MINUTES of the 2nd Meeting of the Assembly of UArctic
Held online on May 14th, 2021

The meeting was co-hosted by UArctic members in Iceland: Agricultural University of Iceland; Bifröst University; Hólar University; Iceland University of the Arts; Reykjavik University; University of Akureyri; University Centre of the Westfjords; and the University of Iceland.

Minutes: These are the minutes of the 2021 Meeting of the Assembly of UArctic, which was held online on May 14th. In these minutes each meeting agenda item is presented in order of the original agenda, even though an item may have been dealt with out of sequence during the meeting. The minutes contain web links to proposal decisions, presentations, and background documents. This meeting was held in accordance with UArctic rules and regulations (see introduction to rules in agenda item 1). Note: Voting on agenda action items was done during an online voting period (April 28 to May 9), and in total 28 individual member votes were securely cast and recorded. The focus of the minutes is on the final decisions.

Officers of the Assembly: The 2nd Meeting of the Assembly of UArctic was led by the Officers of the Assembly: Chair of the Assembly, Liisa Holmberg; Chair of the Assembly, Ljubov D. Radnaeva; and the Secretary of the Assembly, Lindsay Whaley.

Confirmation of Records: The Chair of the Assembly of UArctic and the two examiners elected in the meeting, confirm that the records for the 2021 Meeting of the Assembly of UArctic are complete and accurate. Link to the signed Confirmation of Records.

Participation: 142 registered participants attended the meeting, with 86 individual UArctic member institutions and organisation represented from 16 different countries. List of registered participants.

Meeting program: The Assembly meeting opened with a welcoming video from Meet in Reykjavik. This was followed by welcoming address from the Chairs of the Board and the Assembly of UArctic, and an introductory session “UArctic Today” where an overview of UArctic and some of its activities were given. During the subsequent Assembly meeting business sessions, the Officers of the Assembly presented each agenda item, announce the voting results, and confirm the final decisions.

Note: Assembly member representatives are contacted directly (by e-mail) during key stages of the meeting preparation process. To see who the representatives are for a given member institution, go to our Member Profile page and select the country and the member in question. The Assembly member representatives are listed under Contract information (on the right). To change your institution’s contact person and/or contact information, please send us an e-mail with details to Secretariat@uarctic.org
2021 ASSEMBLY MEETING - BUSINESS

Agenda items:

1. **Introduction to Meeting Rules: validity, rights, proposals and voting**
   Presenter: Pierre-André Forest, Director of Governance Support
   Documents: [Introduction to Assembly meeting rules 2021]
   [Board decision – 2021 & 2022 Assembly Meetings]
   Links: [Minutes - 1st Meeting of the Assembly of UArctic]
   [UArctic Constitution] [UArctic Bylaws]

2. **Approval of Meeting Agenda and Selection of Examiners** (Action item)
   Presenter: Liisa Holmberg, Chair of the Assembly
   Document: [Proposal 2 - Decision]
   Decision: Members of the Assembly voted unanimously in favour to the following:
   a) The Assembly accepts the proposed agenda for the 2021 Meeting of the Assembly of UArctic (as presented below).
   b) The Assembly selects member representatives Irinja Paakканен and Peter Weiss as Examiners of the meeting Minutes.

3. **Approval of Amendment to UArctic Constitution & UArctic Bylaws** (Action item)
   Presenter: Liisa Holmberg, Chair of the Assembly
   Documents: [Proposal 3 - Decision]
   [UArctic Constitution / with amendment to Article 8]
   Decision: Members of the Assembly voted unanimously in favour to the following:
   a) The Assembly approves the proposal to amend the **UArctic Constitution**
   [Article 8: Association Assemblies] and to the **UArctic Bylaws** [section 3.2: Meetings of the Assembly] to allow meetings of the Assembly to be organized so that participants may attend via telephone, video, or other technical means.
   b) The Assembly calls on the **Head of the UArctic International Secretariat**
   to formally implement the amendment to the UArctic Constitution and the UArctic Bylaws as presented, and to update any operation guidelines accordingly.
4. **Election of Assembly Officers** *(Action item)*

