which is always good for survivor of the programs.

TN in Digital and Media Arts/ Tomi Knuutila and Herb Enns

The network presented its plan for an interactive for ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in April 28/29 09 in Tromsø. That will be their first project and it is about the new knowledge about the Arctic. Network will also work on visualization of the UArctic Atlas.

Since the network is new they have not yet thought about developing the new educational programs, the first thing will be a joint workshop, where they would like to have also students. The idea is to create opportunities that would be used for all Thematic Networks.

TN on Distance Education and E-learning/ Øyvind Ytreberg

Yhteistyö Murmansk state pedagogical Univ

Network has divided its work into five groups: one group is working on e-learning (Anthonabaska will be asked to join + Russian partner), second smaller group is working on quality of higher education and evaluation system. Third group is about astronomy and space science, this group is about the subject, the topics that will be taught via distance education. Fourth group is concentrating on English language and fifth is about flow of education in the Arctic, one goal is to increase use of field stations (for that they have an internal Norwegian funding together with UNIS). Network will have a seminar in Murmansk (with Murmansk State Pedagogical University) which will be the first joint meeting for whole network including the Canadian partners. Network is also open for new partners.



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Network has funding until summer 2009 so the plan is to find more funding, which looks easier now that Tromsø University College has merged with University of Tromsø.

TN Energy in a New Time/Anatoli Bourmistrov

The decision for making a larger thematic network with joint leadership of Bodø University College and University of Alberta was the right and successful. The first task has been in finding good models for joint leadership, which is not just bilater between two departments since in Alberta they have five people from different departments involved. Other issue that has been though a lot is the continuation of BCS graduates.

Network has six Russian partners from which three are UArctic members (Murmansk, Arkangelks, Uhta). Network in focusing in all issues related to energy, the current financial crisis has an impact to Northern energy resources but hopefully that is only temporary.

Vision is to provide leadership for the sustainable energy management. Main idea is to build on the experience they already have, one is Master's program in Energy management in Bodø (has operated already for four years, 60 students graduated in spring 2007 and 2008) – in the program part of the studies is done at Russia and part in Bodø, thus students will also practice their Russian language.

Master's of Science in Sustainable Management will start in spring 2009 (opening was held in November 2008). First 20 students will come to Bodø this spring (5 Russian from different universities and 15 Norwegian) all studies will be done in Norway. SIU provides funding for students in sustainable management (08/09 NOK 360.000,-) for Russian students (travel, accommodation and books). Master's of Science in Energy Management get support from Total Norway 2008/2009 NOK 250.000,- (accommodation and books) – the same amount as a year before. Student exchange should be also included in both programs and the hope is that student will also be able to go to Canada/USA

Last year network made a survey on energy related studies in UArctic member organizations, only 20% replied to the survey and from those 38% replied that they are willing to share their courses. These results will be used for co-operation.

In June 2008 they had workshop in the relation to conference "Inside Russia" where the focus was on the synergy between education research and business. October 2008 the Arctic Sea Study Tour was organized on the boat of the Coastal Steamer from Bodø to Hammerfest. There Oil and Gas companies, government representatives and fishermen all took part and had a vivid discussion on coexistence between different industries.

New co-operation with University of Texas at Austin has been initiated as a part of the Norwegian partnership program with North-America. UAF was invited to join these activities.

Future plans:

It's been easier to develop new Master's program with Russians than with Canadian who have a heavy process in accepting new study programs. Russian are open for Bologna process and starting from next fall all Russian will begin in Bachelor programs.

North American co-operation will begin with small when a group of students will come from USA for taking part some of the courses. A new program is planned where students will take some courses either at Alberta or Bodø and there has also been discussion on PhD courses on business that would be offered for all UArctic students.



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TN on Journalism/Heikki Timonen

Heikki Ylipaavalniemi will be leading the network at Oulu University of Applied Sciences. Initiative for this network came from Barents press which consists of journals meeting annually.

First exchange students from Bodø and Murmansk (current network partners) will spend a month in Oulu in February 2009 (accommodation and meals are covered with Erasmus, they paid travel costs themselves). Students will start working on Ezine and will finish their stories after returning to home university. Ezine will focus in four topics (as a starting point), which will cover e.g. family, education, climate change, there will also be a news archive.

TN on Northern Tourism/Ola Sletvold

Network had its preparatory meeting in May 2008 before going to Edmonton council meeting and the goal is to develop a Master's program and joint research. Network has made bilateral new contacts with partners, in addition they are looking for new partners especially from Russia which they are missing. They have been thinking if there should have criteria for a new members? A new funding opportunity has shown up as Norwegian government has opened a new five year funding for tourism.

