

Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the UArctic Assembly

Held on the 29th of May in the Faroe Islands, Kingdom of Denmark hosted by the University of the Faroe Islands

Minutes: These are the minutes of the 2026 Meeting of UArctic Assembly, held on the 29th of May 2026 in the Faroe Islands, Kingdom of Denmark. In these minutes each meeting agenda item is presented in the order of the original agenda even though an item may have been dealt with out of sequence during the meeting. This meeting was held in accordance with UArctic rules and regulations.

Voting on the action items was done both online during pre-voting period (for members who could not participate on site) and on site. 23 members (14 Arctic and 9 Non-Arctic) voted during pre-voting period and 46–72 members (41–54 Arctic and 5–18 non-Arctic) voted on site. In case a member voted during both pre-voting and on-site voting, their vote was removed from the pre-voting results. After removing double votes, in total 46–68 members (41–51 Arctic and 5–17 Non-Arctic) voted on Assembly proposal. Exact voting results are presented in the decision under each action item.

According to UArctic Constitution and Bylaws, the votes of Arctic members are counted as three votes, while votes of Non-Arctic members are counted as one vote.

Officers of the Meeting: The UArctic Assembly meeting was led by the Officers: Assembly Chair Liisa Holmberg (University of Lapland), Assembly Vice-Chair Jason Young (University of Washington) and Assembly Secretary Brigitte Bique (University of Laval).

Confirmation of Records: The Chair of the Assembly and the two examiners elected in the meeting confirm that the records for the 2026 UArctic Assembly Meeting are complete and correct with a signed confirmation of records.

Participation: Around 150 registered participants attended the meeting.

Voting: The votes in brackets represent pre-votes and on-site-votes, respectively. E.g. Total (pre-votes + on-site votes).

MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting

Decision:

The Chair of the meeting opens the meeting at 9:00.

2. Introduction of Meeting Rules & Voting Procedures (**presentation**)

Presenter: Viljo Vuorimäki, Coordinator

Decision:

Duly noted

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda, Selection of Examiners and Election of Meeting Secretary (**action**)

Presenter: Liisa Holmberg, Chair of the meeting

Document: 3.1 Proposal

Decision:

- a) *The Assembly accepts the proposed agenda for the 2026 Meeting of the Assembly of the UArctic*
- b) *The Assembly elects representatives Sebastien Gadal and Elena Campbel as Examiners of the Assembly 2026 meeting minutes.*
- c) *The Assembly elects Brigitte Bique as Meeting Secretary for the 2026 Assembly*

Voting result:

Meeting agenda, selection of examiners and election of meeting secretary	Approve	Reject	Abstain
Approval of meeting agenda and Selection of examiners	220 (38+182)	0 (0+0)	1 (1+0)
Election of Meeting Secretary (not included in the prevoting)	182	0	0

4. UArctic Reports

4.1. Report from the Board of UArctic (information)

Presenter: Frederik Paulsen, Chair of the Board

Decision:

Duly noted

4.2. Report from the President (information)

Presenter: Lars Kullerud, President

Document: 4.2.1 UArctic at a glance 2025

Decision:

Duly noted

5. UArctic Membership

5.1. Introduction of New Member Applicants 2026 (presentation)

Presenter: Outi Snellman, Secretary General

Decision:

Duly noted

The meeting was adjourned for a break at 11:05 am

The meeting resumed at 11:20 am

5.2. Approval of new Arctic Members of UArctic (action)

Presenter: Liisa Holmberg, Chair of the Membership Committee

Document: 5.2.1 Proposal

Decision:

- a) *The Assembly accepts the following applicants as Arctic/Higher Education institution of UArctic:*
 1. *Aalto University*
 2. *Brock University*

3. *Cégep de Sept-Îles*
4. *Finnish Defence University*
5. *First Nations University of Canada*
6. *Polytechnique Montréal*
7. *Southern Alberta Institute of Technology*
8. *Université du Québec en Abitibi Témiscmaingue (UQAT)*
9. *University of Vaasa*
10. *University of Windsor*

b) The assembly accepts the following applicants as Arctic/Other Members of UArctic:

1. *Arctic Indigenous Film Fund (AIFF)*
2. *Center for Polar Studies, Augustana College*
3. *Danish Meteorological Institute*
4. *Ocean Visions*
5. *Staten Serum Institute*
6. *Sustainability Research Institute, George Washington University*
7. *Svalbard Museum*
8. *Woodwell Climate Research Center*
9. *Columbia Climate School*

c) The Assembly confirms the TOYON decision to approve the following applicants as Arctic/ Higher Education Institution members of UArctic:

1. *Athabasca University*
2. *University of Manitoba*

d) The Assembly confirms the TOYON decision to approve Anchorage Museum as Arctic/ Other member of UArctic.

