



Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research Minutes from the Annual Meeting

Longyearbyen August 23rd 2011

Members present: Ola M. Johannessen (president), Willy Østreg (vice president), Gunnar Sand (general secretary), Harald Loeng, Bo Andersen, Anton Kjelaas, Gudmund Hernes, Peter Haugan, Stein Sandven, Yngve Christophersen.

The meeting was chaired by the president, Ola M. Johannessen.

The minutes were written by the general secretary, Gunnar Sand.

	Issues
1.	<p>Acceptance of call for meeting</p> <p><i>Decision: The Call for the general assembly August 23rd 2011 is accepted.</i></p> <p><i>Anton Kjelaas and Gudmund Hernes are chosen to sign the protocol.</i></p>
2.	<p>General secretary's information about activities in 2010 – 2011.</p> <p>During the past year the academy has organized 4 scientific seminars in Norway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The academy organized a seminar in Longyearbyen in connection with the annual meeting, June 4th 2010, called "Climate change – beliefs and disbeliefs". The seminar was open to students at UNIS and the local community and attracted 40 participants.• A seminar called "Marin monitoring using satellite information" was organized in Bergen on September 29th 2010 with 40 members and guests present. The Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences and the Nansen Centre were co-organizers.• A seminar called "Climate, geopolitics and indigenous people" was organized in Oslo January 24th 2011 with 20 members and guests present.• A seminar called "Arctic technology", concentrating on the establishment of a center of excellence in the field, was co-organized with Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences in Trondheim on March 17th 2011 with 50 members and guests present. <p>This summer the academy has organized its first summer school for PhD students in Longyearbyen, in cooperation with the Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center (NERSC), the Nansen Scientific Society, the G.C. Rieber Foundation and the University Center in Svalbard (UNIS). The title of this interdisciplinary summer school was "Impact of climate change on resources, maritime transport and geopolitics in the Arctic and the Svalbard area." It was a great success. 50 PhD students from all over the world applied to take part. Unfortunately we had funding for only 30.</p> <p><i>Decision: The general assembly accepts the orientation by the general secretary and is pleased to see the steady increase in the activities of the academy.</i></p>

3.	<p>2010 Annual Report.</p> <p>The general secretary presented the 2010 annual report, including the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2010 income of the academy was NOK 400.000 (NOK 240.687 in 2009) while the costs were NOK 193.059 (NOK 69.154 in 2009). • The University of Bergen became the first institutional member of the academy, contributing with NOK 150.000 annually in 2010. • 8 new members were elected in 2010, being <i>professor Oran Young (USA)</i>, <i>professor Franklyn Griffiths (Canada)</i>, <i>professor Mark Nuttall (Canada/Great Britain)</i>, <i>professor Artur Nikolayevich Chilingarov (Russia)</i>, <i>professor Ivan Yevgen'evich Frolov (Russia)</i>, <i>professor Bjørn Munro Jenssen (Norway – NTNU)</i>, <i>professor Aleksey Marshenko (Russia/Norway – UNIS)</i>, and <i>professor Snorre Olaussen (Norway – UNIS)</i>. The total number of members is now 79. • The academy established its own web site in 2010. It is operated by the secretariat. • The 2010 board consisted of Ola M. Johannessen (president), Willy Østreng (vice president), Gudmund Hernes, Kit Kovacs (replacing Rolf Langvatn in 2010) and Gunnar Sand (general secretary). No board members are compensated for their contribution to the academy. The board met 6 times in 2010, and dealt with 40 issues. • The academy secretariat is led by the general secretary Gunnar Sand and the academy's secretary Sølvi Onarheim. Sand receives no compensation while Onarheim's position is paid 20 % by the academy. The University Centre in Svalbard provides office, accounting and materials, including the maintenance of Isdammen 1. • The academy is in no way polluting the environment. <p><i>Decision: The general assembly approves the 2010 annual report. UNIS' contribution to running the academy is appreciated.</i></p>
4.	<p>General secretary's orientation about the economic state of the academy.</p> <p>The capital base of the academy is improving. Fund raising has had a high priority in the board's work, and the efforts are now paying off. Donations from the University of Bergen, NTNU (Trondheim), The Nansen Society and the Ministry of Research and Higher Education have made it possible to reduce the academy debt from NOK 1 mill. to NOK 550.000.</p> <p>Institutional memberships from the University of Bergen, NTNU and the Nansen Centre have given the academy a steady income of NOK 400.000 a year. By March 31st 2011 the academy had a capital base of NOK 841.395,79. As a result, the board decided to make another down payment on the debt, reducing the debt further to NOK 350.000. It is the intention of the board to down pay the remaining debt by the end of 2011.</p> <p>The 2011 budget matches its income: NOK 400.000.</p> <p>The efforts to improve the capital base of the academy will continue. The board is targeting a number of universities, companies and institutions as potential institutional members.</p> <p><i>Decision: The general assembly accepts the orientation about the economic state of the academy by the general secretary and is pleased to see the economic base improve.</i></p>