Plans for 2009 include a meeting at Ny-Ålesund in spring 2009, Master's program should begin in 2010, for that they would also like to have Russian partners. They are also planning an own webpage.

Interesting issue is how much tourism can be governed in northern areas?

Verdde/Lena-Susanne Gaup

Network is again looking for a new leader, since Kristine Nystad left the Sámi Univ College the network hasn't had a stable leader which can also be seen in activity.

In April 2008 the International Coordinator Lena Susanne Gaup visited Sakha Republic together with the Ealát project on their workshop in the small reindeer herding community Topolini. At the workshop seminar the Verdde network was presented and information on the possibilities of student exchange and North 2 North scholarships, f. ex. in Reindeer Husbandry Studies or Duodji (Sámi Traditional and Applied Arts) were shared. In April 2008 also a new contract was signed with Sakha State University.

Future:

- Verdde is looking for a new leader, additionally in spring and fall semester 2009 they have a special situation with the moving to the new building Diehtosiida.
- a student and teacher exchange from SUC to Nunavut Arctic College fall 2009, in Duodji- Traditional and Applied Arts
- a educational program for international students in English fall 2009- this enables us to admit more exchange students to the SUC
- Teachers exchange: shorter exchanges, knowledge based exchanges

Finalizing and accepting the Thematic Networks Quality guidelines

Kari presented the guidelines which were commented by Geir Gotaas, the chair of UArctic Academic Quality Committee. Overall Geir thought that this initiative is very good. He listed some points that needs to be considered:



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

“Why quality control:

- *Demonstrate to the outside world that we take the issue of quality seriously.*
- *Reflect the fact that input from, and outreach to indigenous peoples are an integral part of UArctic activities.*

Focus on

- *Research (and Development); Peer review publication already in place, so TN should focus on co-operation*

Relevant to academic quality... ?”

The program team had long and good discussion followed by Geir’s presentation. And since new program team members were present an update on previously discussed issues was also made. First it has been previously discussed and agreed that academic quality on education is already done at the institutions since it is part of the Bologna process and how universities function. Quality included also evaluation and feedback from students. The program team noted that it is not meaningful to make a heavy reporting and quality but agreed that these things should be reported since UArctic has to show quality to governments, Arctic council and other Arctic bodies as well to founders.

In order to make reporting as easy as possible and not make double reporting, it was suggested and accepted that basic functions of the thematic networks will be reported directly to web based membership survey which has already had a section for thematic network but until now it has been filled by council representatives and in many cases someone who doesn’t even know that their institution is involved in Thematic Networks. Therefore each Thematic Network leader will be given an access to fill in Thematic Networks section (and only that, other parts will be filled as previous by administrative). The membership survey is currently being revised so based on this discussion the thematic networks section will be revised again and after the survey is ready to be filled Outi Snellman will inform all leaders about that. However, since the survey is only asking the numbers and basic issues, a short half-one page free form report is needed where network describes what it has actually done during the past year – what is behind those figures etc.

With the new guidelines the hope is to get added value and positive impact to UArctic and Arctic as a whole. Thus, the new guidelines could also mean that some new thematic networks proposals will not pass the evaluation. The question is also on how networks are organized and how it functions, good organization brings quality to its operation. So there is quality in different things, and not only at the end product (education or research).

It would be good to follow up the Arctic council working groups and their reports and implement the suggestions and needs in those. Arctic Social Indicators is also coming up shortly and might be relevant for reading and checking.

Program team discussed also about the five year evaluation and how to find funding for that. One way could be that networks are already asked to write to the proposal where they will get the funding for evaluation. It was also suggested that each host organization should sign a contract with UArctic showing commitment on the work and providing also some funding for the network. Program team agreed on this. Host institutions commitment is also very important for funding.

Funding is an issue that was again discussed and a question was raised on how UArctic could guarantee funding for its main activity. UArctic Board of Governors has stated that basic funding should exist. Lars told that for UArctic it is much easier to sell thematic networks in fundraising than administration for example. And easiest it is to do with big network with large activities. That is also a reason why Lars and Outi and other on the top level should know what



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networks are doing, they are selling the networks to the founders. And for that we also need catchy phrases, a selling phrase “what would you say if you had one minute with Bill Gates”.

Chris Southcott reminder also that UArctic research office can help in finding the funding for research. A good idea presented by Bjorn Sagdahl is that permanent PhD courses and Master's program delivered through Thematic Networks will promote and spread information around the Arctic that would bring new participants and students but would also gain acknowledgement from politicians.

It was noted that since different countries have different policies in different governments, which also change time to time it is difficult to know what policies or reports should be mentioned and remembered when writing up funding proposal. It would good if all relevant policies and papers would be found from UArctic website that could actually be done quite easily with new Atlas.