Voting results:

New member applicants, Arctic	Approve	Reject	Abstain
Aalto University	208 (39+169)	0 (0+0)	0 (0+0)
Brock University	201 (39+162)	0 (0+0)	7 (0+7)
Cégep de Sept-Îles	205 (36+169)	3 (3+0)	0 (0+0)
Finnish Defence University	188 (35+153)	10 (1+9)	10 (3+7)
First Nations University of Canada	208 (39+169)	0 (0+0)	0 (0+0)
Polytechnique Montréal	205 (39+166)	0 (0+0)	3 (0+3)
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology	195 (39+156)	3 (0+3)	10 (0+10)

Université du Québec en Abitibi Témiscmaingue (UQAT)	205 (39+166)	0 (0+0)	3 (0+3)
University of Vaasa	208 (39+169)	0 (0+0)	0 (0+0)
University of Windsor	142 (36+106)	36 (3+33)	30 (0+30)
Columbia Climate School	187 (36+151)	6 (3+3)	15 (0+15)
Arctic Indigenous Film Fund (AIFF)	208 (39+169)	0 (0+0)	0 (0+0)
Center for Polar Studies, Augustana College	199 (36+163)	3 (3+0)	6 (0+6)
Danish Meteorological Institute	205 (39+166)	3 (0+3)	0 (0+0)
Oceans Visions	173 (32+141)	19 (4+15)	16 (3+13)
Statens Serum Institute	196 (36+160)	3 (0+3)	9 (3+6)
Sustainability Research Institute, George Washington University	186 (36+150)	9 (3+6)	13 (0+13)
Svalbard Museum	208 (39+169)	0 (0+0)	0 (0+0)
Woodwell Climate Research Center	189 (36+153)	6 (3+3)	13 (0+13)
Athabasca University	204 (36+168)	4 (3+1)	0 (0+0)
University of Manitoba	208 (39+169)	0 (0+0)	0 (0+0)
Anchorage Museum	199 (39+160)	0 (0+0)	9 (0+9)

5.3. Approval of new Non-Arctic Members of UArctic (action)

Presenter: Liisa Holmberg, Chair of the Membership Committee

Document: 5.3.1 Proposal

Decision:

a) The Assembly accepts the following applicants as non-Arctic/ Higher Education Institution members of UArctic

1. **Euclid University**
2. **University of Tokyo**

b) The Assembly accepts the following applicants as non-Arctic/ Higher Education Institution members of UArctic

1. **Polish Polar Consortium**
2. **Real Ice**
3. **SKEMA Centre for sustainable studies**
4. **Swiss Polar Institute**

Voting results:

New member applicants, Non-Arctic	Approve	Reject	Abstain
Euclid University	161 (30+131)	37 (3+34)	14 (6+8)
University of Tokyo	186 (36+150)	13 (3+13)	13 (0+13)
National Institute of Solar Energy	74 (27+47)	89 (3+86)	49 (9+40)
Polish Polar Consortium	204 (36+168)	4 (3+1)	4 (0+4)
Real Ice	141 (29+112)	31 (4+27)	40 (6+34)
SKEMA Centre for Sustainability Studies	175 (36+139)	21 (3+18)	16 (0+16)
Swiss Polar Institute	206 (36+170)	3 (3+0)	3 (0+3)

5.4. Removal of UArctic Membership (action)

Presenter: Liisa Holmberg, Chair of the Membership Committee

Document: [5.4.1 Proposal](#)

Decision:

The Assembly removes the following members from the registry of UArctic Members:

- 1. Arctic Portal**
- 2. Mongolian National University of Education**
- 3. Nunavut Sivuniksanut**

Voting results:

Members	Approve	Reject	Abstain
Arctic Portal	182 (30+152)	4 (0+4)	30 (9+21)
Mongolian National University of Education	186 (30+156)	0 (0+0)	30 (9+21)
Nunavut Sivuniksanut	161 (33+128)	25 (0+25)	30 (6+24)

