Approved 19.6.2023

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the UArctic Assembly

Held on 24-26 May 2023 in Quebec City, Canada, hosted by Université Laval

Minutes: These are the minutes of the 2023 Meeting of UArctic Assembly, which was held on 24-26 May 2023 in Quebec City, Canada. 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. 19 members (15 Arctic and 4 Non-Arctic) voted during pre-voting period and 53 (40 Arctic and 13 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. In total, 71 members (54 Arctic and 17 Non-Arctic) voted on Assembly proposals.

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: acting Assembly Chair **Liisa Holmberg**, acting Assembly Vice-Chair **Lena Maria Nilsson** and Meeting Secretary **Jason Young**.

Confirmation of Records: The Chair of the Assembly and the two examiners elected in the meeting confirm that the records for the 2023 UArctic Assembly Meeting are complete and correct. Signed confirmation of records (part A and part B).

Participation: 139 registered participants attended the meeting, with 61 UArctic member institutions and organisations representing 15 different countries.

Assembly Business

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

Documents: Introduction to Assembly meeting rules 2023
Board Decision / Oct 2022 – 2023 Assembly meeting

Links: UArctic Constitution
UArctic Bylaws

3 Approval of Meeting Agenda and Selection of Examiners

Presenter: *Liisa Holmberg*, Assembly Chair
Document: Decision 3
Decisions: The members voted in favour (with 118 votes to approve, 0 to reject and 18 abstaining from voting) of the following decisions:

a) The Assembly accepts the proposed agenda for the 2023 Meeting of the Assembly of UArctic as presented.

b) The Assembly selects member representative **Jason Young** as the Secretary of the Meeting.

c) The Assembly selects member representatives **Maria Vyatkina** and **Gary Wilson** as Examiners of the meeting minutes.

4 UArctic Reports

4.1 Report from the Board of UArctic

Presenter: *Frederik Paulsen*, Board Chair
Link: Presentation slides

4.2 Report from the President (live – oral presentation)

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President

5 UArctic Membership

5.1 Introduction to New Member Applicants 2023

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, UArctic President
Coert Erasmus, Keyano College
Joe Stokes, Ontario Tech University
Maren Haavig, University of Alaska Southeast
Allison Crawford, University of Toronto
Max Mejia, World Maritime University
Alex Drossos, Global Health, McMaster University
Jennifer Spence, Arctic Initiative, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School
Paul Bergman, Science Diplomacy Center
Vivek Chawla, Indian Maritime University
Anita Taylor, University of Dundee
William Cushley, University of Glasgow
Charlotte Kedslie, University of Glasgow
Jemma Foster, University of Tasmania
Susana Hancock, Arctic Basecamp Foundation
Kevin Fitzgibbon, Halpin Research Centre

Links: Presentation slides – Keyano College
Presentation slides – New Member Applications
Jilin University – Video presentation
Rashtriya Raksha University – Video presentation
Oxford University Polar Forum – Video presentation

5.2 Approval of new Arctic Members of UArctic

Presenter: *Lena Maria Nilsson*, Assembly Vice-Chair
Document: Decision 5.2
Decisions: The members voted in favour (exact voting result available in the decision document) of the following decision:

a) The Assembly accepts the following applicants as Arctic / Higher Education Institution members of the UArctic:
   - **Keyano College**, Canada
   - **Ontario Tech University**, Canada
   - **University of Alaska Southeast**, United States
   - **University of Toronto**, Canada
   - **World Maritime University**, Sweden

b) The Assembly accepts the following applicants as Arctic / Other members of the UArctic:
   - **Global Health, McMaster University**, Canada
   - **Arctic Initiative, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School**, United States
   - **Science Diplomacy Center**, United States

5.3 Approval of new Non-Arctic Members of UArctic

Presenter: *Lena Maria Nilsson*, Assembly Vice-Chair
Document: Decision 5.3
Decisions: The members voted in favour (exact voting result available in the decision document) of the following decision:

a) The Assembly accepts the following applicants as Non-Arctic / Higher Education Institution members of the UArctic:
   - **Indian Maritime University**, India
   - **Jilin University**, China
   - **Rashtriya Raksha University**, India
   - **University of Dundee**, United Kingdom
   - **University of Glasgow**, United Kingdom
   - **University of Tasmania**, Australia

b) The Assembly accepts the following applicants as Non-Arctic / Other members of the UArctic:
   - **Arctic Basecamp Foundation**, Netherlands
   - **Halpin Research Centre**, Ireland
   - **Oxford University Polar Forum**, United Kingdom

5.4 Removal of UArctic Membership

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President
Document: Decision 5.4
Decision: The members voted in favour (with 134 votes to approve, 3 to reject and 12 abstaining from voting) of the following decision:

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

- **Center for Circumpolar Studies**, United States
- **Environmental Development Centre – Ministry of Environmental Protection**, China
- **Florida SouthWestern State College**, United States

6 Elections of Board Members

6.1 Election of new Board Member

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, Nominations Committee Secretary
Documents: Decision 6.1
Decision: The members voted in favour (with 112 votes to approve, 0 to reject and 6 abstaining from voting) of the following decision:

The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Lesley Brown** as member of the Board of UArctic for a three-year term (2023-2026).

