



ANNUAL MEETING 2024

THE NORWEGIAN SCIENTIFIC ACADEMY FOR POLAR RESEARCH (NVP)

18 April 2024 at 14.00 – 16.00

Microsoft Teams

PARTICIPANTS

Board of Directors and Members:

Grete K. Hovelsrud (President), Bjørn Kaltenborn (Vice President), Gudmund Hernes (Board Member), Gunnar Sand (Board Member), Hanne Sagen (Board Member), Anton G. Kjelaas (Member), Bo Andersen (Member), Elin Darelius (Member), Haakon Hop (Member), Lars-Otto Reiersen (Member), Ove Tobias Gudmestad (Member), Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen (Member), Roland Kaltenborn (Member), Snorre Olaussen (Member), Thor Bjørn Arlov (Member), Yifan Li (Member), John Kendrick Hall (Member), Liqi Chen (Member), Johannes Schweitzer (Institutional Member, NORSAR)

Secretariat:

Thor S. Larsen (Secretary General) and Ragnhild Utne (Office Manager)

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Item no.	Items
1	<p>Opening of the Annual Meeting</p> <p>The Annual Meeting was opened and chaired by NVP's President Grete K. Hovelsrud. The Chair referred to the call.</p>
2	<p>Approval of the call and election of members to sign the protocol</p> <p>The call and agenda were approved. Elin Darelius and Johannes Schweitzer were elected to sign the protocol.</p>
3	<p>Presentation and discussion about the Academy's general activities in 2023</p> <p>The Chair presented the Academy's key activities for the year and introduced the Board of Directors and the Secretariat. Notable efforts included:</p>



UArctic commissioned NVP to carry out a desk-study entitled "Arctic Research – Improving Knowledge of Actors and their Influence." The Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) did the research and studies required for this assignment. A report, "Arctic Research and its Actors. A Pre-study Mapping of Research Strategies and Priorities" was presented at Arendalsuka 2023 at a session chaired by the Academy.

The NVP International Summer School on "The Global Arctic" successfully took place in Longyearbyen and at Isfjord Radio.

A second symposium was organized together with the Royal Swedish Academy of Science (KVA), on the topic "Security and Preparedness in the Changing North" and covering five main topics.

The Academy supported the GoNorth project and intends to contribute to planning for the International Polar Year 2032–2033.

The Annual Meeting 2023, held in Longyearbyen, included seminars on the Gulf Stream and celebration of the 30th anniversary of UNIS.

A significant update of NVP's visual identity and website was completed, alongside the Strategy revision approved by the Board in March 2024.

Presentation of the 2023 Annual Accounts

Office Manager Ragnhild Utne referenced the 2023 Annual Accounts. According to the numbers, the Academy's income reached NOK 1,197,983, an increase from NOK 687,825 in 2022, primarily due to a donation from UArctic earmarked for the desk-study. Operating grants include contributions from institutional members: University of Tromsø, Nord University, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, each contributing NOK 150,000, and NORSAR contributing NOK 100,000.

Additional revenues stem from rental income from the property Isdammen 1, which amounted to NOK 145,915 in 2023, up from NOK 137,825 in 2022, in line with the Consumer Price Index. This category also includes the donation from UArctic for the desk-study, and financial support from Nord University and Nordland Research Institute totaling NOK 180,000 going towards the KVA-NVP Symposium in Oslo.

Total operational costs escalated to NOK 1,520,428 in 2023 from NOK 572,323 in 2022, resulting in a substantial financial shortfall of NOK 322,444. Significant expense drivers included NOK 470,548 for salaries and social costs, along with the summer school program expenses of NOK 339,426, and the 2023 annual meeting, both of which exceeded initial expectations. "Other operating expenses" also cover



membership fees, ground rent, licenses, and an invoice from Fridtjof Nansen Institute, collaborating with NVP for the desk-study.

Despite a prior operational surplus of NOK 1 15,502 in 2022, allocated to the 2023 summer school, the Academy now faces a critical need to secure external funding for the 2024 program.

The substantial deficit emphasizes the urgent need to address the Academy's strained finances and the importance of strengthening the financial foundation for long-term sustainability. Managing the economy remains a priority. The Board is focused on further strengthening the capital base as a key task in the upcoming years.