The meeting was adjourned for a break at 12:15

The meeting resumed at 13:15

6. Election of Board Members:

6.1. Election of Board Members (action)

Presenter: Lindsay Whaley, Chair of the Nominations Committee

Document: [6.1.1 Proposal](#)

Decision:

- a) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects Michel S. Beaulieu as a member of the Board of the UArctic for a three-year-term (2026-2029)**

- b) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects Dag Rune Olsen as a member of the Board of the UArctic for a three-year term (2026-2029)**

Voting results:

Nominated candidates	Approve	Reject	Abstain
Michel S. Beaulieu	202 (34+168)	0 (0+0)	7 (6+1)
Dag Rune Olsen	204 (39+165)	1 (1+0)	4 (0+4)

6.2. Election of Student Representatives (action)

Presenter: Lindsay Whaley, Chair of the Nominations Committee

Document: 6.2.1 Proposal

Decision:

- a) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects Mirkka Ollila for a three-year term (2026-2029), as the Boards student representative**
- b) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects Alex Payne for three-year term (2026-2029) , as the Boards student representative.**
- c) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects Ester Olofsson for a three-year term (2026-2029), as the Boards student representative.**

Voting results:

Nominated candidates	Approve	Reject	Abstain
Mirkka Ollila	215 (40+175)	0 (0+0)	0 (0+0)
Alex Payne	211 (37+174)	0 (0+0)	4 (3+1)
Ester Olofsson	211 (40+171)	0 (0+0)	4 (0+4)

7. UArctic Finances

7.1. Approval of Financial Statements and Auditors Report 2025 (action)

Presenter: Lars Kullerud, President

Document: 7.1.1 Proposal

Decision:

- a) Assembly approves the UArctic Financial Statements and Auditors Report 2025 as presented, thus concluding the 2025 expenditure cycle**
- b) Assembly discharges the Board and other responsible persons from liability for the accounts 2025**

Voting results:

Proposal	Approve	Reject	Abstain

Financial Statements and Auditor's Report 2025	202 (37+165)	0 (0+0)	10 (3+7)
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7.2. Approval of UArctic Annual Report 2025 (action)

Presenter: Lars Kullerud, President

Document: [7.2.1 Proposal](#)

Decision:

Assembly approves the UArctic Annual Report 2025 as presented

Voting results:

Proposal	Approve	Reject	Abstain
UArctic Annual Report 2025	205 (37+168)	0 (0+0)	3 (3+0)

7.3. Verification of UArctic Operating Budget and Work Plan 2026 (action)

Presenter: Lars Kullerud, President

Document: [7.3.1 Proposal](#)

Decision:

- a) The Assembly approves and supports the UArctic Operating Budget 2026 as presented***
- b) The Assembly approves and supports the UArctic Work Plan 2026 as presented***

Voting results:

Proposal	Approve	Reject	Abstain
Annual Operating Budget	206 (37+169)	0 (0+0)	10 (3+7)
Work Plan	205 (36+169)	0 (0+0)	11 (4+7)

7.4. Approval of UArctic Membership fees 2027 (action)

Presenter: Lars Kullerud, President

Document: [7.4.1 Proposal](#)

Decision:

- a) The Assembly approves the membership fee of EUR 750 for Arctic and Non-Arctic members with an annual operating budget of less than EUR 10 million.***
- b) The Assembly approves the membership fee of EUR 1500 for Arctic and Non-Arctic members with an annual operating budget of greater than EUR 10 million, but less than EUR 100 million.***
- c) The Assembly approves the membership fee of EUR 4000 for Arctic and Non-Arctic members with an annual operating budget of greater than 100 million.***

Voting results:

Proposal	Approve	Reject	Abstain
UArctic Membership fee 2027	209 (40+169)	0 (0+0)	0 (0+0)

8. Plans for UArctic Assembly 2027 (action)

Presenter: Gunnar Stefanson, Alternative Assembly representative University of Iceland

Document: [8.1 Proposal](#)

Decision:

The Assembly supports the plans for the UArctic Assembly 2027, to be held on 7-9 of June in Reykjavik, Iceland, hosted by the University of Iceland.