6.2 Election of Board Student Representative

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, Nominations Committee Secretary
Documents: Decision 6.2
Decisions: The members voted in favour (with 110 votes to approve, 0 to reject and 9 abstaining from voting) of the following decisions:

a) The Assembly accepts the nomination and elects **Viljo Vuorimäki** as Student Representative on the Board of UArctic for a fixed three-year term (2023-2026).
b) The Assembly acknowledges and wishes to thank **Giuseppe Amatulli** for his contributions and time as Student Representative on the Board of UArctic (2020-2023).

7 UArctic Finances

7.1 Approval of Financial Statements and Auditor Report 2022

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President
Documents: Decision 7.1
Financial Statements and Auditor Report 2022
Decisions: The members voted in favour (with 123 votes to approve, 0 to reject and 15 abstaining from voting) of the following decisions:

a) Assembly approves the UArctic Financial statements and Auditor report for 2022 as presented, thus concluding the 2022 expenditure cycle.

b) Assembly discharges the Board and other responsible persons from liability for the accounts 2022.

7.2 Approval of UArctic Annual Report 2022

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President
Documents: Decision 7.2
UArctic at a Glance 2022
Narrative report and indicators
Decision: The members voted in favour (with 120 votes to approve, 0 to reject and 12 abstaining from voting) of the following decision:

The Assembly adopts the UArctic Annual Report 2022 as presented.

7.3 Verification of UArctic Operating Budget 2023

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President
Documents: Decision 7.3
UArctic Operating Budget 2023
Decision: The members voted in favour (with 112 votes to approve, 0 to reject and 15 abstaining from voting) of the following decision:

The Assembly verifies and supports the UArctic Operating Budget 2023 as presented.

7.4 Approval of UArctic Membership fees 2024

Presenter: *Lars Kullerud*, President
Document: Decision 7.4
Decisions: The members voted in favour (with 110 votes to approve, 3 to reject and 24 abstaining from voting) of the following 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 Endorsement of UArctic Thematic Networks

8.1 Introduction to New Thematic Network Applications

Presenters: *Kirsi Latola*, UArctic Vice-President Networks
Jan Borm, Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, Thematic Network on Arctic Cultures and History
Andreas Raspotnik, Nord University, Thematic Network on Blue Economy and the Arctic

Judy Tupper, University of Southern Maine, Thematic Network on Collaborative Online International Learning and Biodiversity Education across the Arctic Circle (COIL@UArctic)
Andreas Altenburger, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Thematic Network on Microtomography of Arctic Marine Organisms
Pavla Dagsson Waldhauserova, Agricultural University of Iceland, Thematic Network on High Latitude Dust

Links: Presentation slides

8.2 Approval of new Thematic Networks 2023

Presenter: *Kirsi Latola*, UArctic Vice-President Networks
Document: Decision 8.2
Decision: The members voted in favour (exact voting result available in the decision document) of the following decision:

Assembly decides to support the evaluation by the UArctic Thematic Networks Leadership Team and approve the provisional establishment of the following networks:

- **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 Microtomography of Arctic Marine Organisms**, hosted by UiT Arctic University of Norway, Norway

8.3 Endorsement of provisional Thematic Networks 2022

Presenter: *Kirsi Latola*, UArctic Vice-President Networks
Document: Decision 8.3
Decision: The members voted in favour (exact voting result available in the decision document) of the following decision:

Assembly decides to support the assessment of provisional networks by the UArctic Thematic Networks Coordination Office, and approves the granting of full thematic network status to the:

- ***Thematic Network on Decolonization of Arctic Library and Archives Metadata (DALAM)***, hosted by Polar Libraries Colloquy, Canada
- ***Thematic Network on Digital North: Three-Dimensional Technologies and Arctic Education***, hosted by UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway

- ***Thematic Network on Frozen Arctic Conservation***, hosted by University of Lapland, Finland
- ***Thematic Network on Northern and Arctic Island Studies Research***, hosted by University of the Highlands and Islands, Scotland

9 Election of Nominations Committee Members

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, Board Secretary
Document: Decision 9
Decisions: The members voted in favour (with 143 votes to approve, 0 to reject and 6 abstaining from voting) of the following decisions:

a) The Assembly accepts the Board nomination and re-elects **Gail Fondahl** and **Sven D. Haakanson Jr.** as members of the UArctic's Nominations Committee for a 2nd three-year term (2023-2026).
b) The Assembly accepts the Board nomination and elects **Laila Hedegaard Pedersen** as a member of the UArctic's Nominations Committee for a three-year term (2023-2026).