Decision:

Program team accepted the quality guidelines and appointed the following leaders to the endorsement committee:

- Greg Poelzer, U Saskatchewan, Canada, Thematic Network on Northern Governance
- Hannele Zubeck, University of Alaska Anchorage, USA, Thematic Network on Arctic Engineering and Science
- Tor Gjertsen, Finnmark Univ College, Norway, Thematic Network on Local and Regional Development
- Loudmila Zamorshikova, Sakha State University, Russia, Thematic Network on World Images of Indigenous Peoples of the North
- Jan Idar Solbakken, Sámi Univ College, Norway, UArctic Indigenous Thematic Network on Community-based Natural Resource Co-management
- Kari Laine, chair of the Thematic Networks
- Kirsi Latola, coordinator of the Thematic Networks and Thematic Networks on Global Change in the Arctic

Co-operation between the strategic areas: Thematic Networks and other areas

In the new UArctic strategy the Thematic Networks is a strategic area and not a program anymore. Other strategic areas have programs in it, as an example a Graduate Studies strategic area has three programs: master's program, Field schools and graduate networks. Each of the programs has a chair that is leading the program. Now, Thematic Networks is a Strategic area which doesn't have any programs under it but individual networks. So the leaders of thematic networks are at the same level in the organization as program chairs. That is important for everyone to understand.

Graduate area:

Pierre-André reminded that UArctic has graduate area with Master's programs, field schools and graduate networks, so when developing a new graduate level education coordinate and contact the graduate area (Pierre-André Forest), the Uarctic policy for Master's programs is coming up but they will also provide practical help and advice in the planning process.

Undergraduate area:

Hayley noted that if networks are interested in planning and developing new Advanced Emphasis courses they are happy to help and accept new ones.



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Mimir/Research:

Chris hopes that membership survey will give him a lot of information on research activities and also contacts who he could announce the new funding possibilities.

Mobility:

Mona notes especially that teacher exchange could and should increase a lot, there is also potential to increase a student exchange as well. One important things could also be that both student and teacher are doing a exchange at the same time in same place, that could stimulate new projects and forms of co-operation.

Secretary/administration:

Outi gave wishes from secretary first it would be essential that all leaders and network partners would inform their home organizations about the existence and work of the network. That would help in fund raising and also in organizations reporting to UArctic.

Secondly UArctic publishes online news items and hopes short news items from networks and welcomes also the longer feature stories published monthly.

Thirdly almost all rectors of UArctic member organizations have signed UArctic charter (enclosed), the challenge is now to get it into operation. In some organizations rectors are taking the message themselves to the faculties and departments saying that time must also be allocated to UArctic but no extra funding will be given.

Program team discussed more widely on how to implement the charter and get the institutional commitment beyond the name in the paper. Team discussed about the importance of rectors forum and how it is essential to get all rectors (vice-rectors or provost) to the meetings and that way committed to UArctic and its work. Currently the UArctic members differ a lot, historically there are some institutions that have been committed and new institutions which see the point and are getting to be more committed and then there are some institutions which doesn't understand and do anything. This message should be sent to Rector's Forum

Related to previous Kari asked "are we marketing enough, are we good enough?" We need to improve the information, what thematic networks are doing. One good way for that is the next annual issue on **Shared Voices 2010** that will be about Thematic Networks, it will be ready for Artic Council Ministerial meeting in Tromso in April 2009.

Other issues

TN on Arctic Agriculture leadership change.

Professor Olavi Junttila, University of Tromso has retired thus the leadership of network was suggested to be changed to University of Saskatchewan to Dr. Karen Tanino. She has accepted the leadership and so did program team.

Decision:

The new leader of Arctic Agriculture (changed to Northern Agriculture) is Dr. Karen Tanino at University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

In the future the thematic network will be divided into a) research and b) academic programming:

a) Research would focus on producing **horticulture crops** for both local consumption as well as export to southern regions. Increased consumption of fresh fruit and vegetable crops is



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widely considered to decrease incidents of diabetes and cancer. We also have extensive evidence from our own research that the "Northern Vigour" effect of **enhanced phytomedicinal content of crops grown in northern regions is significant**. Finally, Bob Bors has been contacted by a Norwegian researcher interested in introducing **Haskap** (*Lonicera caerulea*) fruiting shrub to Norway. Bob Bors has the most extensive collection of this field crop in the world and it has more anti-oxidant capacity than blueberries. Growth of horticulture fruit and vegetable crops in northern regions has been demonstrated with extended postharvest storage capacity, and the technology exists. The main issue is to find people to actually grow the crops. Thus, this **thematic network involves an integration of sociology, health, agriculture and economics**. **A workshop to discuss these ideas** and to galvanize a focussed goal and organize this thematic network is an important first step. Since the **"Plant and Microbe Adaptations to Cold" conference is planned for Tromso** this fall, I have contacted the conference organizer regarding the potential to hold the workshop back to back or integrated with her conference.

