



Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the UArctic Assembly

Held on 6-9 June 2025 in Inari, Sápmi, Finland, hosted by Sámi Education Institute

Minutes: These are the minutes of the 2025 Meeting of UArctic Assembly, held on 6-9 June 2025 in Inari, Sápmi, Finland. 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. 14 members (8 Arctic and 6 Non-Arctic) voted during pre-voting period and 32-54 members (25-38 Arctic and 7-16 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 (33-46 Arctic and 13-22 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 **Liisa Holmberg** (International Sámi Film Institute), Assembly Vice-Chair **Jason Young** (University of Washington) and Assembly Secretary **Lena Maria Nilsson** (Umeå University).

Confirmation of Records: The Chair of the Assembly and the two examiners elected in the meeting confirm that the records for the 2025 UArctic Assembly Meeting are complete and correct. [Signed confirmation of records](#).

Participation: 137 registered participants attended the meeting, with 65 UArctic member institutions and organisations representing 13 different countries.

Assembly Meeting Minutes

1 Opening of meeting

The Assembly Chair *Liisa Holmberg* 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 2025](#)

Links: [UArctic Constitution](#)

[UArctic Bylaws](#)

Decision: Duly noted.

3 Approval of Meeting Agenda and Selection of Examiners

Presenter: *Liisa Holmberg*, Chair of the Assembly

Document: [Decision 3](#)

Decisions:

- a) The Assembly accepts the proposed agenda for the 2025 Meeting of the Assembly of UArctic.
- b) The Assembly selects member representatives **Jessica Veldstra** and **Gunnar Stefánsson** as Examiners of the meeting minutes.

4 UArctic Reports

4.1 Report from the Board of UArctic

Presenter: *Frederik Paulsen*, 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 2025

Presenters: *Liisa Holmberg*, Chair of the Assembly
Representatives of new member applicants

Decision: Duly noted.

5.2 Approval of new Arctic Members of UArctic

Presenter: *Liisa Holmberg*, Chair of the Assembly

Document: [Decision 5.2](#)

Decisions:

- a) The Assembly accepts the following applicants as Arctic / Higher Education Institution members of UArctic:
 - **Carleton University**
 - **Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS)**
 - **New York University**
 - **Norwegian Police University College**
 - **St. Francis Xavier University**
 - **University of Chicago**
 - **University of Ottawa**
- b) The Assembly accepts the following applicants as Arctic / Other members of UArctic:
 - **Department of Sociology, Northern Arizona University**
 - **Institute for Circumpolar Health Research (ICHR)**
 - **National Institute of Occupational Health (STAMI)**
 - **Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)**

- c) The Assembly confirms the Toyon decision to approve **Antioch University New England** as Arctic / Higher Education Institution member of UArctic.
- d) The Assembly confirms the Toyon decision to approve **Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources, University of Manitoba** as Arctic / Other member of UArctic.

5.3 Approval of new Non-Arctic Members of UArctic

Presenter: *Liisa Holmberg*, Chair of the Assembly

Document: [Decision 5.3](#)

Decisions:

- a) The Assembly accepts the following applicant as non-Arctic / Higher Education Institution members of UArctic:
 - **Police Scotland International Academy**
 - **Taiyuan University of Technology**
- b) The Assembly accepts the following applicants as non-Arctic / Other members of UArctic:
 - **Arctic Reflections**
 - **Centre for Arctic Studies (CAS)**
 - **Centre for Climate Repair, University of Cambridge**
 - **Institute of Polar Sciences – National Research Council of Italy**
 - **Millennium Institute Biodiversity of Antarctic and Subantarctic Ecosystems (BASE)**
 - **Taiwan Polar Institute**

5.4 Removal of UArctic Membership

Presenter: *Liisa Holmberg*, Chair of the Assembly

Document: [Decision 5.4](#)

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

- **Glasgow Caledonian University**
- **Makivvik Corporation**
- **Second Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources**

6 Elections of Board Members

6.1 Election of Board Chair

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

Document: [Decision 6.1](#)

Decision: The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Frederik Paulsen** as the Chair of the Board of UArctic for his second three-year term (2025-2028).

6.2 Election of Board Members

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

Document: [Decision 6.2](#)

Decisions:

- a) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Martin Fortier** as member of the Board of UArctic for a three-year term (2025-2028).
- b) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Brad MacKay** as member of the Board of UArctic for a three-year term (2025-2028).
- c) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Janne Näkkäläjärvi** as member of the Board of UArctic for a three-year term (2025-2028).
- d) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Birgitta Bergvall-Kåreborn** as member of the Board of UArctic for her second three-year term (2025-2028).
- e) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Aaja Chemnitz** as member of the Board of UArctic for her second three-year term (2025-2028).
- f) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Magnús Tumi Guðmundsson** as member of the Board of UArctic for his third and final three-year term (2025-2028).

6.3 Election of Board Student Representatives

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

Document: [Decision 6.3](#)

Decisions: The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Bárður Clementsen** as the Board Student Representative for a three-year term (2025-2028).

7 UArctic Finances

7.1 Approval of Financial Statements and Auditor's Report 2024

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud, President*

Document: [Decision 7.1](#)

Decisions:

- a) Assembly approves the UArctic Financial Statements and Auditor's Report 2024 as presented, thus concluding the 2024 expenditure cycle.
- b) Assembly discharges the Board and other responsible persons from liability for the accounts 2024.