Suggestions for amendments to the Statutes

The Board has discussed amendments to the Academy's Statutes and a proposal was presented to modify the rules related to the election of the Board of Directors and the Election Committee. The amendments aimed to align the nomination process with practices similar to other organizations, ensuring that the Board and the Election Committee could be re-elected, promoting continuity and maintaining experiences. Concerns were raised about the specifics of re-election terms and the need for clarification of term limits. It was suggested to simplify the language with a focus upon maintaining flexibility and avoiding unnecessary complications in appointments. The Board recommended that the Annual Meeting approves this streamlined approach, ensuring that the process remains efficient and adaptable. This recommendation was approved by a significant majority:

Revised Statutes Amendment:

English:

§7 Annual Meeting

7.3 The Annual Meeting shall elect the president, vice president and up to 5 Board members, each for a period of 2 years. It shall be ensured by appropriate rotation that the various disciplines and regions are represented. The elections are based on the recommendation of an Election Committee appointed by the Annual Meeting according to recommendations by the Board. The Election Committee consists of three members elected for a period of 3 years.

Norwegian:

§7 Årsmøte

7.3 På årsmøtet skal det velges president, visepresident og inntil 5 styremedlemmer. Funksjonstiden for disse er 2 år. Det skal ved hensiktsmessig turnusordning sikres at de ulike fagfelt og regioner blir representert. Valgene skjer på grunnlag av innstilling fra en valgkomité som er nedsatt av årsmøtet etter forslag fra styret. Valgkomiteen har 3 medlemmer som har en funksjonstid på 3 år.



Presentation of new members in 2024

The Academy received 5 nominations for new members. The New Members Committee reviewed each proposal and submitted their recommendations to the Board. During an extraordinary board meeting held on 22 March, all proposed members were unanimously elected in accordance with Article 6.3 of the statutes.

The Chair introduced and warmly welcomed the new members during the session:

- Camilla Brekke, Director, The Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI)
- Corine Wood-Donnelly, Associate Professor, Nord University
- Haakon Hop, Section Leader, The Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI)
- Jan Sigurd Fuglestad, Research Director / Special Adviser, CICERO
- Sten-Andreas Grundvåg, Professor, UiT – The Arctic University of Norway

Presentation of new Honorary Member

During the discussion of §5 Members, particularly section 5.4 regarding Honorary Members, the Board considered a proposal introduced by Board members Gunnar Sand and Jøran Moen to nominate Gudmund Hernes as honorary member to the Academy. Hernes was recognized for his visionary leadership contributions to polar research and education. The Board of Directors unanimously approved the nomination based on several significant merits:

1. Gudmund Hernes, being minister for the Ministry of Church and Education, played a crucial role in promoting and establishing the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) after his participation in Studietur Nord (Study Tour North) in 1992, Hernes also promoted development of research installations in Svalbard and played an important role in the establishment of Svalbard as an international research hub for climate, environmental and space research.
2. He advocated for UNIS to be an integral part of the local community, ensuring it contributed to and engaged with the cultural and social fabric of Longyearbyen.
3. Fifteen years post-UNIS establishment, he was instrumental in founding the NVP, ensuring it had a strong international presence while being based in Longyearbyen.
4. He has extensively engaged with issues concerning the Arctic in his career, focusing on geopolitical aspects in recent years.

The new honorary member, Gudmund Hernes, expressed deep gratitude for the recognition. The Annual Meeting gave him a round of applause.



Elections

The Chair presented the proposal of the Election Committee.

To the Board of Directors:

- President Grete K. Hovelsrud
- Vice President Bjørn Kaltenborn
- Board Member Gunnar Sand
- Board Member Gunnar Hernes

To the Election Committee:

- Johannes Schweitzer (representing NORSAR, our institutional member)
- Bo Andersen (Member)

Re-election of President Grete K. Hovelsrud, Vice President Bjørn Kaltenborn, and Board Members Gunnar Sand and Gunnar Hernes to the Board of Directors were approved by a majority vote and acclamation.

The election of Johannes Schweitzer and re-election of Bo Andersen to the Election Committee were approved by a majority vote and acclamation. Bo Andersen has formally notified the Secretariat of his decision to resign at the 2025 Annual Meeting. However, he has graciously agreed to continue his membership for one additional year to ensure continuity.

Any other business

The discussion focused on potential collaborations, notably with The Royal Danish Academy of Science and Letters, following a successful partnership with KVA. The idea of forming smaller, periodic chapters among members to foster closer interactions was suggested. There was enthusiasm for expanding international activities, similar to the summer school, potentially in locations like Greenland.

Members were encouraged to submit their ideas for future initiatives.

The meeting concluded with a note of thanks by the Chair and anticipation for the next in-person gathering.

18 April 2024
Longyearbyen, Norway



Signatures

Bergen, 26/4 2024

Place and date

Elin Darelus

Elin Darelus

Kjeller, 25 April 2024

Place and date

J. Schweitzer

Johannes Schweitzer