



UArctic Assembly Meeting / Inari, Finland / June 2025

Agenda item: 6.1

Proposal – Election of Board Chair

Proposal: The UArctic Nominations Committee proposes that the Assembly makes the following 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).*

References: [UArctic Constitution](#) / Article 5 – Governance and Administration
[UArctic Bylaws](#) / Sections 4 – UArctic Board; and 4.2 – Election of the Board

Background:

Frederik Paulsen is the Emeritus Chairman of Ferring Pharmaceuticals and a philanthrope. He has served as the Chair of Board for three years, and before that he was a member of Board for five years. He has substantially supported development of UArctic's fundraising program, and also contributed to the development of UArctic as organization during his terms at the Board.

As his first term as Chair ends in the Assembly meeting 2025, the Nominations Committee has reviewed his performance and unanimously decided to nominate him for the second three-year term (2025-2028) as the Chair of UArctic's Board.

Current members on the Board of UArctic:

Frederik Paulsen (Chair)	Switzerland	1 st term as Chair (2022-25), Board member 2017-22
Anne Husebekk (Vice-Chair I)	Norway	3 rd term 2024-27
Magnús Tumi Guðmundsson (Vice-Chair II)	Iceland	2 nd term 2022-25
Birgitta Bergvall-Kåreborn	Sweden	1 st term 2022-25
Lesley Brown	Canada	1 st term 2023-26
Aaja Chemnitz	Greenland	1 st term 2022-25
Tore Furevik	Norway	2 nd term 2024-27
Johanna Ikäheimo	Finland	2 nd term 2024-27
Pat Pitney	USA	2 nd term 2024-27
Robert Sauvé	Canada	2 nd term 2022-25
Barbara Will	USA	1 st term 2024-27

Rationale:

UArctic Constitution, Article 5 – Governance and administration:

The annual Assembly of the association shall elect the Board. - -



In Board elections, the aim shall be to seek a regional distribution of members, and at least one member shall be from an Arctic Indigenous people within the Circumpolar North.

UArctic Bylaws, section 4 – UArctic Board

Each member of the Board serves a three-year term, and each term shall commence and conclude at the corresponding annual Assembly.

Following a review by the Nominations Committee, each member of the Board is eligible for reelection for a second term. The Board Chair and members having served as Board Officers, again following a review by the Nominations Committee, are eligible for re-election to the Board for a third and final term.

UArctic Bylaws, section 4.2 – Election of the Board

The Chair, members and student representatives of the Board are elected by the Assembly from slates of nominees prepared by the Nominations Committee. Nominations may also be made by any member representative at any Assembly in which a Board election takes place. - -

The election of Board Chair, members and student representative by the Assembly requires support by more than half the votes cast. If votes are equal, election is resolved by the casting of lots.

Nominees to the Board should have the following qualifications:

- *commitment to the mission and values of UArctic*
- *personal integrity*
- *freedom from conflicts of interest*
- *demonstrated judgement*
- *willingness to commit time and energy to UArctic*
- *high credibility with key UArctic constituencies*
- *not personally bankrupt*

As a group, the Board should reflect the following qualities:

- *sensitivity to the concerns of the major Arctic constituencies*
- *understanding of UArctic's mission and values*
- *awareness of educational needs in the Arctic*
- *knowledge of major Arctic trends*
- *professional experience in higher education, business, law, or public service*
- *understanding of fiduciary responsibilities of the Board*
- *access to public and private funding sources*