10 Invitation to join the Friends of UArctic

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, Board Secretary
Document: Decision 10
Decisions: The members voted in favour (with 145 votes to approve, 0 to reject and 3 abstaining from voting) of the following decisions:

a) The Assembly acknowledges the contributions of **Gary Kachanoski**, and thanks him for his dedicated engagement and leadership as a member of UArctic Board and Chair of the Finance Policy Advisory Group.
b) The Assembly acknowledges the contributions of **Peter Sköld**, and thanks him for his dedicated engagement and leadership through organizational changes as a member and Chair of UArctic Board.
c) The Assembly acknowledges the contributions of **Karen Barnes**, and thanks her for her dedicated engagement as a member of UArctic Board.
d) The Assembly acknowledges the contributions of **Evon Peter**, and thanks him for his dedicated engagement as a member of UArctic Board.
e) The Assembly acknowledges the contributions of **Mona Johnson**, and thanks her for her dedicated engagement to the development of UArctic's mobility activities.
f) Assembly joins the Board of UArctic in inviting **Gary Kachanoski**, **Peter Sköld**, **Karen Barnes**, **Evon Peter**, and **Mona Johnson** to join the Friends of UArctic.

11 Approval of Amendments of Constitution

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, Secretary General
Documents: Decision 11
Amendments of Constitution
Decision: The members voted in favour (with 97 votes to approve, 3 to reject and 9 abstaining from voting) of the following decision:

The Assembly approves the amendments of the UArctic Constitution as presented.

12 Approval of Amendments to Bylaws

Presenter: *Outi Snellman*, Secretary General
Documents: Decision 12
Amendments to Bylaws
Decision: The members voted in favour (with 94 votes to approve, 0 to reject and 9 abstaining from voting) of the following decisions:

The Assembly approves the amendments to UArctic Bylaws as presented.

13 Update on Plans for the Assembly and Congress 2024

Presenter: *Kirsi Latola*, Vice-President Networks
Document: Decision 13
Links: Presentation slides
Decision: The members voted in favour (with 103 votes to approve, 0 to reject and 0 abstaining from voting) of the following decision:

The Assembly approves the dates and supports the plans for the UArctic Assembly to be held on 2-3 June 2024 as part of the Arctic Congress on May 29 – June 3, 2024 in Bodø, Norway.

14 Other Business - Announcements

Lars Kullerud, UArctic President and *Keith Larson*, Director of the Arctic Centre at Umeå University signed a co-operation agreement to appoint a new UArctic Associate Vice-President Research Analytics, hosted by Umeå University.

Lars Kullerud and *Outi Snellman*, UArctic Secretary General thanked *Arja Rautio* on behalf of UArctic. Rautio has served as the UArctic Vice-President Research and the leader of UArctic Thematic Networks and European Research Liaison Office at the University of Oulu since 2017, and is now stepping down from her role.

Kullerud and Snellman also thanked *Heli Niittynen*, who has worked with Rautio in coordinating the research activities of UArctic, including the work with UArctic Chairs and Mimir. She will continue to work with Thematic Networks.

Kullerud and Snellman thanked *Debra Christiansen-Stowe*, *Brigitte Bigue*, *Robert Sauvé*, *Richard Marquis*, *Pierre-Yves Savard* and *Andréanne Bernatchez* from Université Laval for their work in organizing the meeting as the local host.

Robert Sauvé was awarded with the golden UArctic pin, as a recognition of his contributions to the work of UArctic as a member of the Board since 2019.

Kullerud and Snellman thanked *Elena Beuttner*, *Janette Peltokorpi* and *Hannele Palviainen* from UArctic International Secretariat for their work to organize the meeting from the UArctic side.

Janne Näkkäläjärvi and *Mika Aromäki* from Sámi Education Institute invited UArctic and all members of UArctic to have the Assembly meeting 2025 in Inari, Finland. The decision on the meeting will be done by Board and formally announced in the 2024 Assembly meeting.

Maria Vyatkina from Luleå University of Technology thanked *Glenn Berggård* for his long-standing contributions as the alternate Assembly representative for Luleå University of Technology. Berggård is retiring after this meeting.

15 Closing of meeting

The Assembly Chair *Liisa Holmberg* closed the meeting.