b) Academic programming. **A 3 c.u. course on Agriculture in Northern Environments at the undergraduate level and a 3 c.u. graduate level course on Plant Abiotic Stress is planned**. These can be taught in real time through video conferencing at a common time such that students from various institutions will sit together in the same class. The course would be taught in module format beginning with a foundation of principles and followed by experts from various institutions teaching their respective sections. The course would be taught on an annual basis but offered **in alternate years to half of the countries due to time scheduling**---i.e. in odd years offered to Canadian and European countries, in even years offered to Canadian and northern Asian countries.

New ideas/possible proposals for new Thematic Networks

TN on Northern Boreal Forest

Hayley Hessel, University of Saskatchewan, the Canadian Model Forest Network ...

TN on Antarctica and the Arctic, convergences and divergences

Dr Enrique del Acebo Ibáñez, Foundation on High Studies on Antarctica and Extreme Environments/the International Association of Circumpolar Sociocultural Issues (IACSI) Argentina, host should be one of his partners: University of Lapland, Univ of Oulu in Finland, and at the Universities of Iceland and of Akureyri in Iceland

TN on "gender issues"

Seija Keskitalo-Foley, University of Lapland/Femina Borealis, Kvinneuniversitetet i Nord.. Conference in 2012 where the planning of the TN could be done

Thematic Network in northern languages

In the early stage, discussions in Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium with Ludmilla Gashilova, Institute of Nations of the North at Gerzen University; and Ludmila Andreeva the Institute of Language, History and Culture of the Peoples of Yugra at Yugra State University and with Nellie T. Kusugak, from Alaska.

- it was discussed that a network focusing on northern language is already in operation (TN on World Images of Indigenous Peoples of the North) with co-operation with Gertzen University.

Next meeting:

Program team decided to meet only once in a year since only few members have been able to participate the meetings held during the UArctic council. The annual meeting will be held at



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Kilpisjärvi in January and date will be coordinated with the Arctic Frontiers conference (Tromsø in January).



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Participants:

Thematic Networks Program Team members:

- Kari Laine, Program chair, UArctic Thematic Network office
- Kirsi Latola, Program coordinator, UArctic Thematic Network Office/TN on Global Change in the Arctic
- Arja Rautio, Univ Oulu, TN on Arctic Medicine
- ~~Lyudmila Zamorshikova~~, Sakha State University, TN on World Images of Indigenous Peoples of the North
- Tor Gjertsen, Finnmark University College, TN on Local and Regional Development in the North
- Lena-Susanne Gaup, Sámi University College, Verdde
- Björn Sagdahl, University of Saskatchewan/Bodø Univ College, TN on Northern Governance
- Tomi Knuutila and Herb Enns, University of Lapland, Finland/University of Manitoba, Canada, TN in Digital and Media Arts,
- Øyvind Ytreberg, Tromsø University College, Norway, TN on Distance Education and E-learning,
- Anatoli Bourmistrov, Bodø University College, Norway/University of Alberta, Canada, TN Energy in a New Time (ENT),
- Heikki Timonen, Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Finland, TN on Journalism,
- Ola Sletvold, Finnmark University College, Norway, TN on Northern Tourism

- ~~Olavi Junttila/Karen Tanino~~, University of Tromsø/University of Saskatchewan, TN on Arctic Agriculture
- ~~Gunnvor Guttorm~~, Sámi University College, TN on Indigenous Arts and Crafts
- ~~Leo Pekkala~~, University of Lapland, TN on Arctic Learning Environment
- ~~Hannele Zubeck/Sven Knutsson~~, University of Anchorage Alaska, USA/Luleå University of Technology, Sweden, TN on Arctic Engineering and Science
- ~~Liv Østmo~~, Sámi University College, UArctic Indigenous TN on Community-based Natural Resource Co-management
- ~~Asgeir Solstad~~, Bodø University College, TN on Social Work and

Others:

- Jan Henry Keskitalo, UArctic Board of Governors, Sámi University College
- Claudia Federova, UArctic council chair
- Geir Gotaas, chair, UArctic Academic Quality Committee
- ~~Redion Sulyandziga~~, chair, UArctic Indigenous Peoples Issues Committee

Mamawi (Strategic Area Leads)

- Lars Kullerud, President, UArctic
- Kari Laine/Kirsi Latola, Thematic Networks
- Outi Snellman, Services and Organisation
- Chris Southcott, Knowledge and Dialogue
- Hayley Hessel, Undergraduate studies
- Mona Johnson, Mobility
- Pierre-André Forest/~~Larry Duffy~~, Graduate Studies