7.2 Approval of UArctic Annual Report 2024

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud, President*

Document: [Decision 7.2](#)

Decision: Assembly approves the UArctic Annual Activity Report 2024 as presented.

7.3 Verification of UArctic Operating Budget and Work Plan 2025

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud, President*

Document: [Decision 7.3](#)

Decisions:

- a) Assembly verifies and supports the UArctic Operating Budget 2025 as presented.
- b) Assembly verifies and supports the UArctic Work Plan 2025 as presented.

7.4 Approval of UArctic Membership fees 2026

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud, President*

Document: [Decision 7.4](#)

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 Plans for the UArctic Congress and Assembly 2026

Presenter: *Martin Tvede Zachariassen, University of the Faroe Islands, Anna Sofia Lava, the University of the Faroe Islands, and Outi Snellman, Secretary General*

Document: [Decision 8](#)

Decision: The Assembly supports the plans for the UArctic Congress and Assembly 2026, to be held on 26-29 May in Tórshavn, the Faroe Islands and hosted by the University of the Faroe Islands.

9 UArctic Impact Study

Presenter: *Stephen Heal, Member of the President's Circle*

Document: [Presentation slides](#)

Decision: Duly noted.

10 Breakout Sessions

Presenter: *Outi Snellman, Secretary General and Jouko Niinimäki, Executive Vice-President*

Document: [Presentation slides](#)

Decision: Duly noted.

11 Endorsement of UArctic Thematic Networks

11.1 Introduction to New Thematic Network Applications

Presenter: *Heli Niittynen, Manager of Thematic Networks*
New Thematic Network applicants

Decision: Duly noted.

11.2 Approval of new Thematic Networks 2025

Presenter: *Heli Niittynen, Manager of Thematic Networks*

Document: [Decision 11.2](#)

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

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

11.3 Endorsement of provisional Thematic Networks 2024

Presenter: *Heli Niittynen*, Manager of Thematic Networks

Document: [Decision 11.3](#)

Decision: 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:

- **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

12 Approval of Amendment to Bylaws

Presenter: Outi Snellman, Secretary of the Board

Document: [Decision 12](#)

Decision: Assembly approves the amendments to UArctic Bylaws, with one change: Friends of UArctic (Article 7 of UArctic Bylaws) is renamed to UArctic sages.

13 Election of Assembly Secretary

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

Document: [Decision 13](#)

Decision: Assembly elects **Christina Storm Mienna** as the Assembly Secretary for a three-year term (2025-28), effective following the conclusion of this meeting.

14 Election of Nominations Committee Member

Presenter: Outi Snellman, Secretary of the Board

Document: [Decision 14](#)

Decisions:

- a) Assembly confirms the Board's decision to elect **Eeva-Liisa Rasmus-Moilanen** as a member of the Nominations for the remainder of the term (2024-25).
- b) Assembly elects **Eeva-Liisa Rasmus-Moilanen** as member of the Nominations Committee for a three year term (2025-28).

15 Invitation to join the Friends* of UArctic

Presenter: Outi Snellman, Secretary of the Board

Document: [Decision 15](#)

Decisions:

- a) The Assembly acknowledges the contributions of **Robert Sauvé** and thanks him for his dedicated engagement as member of the Board
- b) The Assembly acknowledges the contributions of **Lena Maria Nilsson** and thanks her for her dedicated engagement as the Assembly Secretary and Chair of Nominations Committee.
- c) The Assembly joins the Board in inviting Robert Sauvé and Lena Maria Nilsson to the Friends* of UArctic.

** Friends to be renamed after amendment to UArctic Bylaws.*

16 Other Business - Announcements

Outi Snellman and *Lars Kullerud* thanked *Lena Maria Nilsson* for her long-standing commitment and contributions to the work of UArctic as the Chair of Nominations Committee and Secretary of the Assembly, now ending her term.

The President's Award was granted to *Isabelle Guissard* for her work as Vice-President Mobility and development of UArctic's north2north mobility program, and to *Pirkko Pulkkanen* for her work as Manager of International Project and continuous work as one of the core persons of the UArctic International Secretariat. *Natalia Nikolaeva* was granted the UArctic Staff pin in recognition of her work in UArctic member engagement.

UArctic Member representatives announced the following matters:

- UArctic Entrepreneurship Fund call is open, welcoming proposals on incubator-stage. The call is open until 31 October, 2025.
- University of Alaska Anchorage and University of Alaska Fairbanks are welcoming applicants to apply for several leadership positions in both universities.
- Arctic Arts Summit 2026 will be held on 15-18 June 2026 in Umeå, Sweden
- Members were encouraged to share information and market the UArctic activities in their own institutions to increase their engagement and benefits from UArctic membership.

Outi Snellman and *Lars Kullerud* thanked the Assembly meeting host Sámi Education Institution and *Marina Falevitch*, *Janne Näkkäläjärvi* and *Mika Aromäki* for great hosting and their work for the wonderful program of the Assembly.

Outi Snellman also thanked UArctic staff members *Janette Peltokorpi*, *Hannele Palviainen*, *Natalia Nikolaeva*, *Evan Hansen* and *Zsafia Heal* for their work in organizing the UArctic Assembly 2025 meeting.

17 Closing of meeting

The Assembly Chair *Liisa Holmberg* closed the meeting.