5.	<p>President's orientation about future plans and ambitions.</p> <p>The academy plans to organize yearly seminars in Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Tromsø in addition to Longyearbyen through cooperating with scientific academies seated there, but also on its own. There should be at least one seminar in each city every year.</p> <p>The international summer school for PhD level students in Longyearbyen in 2011 was a success. A working group consisting of Peter Haugan (leader), Willy Østreng and Gunnar Sand will look into the possibility of making the summer school into an annual event, in cooperation with the Nansen Scientific Society and UNIS.</p> <p>The Nansen Center is planning a seminar in Bergen on Fridtjof Nansen's birthday, October 10th. The topic will be "From Nansen to the present". NVP will be a partner.</p> <p>We are still considering a conference in Longyearbyen on the geopolitics of the High North, with UNIS and the Norwegian Institute for Defense Studies as partners.</p> <p>We are also still pursuing the idea of a World Polar Forum in Longyearbyen.</p> <p><i>Decision: The general assembly accepts the orientation about future plans and ambitions by the president. Other initiatives by academy members are appreciated.</i></p>
6.	<p>New members of the polar academy.</p> <p>The following new members are elected into the Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Paul Arthur Berkman, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge University, UK/University of California, USA. • Director Alf Håkon Hoel, Institute of Marine Research, Tromsø, Norway. • Department Director Anders Solheim, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, Oslo, Norway. • University Director Lasse Lønnum, University of Tromsø, Norway. • Director Rolf Tamnes, Norwegian Institute of Defense Studies, Oslo, Norway. <p>The following new members are appointed into the Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research as honorary members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former president of the Norwegian parliament Kirsti Kolle Grøndahl. • Former minister of the Norwegian Foreign Office, Thorvald Stoltenberg. <p>During the discussion, the members stressed that new members of the academy who are chosen on the ground of having contributed to the advancement of polar research rather than being polar scientists themselves, really should have contributed in an extraordinary way. Having a position in polar oriented institutions is not enough.</p> <p><i>Decision: The general assembly welcomes the new members into the academy.</i></p>
7	<p>Any other business</p> <p>The general secretary will leave his position as managing director of UNIS and return to the mainland at the end of the year. He will stay on as general secretary for NVP until a permanent replacement in Longyearbyen has been found.</p> <p>Ivar Ramberg has requested that he is replaced as member and leader of the new</p>

<p>members committee. Harald Loeng will take over as leader of the committee. Fred Sigernes and Willy Østreng will continue, while we have to recruit a new fourth member.</p> <p>The election committee will carry on for one more year, consisting of Bo Anderson, Anton Kjelaas and Hanne H. Christiansen.</p> <p>Honorary member Olaf I. Rønning called in prior to this year's annual meeting and offered his best wishes to the academy.</p>
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Longyearbyen 27.08.2011


Anton Kjelaas


Gudmund Hernes