Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the UArctic Assembly

Held on 2-3 June 2024 in Bodø, Norway, hosted by Nord University and Nordland Research Institute

Minutes: These are the minutes of the 2024 Meeting of UArctic Assembly, which was held on 2-3 June 2024 in Bodø, Norway. 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. The minutes contain web links to decisions, presentations and background documents. This meeting was held in accordance with UArctic rules and regulations (see introduction to rules in agenda item 2).

Voting on the action items was done both online during pre-voting period (for members who could not participate on site) and on site. 9 members (6 Arctic and 3 Non-Arctic) voted during pre-voting period and 69 (49 Arctic and 20 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 77 members (44 Arctic and 23 Non-Arctic) voted on Assembly proposals. Exact voting results are presented in the decision documents linked 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 **Lindsay Whaley**, Assembly Vice-Chair **Liisa Holmberg** and Meeting Secretary **Lena Maria Nilsson**.

Confirmation of Records: The Chair of the Assembly and the two examiners elected in the meeting confirm that the records for the 2024 UArctic Assembly Meeting are complete and correct. Signed confirmation of records: part A and part B

Participation: 280 registered participants attended the meeting, with 111 UArctic member institutions and organisations representing 17 different countries.

Assembly Meeting Minutes

1 Opening of meeting

The Assembly Chair *Lindsay Whaley* opened the meeting.

2 Introduction to Meeting Rules & Voting Procedures: validity, rights, proposals & voting procedures

Presenter:	*Janette Peltokorpi*, UArctic Director of Governance and Finance Support
Document:	Introduction to Assembly meeting rules 2024
Links:	UArctic Constitution
	UArctic Bylaws

Decision: Duly noted.

3 Approval of Meeting Agenda and Selection of Examiners

Presenter: *Lindsay Whaley*, Chair of the Assembly
Document: Decision 3
Decisions:

a) The Assembly accepts the proposed agenda for the 2024 Meeting of the Assembly of UArctic.
b) The Assembly selects member representatives **Rebecca Moorman** and **Erik Sandquist** as Examiners of the meeting minutes.

4 UArctic Reports

4.1 Report from the Board of UArctic

Presenter: *Anne Husebekk*, Vice-Chair of the Board
Document: Presentation slides
Decision: Duly noted.

4.2 Report from the President

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President
Decision: Duly noted.

5 UArctic Membership

5.1 Introduction to New Member Applicants 2024

Presenters: *Lindsay Whaley*, Chair of the Membership Committee
Representatives of new member applicants
Document: Presentation slides
Decision: Duly noted.

5.2 Approval of new Arctic Members of UArctic

Presenter: *Lindsay Whaley*, Chair of the Membership Committee
Document: Decision 5.2
Decisions:

a) The Assembly accepts the following applicants as Arctic / Higher Education Institution members of UArctic:
   - **College Nordique**, Canada
   - **Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning**, Canada
   - **Oslo School of Architecture and Design**, Norway

b) The Assembly accepts the following applicant as Arctic / Other member of UArctic: **Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)**, Denmark

c) The Assembly confirms the Toyon decision to approve **Department of Geosciences, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)**, Norway, as Arctic / Other member of UArctic.

5.3 Approval of new Non-Arctic Members of UArctic

Presenter: *Lindsay Whaley*, Chair of the Membership Committee

Document: Decision 5.3

Decisions:

a) The Assembly accepts the following applicants as Non-Arctic / Higher Education Institution members of UArctic:
   - **Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies**, India
   - **Royal College of Art**, United Kingdom
   - **Scotland's Rural College**, United Kingdom
   - **University of Hull**, United Kingdom
   - **University of Liverpool**, United Kingdom
   - **University of Stirling**, United Kingdom
   - **University of Westminster**, United Kingdom
   - **Xiamen University**, China

b) The Assembly accepts the following applicants as Non-Arctic / Other members of UArctic:
   - **International Centre for Polar Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University**, India
   - **Network of Arctic Researchers, Ireland (NARI)**, Ireland
   - **Polar and Marine Research Institute, Jimei University**, China

