



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 Paakkanen* 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 2nd 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 2nd 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](#)]

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](#)]

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](#)]

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 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](#)]

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 Asiqluq 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.

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.

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.

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).

10. UArctic Membership

Presenter: *Lindsay Whaley, Secretary of the Assembly*

Documents: [[Summary of Current UArctic Members](#)]
[[Summary of New Member Applicants 2021](#)]

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](#) / [or 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***
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***

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 UArctic 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
- ***Thematic Network on Collaborative Resource Management***
hosted by Nordisk Fond for Miljø og Udvikling, Denmark/Greenland
- ***Thematic Network on Local-scale Planning, Climate Change and Resilience*** hosted by: University of Alberta, Canada
- ***Thematic Network on Ageing and Gender in the Arctic***
hosted by the University of Lapland, Finland
- ***Thematic Network on Arctic Transport and Logistics***
hosted by Nord University, Norway
- ***Thematic Network on BEBO – for the future of Reindeer husbandry***
hosted by the Sámi Education Institute, Finland
- ***Thematic Network on Climate Justice in the Arctic***
hosted by Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, UK
- ***Thematic Network on Gender in Arctic knowledge production***
hosted by the University of Oulu, Finland
- ***Thematic Network on Herbivory***

hosted by the Agriculture University of Iceland

- ***Thematic Network on Human Adaptation in the Changing Arctic***
hosted by North-Eastern Federal University, Russia
- ***Thematic Network on POPs and Chemicals of Emerging Concern in the Asian Arctic***, hosted by the Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT), China

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

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