Presenter: *Outi Snellman, Secretary of the Nominations Committee*

Document: [*Proposal 4 - Decision]*

**Decision:** Members of the Assembly voted 96% in favour and 4% abstained to the following:

a) *The Assembly elects Ljubov D. Radnaeva as Chair of the Assembly of UArctic for a three-year term (2021-2024), effective following the conclusion of this meeting.*

b) *The Assembly elects Lindsay Whaley as Vice-Chair of the Assembly of UArctic for a three-year term (2021-2024), effective following the conclusion of this meeting.*

c) *The Assembly elects Lena Maria Nilsson as Secretary of the Assembly of UArctic effective following the conclusion of this meeting, and for the remainder of the current officer’s term (through to the next Assembly meeting in 2022).*

5. **Election of Board Members**

Presenter: *Lena Maria Nilsson, Chair of the Nominations Committee*

5.1 **Election of the Board Members to 2\textsuperscript{nd} term** *(Action item)*

Documents: [*Proposal 5.1 - Decision]*


**Decision:** Members of the Assembly voted unanimously in favour to the following:

a) *The Assembly elects Elena Kudryashova, Sergey Aplonov, Anne Husebekk, and Ross Virginia for a 2\textsuperscript{nd} three-year term (2021-2024) on the Board of UArctic.*

b) *The Assembly acknowledges the contributions made by Karen Barnes and Evon Peter, and thanks them for having helped as Board members to guide UArctic through an exciting period of transition and development.*

5.2 **Election of new Board Members** *(Action item)*

Documents: [*Proposal 5.2 - Decision]*

[Furevik – Nomination documents]

[Ikäheimo – Nomination documents]

[Pitney – Nomination documents]
**Decision:** Members of the Assembly voted unanimously in favour to the following:

a) *The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects Tore Furevik as member of the Board of UArctic for a three-year term (2021-2024).*

b) *The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects Johanna Ikäheimo as member of the Board of UArctic for a three-year term (2021-2024).*

c) *The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects Pat Pitney as member of the Board of UArctic for a three-year term (2021-2024).*

d) *The Assembly joins the Board in extending UArctic’s deepest condolences to the family and friends of Lene Kielsen Holm, as well as to her colleagues at the Greenlandic Climate Research Centre, and the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources.*

5.3 **Election of Board Student Representative** *(Action item)*

**Documents:**

- [Proposal 5.3 - Decision](#)
- [Call for Nominations – Board Student Representative](#)
- [Kähkönen - Candidate statement](#)

**Decision:** Members of the Assembly voted unanimously in favour to the following:

a) *The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects Juho Kähkönen as Student Representative on the Board of UArctic for a fixed three-year term (2021-2024).*

b) *The Assembly acknowledges and wishes to thank Kamila Faizieva for her contributions and time as Board Student Representative (2018-2021).*

6. **Election of Assembly Committee Members**

6.1 **Election of Nominations Committee Members** *(Action item)*

**Presenter:** Outi Snellman, Secretary of the Board of UArctic

**Documents:**

- [Proposal 6.1 - Decision](#)
- [Holmberg - Candidate CV](#)

**Decision:** Members of the Assembly voted unanimously in favour to the following:

a) *The Assembly re-elects Yury Sumarokov of Northern State Medical University as member of UArctic’s Nominations Committee for a 2nd three-year term (2021-2024);*

b) *The Assembly accepts the Board nomination and elects Liisa Holmberg of International Sámi Film Institute as member of the Nominations Committee.*
Committee for an initial three-year term (2021-2024), commencing following the conclusion of this meeting.

c) The Assembly joins the Board of UArctic in thanking Lena Maria Nilsson for his dedication and important contributions to UArctic as member and Chair of the Nominations Committee (2015-2021).

6.2 Election of Indigenous Issues Committee Members (Action item)
Presenter: Lena Maria Nilsson, Chair of the Nominations Committee
Documents: [Proposal 6.2 - Decision]
[Rules of Procedure – Indigenous Issues Committee]
[Call for Nominations – Indigenous Issues Committee]
[Charles - Nomination documents]
[Tippin Poe - Nomination documents]
[Sittichinli - Nomination documents]
[Asiqłuq Topkok - Nomination documents]
[Williamson - Nomination documents]

Decision: Members of the Assembly voted unanimously in favour to the following:

a) The Assembly accepts the nominations and elects Colleen J. Charles, Terzah Tippin Poe, Greta Sittichinli, Charles Asiqłuq Topkok, and Karla J. Williamson as members of the Indigenous Issues Committee for an initial three-year term 2021-2024, commencing following this meeting.

b) The Assembly acknowledges and wishes to thank Kirk D. Anderson, Gwen Healey and Beth Leonard for their contributions and time on the Indigenous Issues Committee.