5.4 Removal of UArctic Membership

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President

Document: Decision 5.4

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

- **Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy - Tufts University**, United States
- **Polar Research Institute of China**, China

The following proposals were rejected:

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

- **Makivvik Corporation**, Canada
- **Nunavut Sivuniksavut**, Canada

6 Elections of Board Members

6.1 Election of Board Members

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

Document: Decision 6.1

Decisions:

a) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Barbara Will** as member of the Board of UArctic for a three-year term (2024-2027).
b) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Tore Furevik** as member of the Board of UArctic for his second three-year term (2024-2027).
c) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Johanna Ikäheimo** as member of the Board of UArctic for her second three-year term (2024-2027).
d) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Pat Pitney** as member of the Board of UArctic for her second three-year term (2024-2027).

e) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Anne Husebekk** as member of the Board of UArctic for her third and final three-year term (2024-2027).

6.2 Election of Board Student Representatives

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, Secretary of the Nominations Committee
Document: Decision 6.2
Decisions:

a) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Linda Lyberth Kristiansen** as Student Representative on the Board of UArctic for a fixed three-year term (2024-2027).

b) The Assembly acknowledges and wishes to thank **Juho Kähkönen** (2021-2024) and **Montana Rose Murphy** (2022-2024) for their contributions and time as Student Representatives on the Board of UArctic.

7 Development items from breakout sessions

7.1 UArctic External Evaluation

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, Secretary General
Chairs of the Breakout sessions
Document: Presentation slides
Decision: Duly noted.

7.2 UArctic Support to Academic Activities

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President
Document: Presentation slides
Decision: Duly noted.

8 UArctic Finances

8.1 Approval of Financial Statements and Auditor's Report 2023

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President
Document: Decision 8.1
Decisions:

a) Assembly approves the UArctic Financial statements and Auditor report for 2023 as presented, thus concluding the 2023 expenditure cycle.
b) Assembly discharges the Board and other responsible persons from liability for the accounts 2023.

8.2 Approval of UArctic Annual Report 2023

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President
Document: Decision 8.2
Decision: The Assembly approves the UArctic Annual Report 2023 as presented.

8.3 Verification of UArctic Operating Budget 2024

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President
Document: Decision 8.3
Decision: The Assembly verifies and supports the UArctic Operating Budget 2024 as presented.

8.4 Approval of UArctic Membership fees 2025

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President
Document: Decision 8.4
Decisions:

a) 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) 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) Assembly approves the membership fee of EUR 4000 for Arctic and Non-Arctic members with an annual operating budget of greater than EUR 100 million.

8.5 Election of Auditing Firm

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President
Document: Decision 8.5
Decision: The Assembly elects KPMG Oy Ab as auditing company and Juha Väärälä as the responsible auditor, to undertake audits of UArctic's financial accounts for an operating term of three years 2024-2027.

9 Endorsement of UArctic Thematic Networks

9.1 Introduction to New Thematic Network Applications

Presenter: Kirsi Latola, *Vice-President Networks*
New Thematic Network applicants
Document: Presentation slides
Decision: Duly noted.

9.2 Approval of new Thematic Networks 2024

Presenter: Kirsi Latola, *Vice-President Networks*
Document: Decision 9.2
Decision: Assembly supports the evaluation by the UArctic Thematic Networks Leadership Team and approves the provisional establishment of the following networks:

- **Thematic Network on Nordic Snow Network, NordSnowNet**, hosted by Finnish Meteorological Institute, Department of Space and Earth Observation, Helsinki, Finland
- **Thematic Network on Sustainable Strategies for Waste Removal and Restoration of Arctic Mine Waste Areas, RAMWA**, hosted Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Norway

