



UARctic Indigenous Issues Committee

Rules of Procedure

UARctic's Indigenous Issues Committee (hereafter referred to as the "*Committee*") is a committee of the Council of UARctic. The Committee's mandate is to oversee and provide advice on all matters pertaining to indigenous issues that relate to the activities of UARctic. Among other, these rules set out the composition and responsibilities, as well as the procedures of the Committee. The Committee itself is responsible for establishing and maintaining these terms of reference.

Role and Responsibilities:

UARctic strives to develop educational and research oriented activities and programs that are inclusive of the interests and concerns of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic. And to this end, this Committee provides the oversight and advice needed to ensure that the activities and programs of UARctic are inclusive of circumpolar indigenous perspectives.

In addition the Committee will:

- Be guided by the United Nations [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- Serve as a forum for indigenous representatives from UARctic's membership to facilitates the input from Circumpolar indigenous communities on their current activities and future needs;
- Strive to secure appropriate awareness in UARctic of the past, present, and future aspirations of the Indigenous Peoples by promoting activities that encourage personal, social, intellectual, and cultural interactions between indigenous students and faculty and the circumpolar community.

Composition:

- In accordance with UARctic's Bylaws, the Committee shall consist of a chair and members elected by the Council of UARctic. Each committee member is elected for a three-year term, which can be renewed once. Vacancies on the Committee are filled by the Council during any regular Council meeting.
- The Committee is to have no less than five (5) members, and shall aim to have representation from a diversity of indigenous groups in the Arctic region.
- The Committee is to be composed of individuals with an Arctic indigenous background, and Committee members should be engaged members of their community, with preferably a good understanding of education and research issues in their respective regions.
- The Committee shall elect a chair from among its members, and the Chair must be an indigenous representative from a UARctic member institution or organisation. The Chair shall hold the position for a three year period, which can be renewed once.

- Those serving on the Committee are normally representatives from Council member institutions and organisations. However, the Chair of the committee may nominate other individuals to serve on the committee in cases where they bring needed expertise.
- Also among its membership, the Committee may include representation from a community Elder, as well as a Student representative. The committee Chair may nominate such individuals and decide on the specific length of term for each elder and student representative.
- In selecting members for the committee, an effort should be made to achieve regional as well as gender balance.
- UArctic's Vice-President Indigenous is to serve as an Ex officio member of the Committee.

Meetings and Workload:

- On issues for discussion and decisions, every effort will be made to build consensus in the Committee. The committee Chair will have particular responsibility to solicit the views of members who are unable to attend a meeting.
- In an effort to make informed decisions, the Committee may decide to create working groups lead by committee members, and each group will be open to both indigenous and non-indigenous knowledge holders. These working groups shall be temporary and have a specific task oriented focus, with the goal of producing reports and or providing recommendations for the Committee to consider.
- The workload of individual committee members is estimated at 5 to 10 hours per month, to respond to committee issues via online communications (e.g. e-mail; Skype meetings, etc.). In addition, each year members are encouraged to attend a face-to-face meeting of the Committee.
- Face-to-face meetings of the Committee could be held in conjunction with other UArctic meetings (e.g. the annual meeting of the Council), or in connection with an external meeting of relevance where a number of Committee members plan to attend (e.g. Arctic Council meetings; annual Arctic Circle Assembly; etc.).
- The committee Chair may invite non-indigenous individuals to a meeting of the committee to provide insight and expertise on specific issues.
- The Committee will receive technical and practical support from the UArctic International Secretariat.