Voting results:

Proposal	Approve	Reject	Abstain
UArctic Assembly 2027	215 (40+175)	0 (0+0)	0 (0+0)

The meeting was adjourned for a break at 13:04

The meeting resumed at 13:20

9. Endorsement of UArctic Thematic Networks**9.1. Introduction of New Thematic Network applications (presentation)**

Presenter: Kirsi Latola, Vice-President Networks

Decision:

Duly Noted

9.2. Approval of new Thematic Networks 2026 (action)

Presenter: Kirsi Latola, Vice-President Networks

Document: [9.2.1 Proposal](#)

Decision:

The Assembly supports the evaluation by the UArctic Thematic Networks Leadership Team and approves the provisional establishment of the following networks:

- a) UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic AI, hosted by Umeå University, Sweden***
- b) UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic Food Transitions, hosted by Umeå University, Sweden***
- c) UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic Water Network (ArcticWater), hosted by University of Oulu, Finland***

- d) *UArctic Thematic Network on Natural Hydrogen, hosted by University of Oulu, Finland*
- e) *UArctic Thematic Network on Northern & Arctic Land Transport, hosted by Robert Gordon University, Scotland*
- f) *UArctic Thematic Network on Preservation and Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Languages, hosted by Collège nordique francophone, Canada*
- g) *UArctic Thematic Network on Solid Waste Management in the Arctic, hosted by University College of the North, Canada*
- h) *UArctic Thematic Network on Sustainable Arctic: Futures, Education, and Research (SAFER), hosted by University of Alaska Anchorage, USA*

Voting results:

Provisional Thematic Networks	Approve	Reject	Abstain
UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic Ai	159 (40+119)	3 (0+3)	6 (0+6)
UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic Food Transitions	165 (40+125)	0 (0+0)	3 (0+3)
UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic Water Network (ArcticWater)	165 (40+125)	3 (0+3)	0 (0+0)
UArctic Thematic Network on Natural Hydrogen	147 (37+110)	15 (0+15)	6 (3+3)
UArctic Thematic Network on Northern & Arctic Land Transport	162 (37+125)	0 (0+0)	6 (3+3)
UArctic Thematic Network on Preservation and Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Languages	168 (40+128)	0 (0+0)	0 (0+0)
UArctic Thematic Network Solid Waste Management in the Arctic	162 (40+122)	3 (0+3)	3 (0+3)
UArctic Thematic Network on Sustainable Arctic: Futures, Education, and Research (SAFER)	156 (34+122)	3 (0+3)	9 (6+3)

9.3. Endorsement of provisional Thematic Networks 2025 (action)

Presenter: Kirsi Latola, Vice-President Networks

Document: 9.3.1 Proposal

Decision:

The Assembly supports the assessment of provisional networks by the UArctic Thematic Networks Coordination Office, and to approve the granting of full thematic network status to the:

- a) *UArctic Thematic Network in the Environmental Humanities, hosted by UiT, The Arctic University of Norway*
- b) *UArctic Network for Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring, hosted by University of Oulu, Finland*
- c) *UArctic Thematic Youth Network, hosted by Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada*

Voting results:

Endorsements of Thematic Network Applicants	Approve	Reject	Abstain
Thematic Network in the Environmental Humanities	214 (40+174)	0 (0+0)	3 (0+3)
Thematic Network for Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring	205 (37+168)	3 (0+3)	9 (3+6)
Thematic Youth Network	216 (40+176)	1 (0+1)	0 (0+0)

10. Election of Nominations Committee Members (action)

Presenter: Outi Snellman, Secretary General

Document: 10.1 Proposal

Decision:

- a) *The Assembly elects Laila Hedegaard Pedersen as a member of the Nominations Committee for a second three-year term (2026-2029)*
- b) *The Assembly elects David Hik as a member of the Nominations Committee for a three-year term (2026-2029)*

Voting results:

Nominated candidates	Approve	Reject	Abstain
Laila Hedegaard Pedersen	192 (40+152)	0 (0+0)	9 (0+9)
David Hik	189 (37+152)	0 (0+0)	12 (3+9)

11. Other Business – Announcements

Decision:

- Keith Larson informed the Assembly that the UArctic Congress 2028 is planned to be held the 12 to the 16 of June 2028, in Umeå, Sweden hosted by the Umeå University.
- Lars Kullerud was thanked and applauded for his work for the UArctic for the past 20 years. Thank you Lars!
- Outi Snellman thanked the UArctic International Secretariat for their work this spring and in making the Assembly successful.

12. Closing of the meeting

Decision:

The Chair of the meeting closes the meeting at 15:45