9.3 Endorsement of provisional Thematic Networks 2023

Presenter: Kirsi Latola, *Vice-President Networks*
Document: Decision 9.3
Decision: Assembly supports the assessment of provisional networks by the UArctic Thematic Networks Coordination Office, and to approves the granting of full thematic network status to the:

- **Thematic Network on Arctic Cultures and History**, hosted by University of Faroe Islands, Faroe Islands

- **Thematic Network on Blue Economy and the Arctic**, hosted by Nord University, Norway
- **Thematic Network on Collaborative Online International Learning and Biodiversity Education across the Arctic Circle (COIL@UArctic)**, hosted by Robert Gordon University, Scotland, UK
- **Thematic Network on High Latitude Dust**, hosted by Agricultural University of Iceland, Iceland
- **Thematic Network on Arctic Marine Biodiversity**, hosted by UiT Arctic University of Norway, Norway

10 Election of Assembly Officers

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, Secretary of the Nominations Committee
Document: Decision 10
Decisions:

a) Assembly elects **Liisa Holmberg** as Chair of the Assembly of UArctic for a three-year term (2024-27), effective following the conclusion of this meeting.
b) Assembly elects **Jason Young** as Vice-Chair of the Assembly of UArctic for a three-year term (2024-27), effective following the conclusion of this meeting.

11 Election of Nominations Committee Member

Presenter: Presenter: Outi Snellman, Secretary of the Board
Document: Decision 11
Decision: Assembly elects **Lindsay Whaley** as Chair of the Nominations Committee for a three-year term (2024-27).

12 Invitation to join the Friends of UArctic

Presenter: Presenter: Outi Snellman, Secretary of the Board
Document: Decision 12
Decision:

a) The Assembly acknowledges the contributions of **Ross A. Virginia**, and thanks him for his dedicated engagement as member of UArctic Board.
b) The Assembly acknowledges the contributions of **Karla J. Williamson**, and thanks her for her dedicated engagement as the Chair of the Avatitsinni Committee.
c) The Assembly acknowledges the contributions of **Stephen Heal** and thanks him for his dedicated engagement in developing the Heal Fund and UArctic's fundraising activities.
d) The Assembly joins the Board in inviting Ross A. Virginia, Karla J. Williamson and Stephen Heal to the Friends of UArctic.

13 Update on Plans for the Assembly 2025

Presenter: *Janne Näkkäläjärvi* and *Mika Aromäki*, Sámi Education Institute
Document: Decision 13
Decision: Assembly supports the plans for the UArctic Assembly 2025, to be held on 6-9 June 2025 in Inari, Sápmi, Finland, hosted by the Sámi Education Institute.

14 Plans for the UArctic Congress and Assembly 2026

Presenter: *Bergur D. Hansen*, University of the Faroe Islands
Document: Decision 14

Presentation slides

Decision: Assembly supports the plans for the UArctic Congress and Assembly 2026, to be held during the period of 25 – 31 May 2026 in Tórshavn, the Faroe Islands and hosted by the University of the Faroe Islands.

15 Other Business - Announcements

Secretary General *Outi Snellman* and President *Lars Kullerud* announced the granting of Certificate of Recognition to *Scott Forrest*, in honor of his outstanding dedication, service and significant contributions to the development, structures and communications of UArctic from the ideation phase to the present day.

Outi Snellman and Lars Kullerud also thanked UArctic staff members *Janette Peltokorpi*, *Hannele Palviainen*, *Pirkko Pulkkanen*, *Valeriia Makeionok* and *Heli Niittynen* for their work in preparation of the UArctic Assembly 2024 meeting. Heli Niittynen was also granted with the UArctic Staff Pin in recognition of her work in supporting the UArctic Thematic Networks.

Outi Snellman and Lars Kullerud thanked *Lindsay Whaley* for his service as the Assembly Chair at the end of his term.

16 Closing of meeting

The Assembly Chair *Lindsay Whaley* closed the meeting.