

**Minutes from Annual Meeting in The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research
 21 September 2012 at Isdammen 1, Longyearbyen, Svalbard.**

Participants:

From the Board: Ola M. Johannessen (President), Willy Østreg (Vice President), Gudmund Hernes (Board member).

Members: Anton Kjelaas, Dag Lorentzen, Snorre Olaussen, Fred Sigernes, Richard Allen Herr.

From the secretariat: Thor S. Larsen, Secretary General (rapporteur).

1.	<p>Opening of the annual meeting.</p> <p>The Annual Meeting was chaired by the Academy's President, Ola M. Johannessen. The participants presented themselves with a short briefing about their expertise, backgrounds and positions.</p>
2.	<p>Approval of the call and election of members to sign the protocol.</p> <p>The agenda, which had been sent with other documents to the members with an e-mail from the Secretariat 28 August 2012 was approved. Anton Kjelaas and Fred Sigernes were elected to sign the protocol.</p>
3.	<p>Information about activities in 2011.</p> <p>Information about activities (in Norwegian only) was part of the Board's report in attachment 1 to the call of 28 August. The report was approved.</p>
4.	<p>Financial Statements and the Board's report.</p> <p>The financial statements and the Board's report for 2011 were in attachment 1 to the call of 28 August. The reports were approved.</p>
5.	<p>Information about the Academy's financial situation.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the financial statement up to 30 June 2012. The financial statement was approved.</p>
6.	<p>Presentation of new members.</p> <p>In 2012 there has so far been elected six new members to the Academy. These were presented at the annual meeting by Fred Sigernes:</p> <p>Richard Allen Herr Ole Arve Misund Kristine Offerdal Marit Reigstad</p>

	<p>Paul E. Renaud Svein Østerhus</p> <p>The memberships had been approved by the Board according to the statutes' item 6.3 The Secretariat was requested to write the new members and to welcome them to the Academy. The Secretariat will also prepare diplomas for the new members.</p>
7.	<p>Election of Board members.</p> <p>Anton Kjelaas presented the Election Committee's proposal of new Board:</p> <p>Willy Østreng (President) Ole Arve Misund (Vice President) Gudmund Hernes (Board Member) Lasse Lønnum (Board Member) Gunnar Sand (Board Member)</p> <p>No other nominations were made. The Election Committee's proposal of new Board was elected by acclamation.</p>
8.	<p>Proposed amendments of the Bylaws.</p> <p>Thor S. Larsen presented proposed amendments of the bylaws, which were attached to the call of 28 August (Attachment 4, in Norwegian and English.) Among others, the proposed amendments seek to enhance the roles of the Academy's institutional members by admitting them to Board meetings as observers with rights to speak and to provide recommendations and proposals. It is also recommended that the Board is expanded to include up to 5 members in addition to the President and the Vice President, seeking a geographical spread and with a balanced gender distribution. The Board also recommended that UNIS is a member of the Board ex officio. According to the current statutes, the Annual Meeting is to be held before the end of April each year. Because there is a need for flexibility the Board suggested to remove the reference to April and instead say that the Annual Meeting shall be called with at least 3 weeks' notice.</p> <p>The proposed amendments were approved.</p> <p>The Secretariat has been in touch with the Brønnøysund Register Centre, about requirements for formal approval of the amendments. According to information received so far, formal approval is not required for non-profit foundations such as the Academy when registered in Svalbard. The Secretariat will, however, check this again.</p>
9.	<p>Election of committee members.</p> <p>Members of the nomination committee are Harald Loeng, Fred Sigernes and Willy Østreng. The Board informed the meeting that Willy Østreng wants to be released from his membership in the nomination committee and recommended that Kristine Offerdal will be asked to take over after him, unless the election committee has other candidates.</p> <p>The members of the election committee are Bo Andersen, Hanne Christiansen and Anton Kjelaas. The Board recommended re-elections.</p> <p>The Board's recommendations for the programme committees are that Gunnar Sand is the focal point in Trondheim, Lasse Lønnum in Tromsø, Stein Sandven (Nansensenteret) in Bergen, Gudmund Hernes in Oslo and Ole Arve Misund in Longyearbyen. They should follow up so that each programme committee has at least two additional members. The programme committees shall prepare for lectures and other activities, which will be</p>

	<p>presented on the Academy's home page and to the members.</p> <p>The Board's recommendations for the nomination committee, the election committee and for the programme committees were approved by acclamations.</p>
10	<p>Discussion about the Academy's role in the society. Presentation of the Academy's General Strategy and Action Plan for 2012 – 2014.</p> <p>Willy Østreng presented the Academy's revised strategy and action plan for discussion.</p> <p>The strategy and action plan was approved and will be presented on the Academy's home page.</p>
11.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Several items, which are embedded in the revised strategy and action plan and which will be followed up by the Board and the Secretariat were presented for discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible Norwegian/ Russian cooperation on interdisciplinarity in research and education, possibly with models such as "Studietur Nord," • Organize regular academic seminars on mainland Norway under the auspices of the Academy. • Strengthen the institutional membership base, possibly also to include the industry with earmarked contributions (scholarships, grants etc.) • Cooperation between the Academy and the Norwegian Research Council. • Possible observer status for the Academy in the Arctic Council. • Membership or other affiliation to the University of the Arctic. • Expand the Academy's cooperation with like minded institutions. • Follow up on new management regulations for East Svalbard. • Further development of the Academy's summer school. • Establishment of a grant or scholarship scheme for young scientists. • Develop a media strategy for the Academy. • Expansion of the Academy's Annual Meeting to include seminars, workshops, excursions etc over 2-3 days. <p>The Annual Meeting endorsed such plans and encouraged the Board and the Secretariat to develop them further in accordance with the strategy and action plan.</p>

Nesodden 7.12.12

Place and date

Anton Kjelaas

Anton Kjelaas

Longyearbyen, 12.11.2012

Place and date

Fred Sigernes

Fred Sigernes