7. Report from the President (Live - aural presentation)
Presenter: Lars Kullerud, UArctic President

8. Endorsement of UArctic Strategic Plan 2030 (Action item)
Presenter: Lars Kullerud, UArctic President
Documents: [Proposal 8 - Decision]
[UArctic Strategic Plan 2030]
**Decision:** Members of the Assembly voted unanimously in favour to the following:

*The Assembly endorses the Board approved UArctic Strategic Plan 2030 as presented, and thanks the Board and UArctic’s leadership for producing a concrete strategic document.*

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9. **UArctic Finances**

9.1 **Approval of Financial Statements and Auditor Report 2020** *(Action item)*

**Presenter:** Lars Kullerud, UArctic President  
**Documents:**  
[Proposal 9.1 - Decision]  
[UArctic Year-end Financial Statement 2020]  
[Auditor Report and Financial Statement 2019-2020]

**Decision:** Members of the Assembly voted unanimously in favour to the following:

*The Assembly approves the UArctic Financial statements and Auditor report for 2020 (as presented), thus concluding the 2020 expenditure cycle.*

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9.2 **Verification of UArctic Operating Budget 2021** *(Action item)*

**Presenter:** Lars Kullerud, UArctic President  
**Documents:**  
[Proposal 9.2 - Decision]  
[UArctic Operating Budget 2021]

**Decision:** Members of the Assembly voted 96% in favour and 4% abstained to the following:

*The Assembly verifies and supports the UArctic Operating Budget 2021 as presented.*

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9.3 **Approval of UArctic Annual Report 2020** *(Action item)*

**Presenter:** Outi Snellman, UArctic Vice-President Organization  
**Documents:**  
[Proposal 9.3 - Decision]  
[UArctic Annual Report 2020]

**Decision:** Members of the Assembly voted 96% in favour and 4% abstained to the following:

*The Assembly adopts the UArctic Annual Report 2020 (as presented).*

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10. **UArctic Membership**

**Presenter:** Lindsay Whaley, Secretary of the Assembly  
**Documents:**  
[Summary of Current UArctic Members]
10.1 Approval of new Arctic Members (Action item)

Documents & Presentations: [Proposal 10.1 - Decision]

1. Finlandia University - Application PDF presentation
2. Gubkin University – Application PDF presentation
3. HSE National Research Univ. - Application PDF presentation (with video)
4. Karelia Univ. of Applied Sciences – Application PDF presentation
5. Lomonosov Moscow State University Video presentation (Google link)
6. Molde University College – Application PDF presentation / Video format
7. Saskatchewan Polytechnic – Application PDF presentation
8. University of Prince Edward Island – Application PDF presentation (with notes)

Decision: Members of the Assembly voted unanimously in favour to the following:

The Assembly accepts Finlandia University; Gubkin University - National University of Oil and Gas; HSE University (National Research University Higher School of Economics); Karelia University of Applied Sciences; Lomonosov Moscow State University; Molde University College; Saskatchewan Polytechnic; and the University of Prince Edward Island as Arctic / Higher education institution members of the University of the Arctic.

10.2 Approval of new Non-Arctic Members (Action item)

Documents & Presentations: [Proposal 10.2 - Decision]

9. Fudan University - Application PDF presentation
10. Robert Gordon University - Application PDF presentation
11. University of Edinburgh – Application PDF presentation
12. University of St Andrews – Application PDF presentation
13. University of Strathclyde – Application PPT presentation (with voice over)

Decision: Members of the Assembly voted 96% in favour and 4% abstained to the following:

The Assembly accepts Fudan University; Robert Gordon University; University of Edinburgh; University of St Andrews; and the University of Strathclyde as Non-Arctic / Higher education institution members of the University of the Arctic.
11. **UArctic Thematic Networks**

**Presenter:** Kirsi Latola, UArctic Vice-President Networks  
**Web-links:** [UArctic Thematic Networks webpages]  
[Guidelines for Establishing New Thematic Networks]

**Decision:** Members of the Assembly voted 96% in favour and 4% against to approve the provisional establishment of the following Thematic Networks:

- **Thematic Network on Arctic Indigenous Film**  
  hosted by the International Sámi Film Institute, Norway

- **Thematic Network on Arctic Space Hub**  
  hosted by the Sodankylä Geophysical Observatory, University of Oulu, Finland

- **Thematic Network on Arctic Urban Planning and Design**  
  hosted by: UiT The Arctic University of Norway

- **Thematic Network on Bioregional Planning for Resilient Rural Communities**  
  hosted by the University of New England, USA

- **Thematic Network on Children of the Arctic**  
  hosted by the Ilisimatusarfik / University of Greenland

- **Thematic Network on Circular Economy**  
  hosted by Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland

- **Thematic Network on Critical Arctic Studies**  
  hosted by the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland

11.1 **Approval of new Thematic Networks 2021** *(Action item)*

**Documents & Presentations:** [Proposal 11.1 - Decision]

1. **Arctic Indigenous Film** - Proposal
2. **Arctic Space Hub** - Proposal  
   Video presentation (Vimeo link)
3. **Arctic Urban Planning** - Proposal  
   PDF presentation
4. **Bioregional Planning** - Proposal  
   PPT presentation (incl. voice over)
5. **Children of the Arctic** - Proposal  
   Video presentation (Vimeo link)
6. **Circular Economy** - Proposal  
   Prezi presentation / or with Voice over
7. **Critical Arctic Studies** - Proposal  
   Video presentation (Vimeo link)

**Decision:** Members of the Assembly voted 96% in favour and 4% against to approve the provisional establishment of the following Thematic Networks:

- **Thematic Network on Arctic Indigenous Film**
11.2 Approval of provisional Thematic Networks 2019 & 2020 (Action item)

Documents & Weblinks:  [Proposal 11.2 - Decision]

1. Arctic in Asia and Asia in the Arctic – Webpage  Activity report
2. Collaborative Resource Management – Webpage  Activity report
3. Local Scale Planning, Climate Change Resilience – Webpage - Activity report
4. Ageing and Gender in the Arctic – Webpage  Activity report
5. Arctic Transport and Logistics – Webpage  Activity report
6. BEBO – Future of Reindeer Husbandry – Webpage  Activity report
7. Climate Justice in the Arctic – Webpage  Activity report
8. Gender in Arctic Knowledge Production – Webpage  Activity report
9. Herbivory – Webpage  Activity report
10. Human Adaptation in the Changing Arctic – Webpage  Activity report
11. POPs and Chemicals in the Asian Arctic - Webpage  Activity report

Decision: Members of the Assembly voted unanimously in favour to support the assessment of provisional networks by the UArcit Thematic Networks Coordination Office, and to approve the granting of full network status to the following Thematic Networks:

- Thematic Network on Arctic in Asia and Asia in the Arctic  
  hosted by UiT The Arctic University of Norway
12. Invitation to join the Friends of UArctic (Action item)

**Presenter:** Outi Snellman, UArctic Vice-President Organization

**Document:** [Proposal 12 - Decision](#)

**Web-link:** [Current list of Friends of UArctic](#)

**Decision:** Members of the Assembly voted unanimously in favour to the following:

a) *The Assembly acknowledges the dedication and commitment Liisa Holmberg, and thanks her for helping lead UArctic through an exciting period of growth and transformation.*

b) *The Assembly joins the Board of UArctic in inviting Liisa Homberg to the Friends of UArctic.*

13. Update on Plans for the next Assembly Meeting 2022

**Presenter:** Outi Snellman, UArctic Vice-President Organization

**Note:** [Thematic Networks](#)
At the 2020 Assembly meeting, members of UArctic accepted the proposal to have the next Assembly meeting held in Portland, Maine USA. However, due to impacts of COVID-19, the dates needed to be changed. The Board of UArctic thus decided to reschedule the Assembly meeting in Portland, Maine to June 1 to 3, 2022.

Web-link: [2022 Maine USA - Introductory presentation from Host members]

14. **Other Business and Announcements**

14.1 **Information on UArctic Congress 2021**

Web-link: [UArctic Congress 2021 – event website]

Adjournment of Meeting