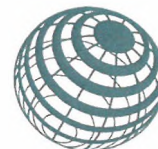


Minutes Annual Meeting 2023 The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP)

- Location:** The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), Longyearbyen, Norway. And digital via Microsoft Teams.
- Time:** Thursday 30 November 2023, 14:00 – 15:00 (GMT+1)
- Participants:** Grete K. Hovelsrud (President), Bjørn Kaltenborn (Vice President), Gudmund Hernes (Board Member), Jøran Moen (Board Member), Hanne Sagen (Board Member), Steinar Martin Paulsen (Institutional Member – UiT The Arctic University of Norway), Thor Bjørn Arlov (Institutional Member – Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Dag Lorentzen (Academy Member), Aleksey Marchenko (Academy Member), Anton Kjelaas (Academy Member), Lawson Brigham (Academy Member), Katrin Vorkamp (Academy Member), Lars-Otto Reiersen (Academy Member), Richard Davy (Academy Member)
- Secretariat:** Thor S. Larsen (Secretary General) and Ragnhild Utne (Office Manager)

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 the agenda were approved. Lars-Otto Reiersen and Gunnar Sand were elected to sign the protocol.</p>
3.	<p>Presentation and discussion about the Academy's activities in 2022–2023.</p> <p>Grete K. Hovelsrud presented the Academy's activities in 2022 and 2023.</p> <p>The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP), founded in Oslo on 27 March 2008, is an international Academy under Norwegian leadership for some of the world's leading polar scientists. The Academy functions as a contact organisation for research and higher education, between international scientific institutions and organisations in the Arctic and in Antarctica. The Academy's emphasis on interdisciplinary research and teaching complements the activities of other universities and research institutions that traditionally have a disciplinary profile. NVP is thus in a position to make important contributions to Norwegian national and international strategic ambitions and to develop knowledge and management opportunities in and for the polar regions.</p> <p>The Academy has as of 2023 178 individual members from 19 countries and one honorary member. Our institutional members are The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), The Arctic University of Norway (UiT), Nord University, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and Norwegian Seismic Array (NORSAR).</p>



Norway's H.M. King Harald is the Academy's patron.

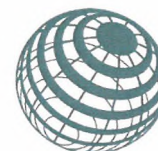
Board of Directors and employees:

Board members are Grete K. Hovelsrud (President, 2023-2024), Bjørn Kaltenborn (Vice President, 2023-2024), Gudmund Hernes (Board Member, 2023-2024), Gunnar Sand (Board Member, 2023-2024), Hanne Sagen (Board Member, 2022-2023) and Jøran I. Moen (ex officio Board Member on behalf of The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS)).

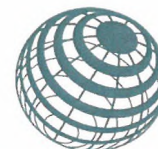
Management and operation of the Academy is carried out by an Office Manager with office at UNIS in Longyearbyen and by a Secretary General in Oslo. The property Isdammen 1 in Longyearbyen is currently leased to the company Better Moments AS.

Activities:

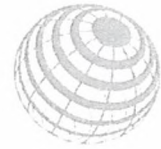
- NVP cooperates closely with UNIS and with other universities and institutions in Norway and abroad.
- NVP is part of a North center partnership ("Nordområde-partnerskapet") embracing 23 Norwegian institutions with roles and activities in the North, including the Arctic. The partnership cooperates on events for the Arendal-week.
- NVP is member of UArctic and participates in Arctic Frontiers and in other national and international events that focus on the polar regions.
- UArctic has commissioned NVP to carry out a desk-study entitled "Arctic Research – Improving Knowledge of Actors and their Influence." The objective is to review the status of Arctic science and research and the impact of influential actors. NVP entered an agreement with the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) to do the research and studies required for this assignment. The result of this work, the report: "Arctic Research and its Actors. A Pre-study Mapping of Research Strategies and Priorities" was presented and discussed at Arendsuka 2023.
- NVP has since 2018 cooperated with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA). We had joint symposia in Stockholm in 2022 and in Oslo in 2023 on the theme "Security and preparedness in the changing north - research perspectives." Experts from various disciplines addressed and discussed Conditions for livelihoods, health, and ecosystems; Forecasting the changing ice, ocean and weather conditions; Impacts of climate change - effects and actions; Access to infrastructure and data for Arctic research and Geopolitics, Security and defense.
- NVP is supporting the GoNorth project, which tentatively runs between 2021 and 2024. The project's main objective is to push the boundaries of knowledge about the Arctic Ocean, from the sea floor and subsea geology to the sea ice, via the water column. NVP is publishing reports from GoNorth on its website.
- NVP is associated with the "Joint North Atlantic-Arctic Ocean Science Programme Initiative (B2Bi)". B2Bi is evolving within the international scientific community to innovatively transform scientific research and related education programs in an era with new challenges for science in the 21st century. We explore opportunities for collaboration with the US National Academy of Sciences/Polar Research Board, e.g. on the B2Bi initiative.
- NVP has been invited to contribute to the programme for the International Polar Year 2032–2033.
- A Collaboration Agreement between NVP and the Russian Geographical Society (RGS) from 2016 is currently on hold because of the war in Ukraine.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NVP has been running international summer schools for PhD students and Postdocs in Longyearbyen since 2011. “The Global Arctic – A strategic vision for NVP” is the base for the summer schools. • The summer school 2022 had a “one-pole” perspective, showing how the Arctic and the rest of the world are connected. It was originally planned for 2020 but was postponed due to the global outbreak of Covid-19. Students from many countries and with very diverse backgrounds participated in lectures and outdoor activities and in group work. The summer school students are encouraged together to prepare a scientific peer-reviewed article addressing challenges discussed at the summer school. • The summer school 2023 entitled “The Global Arctic - Reaching out to the Third Pole” had a particular focus on the linkages between the Arctic and the Himalayas. Held partly in Longyearbyen, partly at Isfjord Radio, the summer school addressed environmental, geopolitical, and socio-economic challenges posed by the rapidly evolving Arctic and Himalayan regions and in a two-pole perspective. The programme was curated to cover a wide array of interdisciplinary topics, from local tourism to the geopolitical implications of melting ice and climate change. • The summer school 2024 will have a three-pole perspective in addressing linkages and similarities between the Arctic, Antarctica and the Himalayas in terms of resource reservoirs, laboratories for learning to cope with change, and how to design effective multi-disciplinary research targeting critical factors for sustainable development. Pending financial resources, the summer school 2024 will as in 2023 be held partly in Longyearbyen, partly at Isfjord Radio. • NVP and Uarctic are currently discussing opportunities for closer cooperation between our summer schools and similar activities at “like minded” institutions in other Arctic countries.
<p>4.</p>	<p>Financial Statements and the Board’s report 2022.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the documents sent with the call. The Financial Statements and the Board’s report for 2022 were approved.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Information about the Academy’s financial situation.</p> <p>Office Manager Ragnhild Utne referred to the financial statement for 2022.</p> <p>In 2022, the Academy's financial statements revealed a total income of NOK 687,825. This sum included NOK 550,000 sourced from our institutional members, while the remaining NOK 137,825 was generated as rental income from our property in Longyearbyen, Isdammen.</p> <p>Our operational costs for 2022 amounted to NOK 572,323, leading to an operational surplus of NOK 115,502, which was going towards the implementation of the summer school in 2023.</p>



	<p>The Academy's finances in 2022 were robust, yet it's important to note that our future stability relies heavily on the annual contributions from our institutional members. These funds are vital for achieving our planned activities and goals. Additionally, external funding will be crucial for the ongoing success of our summer school program.</p> <p>The reporting on the financial situation was approved by acclamation.</p>
6.	<p>Presentation of new members.</p> <p>The Academy received 5 proposals for new members. NVP's New Members Committee reviewed all proposals and gave their recommendations to the Board. At the Board's meeting prior to the Annual Meeting, it was decided that there is a need to continue the discussion of these proposals after the Annual Meeting. The Board's final decisions regarding new members will be presented in an update on the Academy's website.</p>
7.	<p>Elections.</p> <p>The Chair presented the proposals of the Elections Committee.</p> <p>The Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Member Hanne Sagen to be re-elected for a two-year period (2024–2025). <p>New Members Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stein Sandven, Dag Lorentzen, and Anton G. Kjelaas for a three-year period (2024–2026). <p>Re-election of Hanne Sagen to the board and re-election of Stein Sandven, Dag Lorentzen, and Anton G. Kjelaas to the New Members Committee were unanimously approved by acclamation.</p>
8.	<p>Any other business.</p> <p>At the 2023 Annual Meeting, Grete K. Hovelsrud presented the modification for the annual meeting cycle, approved by the Board, aiming to clarify reporting years and address the confusion caused by the current schedule. It was announced that the 2024 annual meeting will take place in the spring, with further details to be communicated to all academy members.</p> <p>Lawson Brigham introduced the concept of a symposium in Washington, potentially in partnership with the Norwegian and American embassies. The themes, mirroring past collaborations with Swedish entities, could also involve US academies. This initiative was seen as a way to enhance NVP's profile in North America. Grete K. Hovelsrud observed that the symposium themes, typically updated and viewed from various angles, sparked a debate over whether to persist with current themes or introduce new ones. Lawson Brigham proposed to maintain the existing themes but adapting the event to North America to gain fresh insights, especially with likely interest from other national academies</p>



and embassies. Grete K. Hovelsrud, however, expressed concerns about how certain politically sensitive themes, like security, might be received in the US.

Grete K. Hovelsrud participates in the planning of the International Polar Year (IPY) 2032-2033 and introduced a discussion about NVP's role. Gudmund Hernes proposed recognising exceptional polar research by young scientists, as nominated by academy members, to build a sense of community.

The focus of the meeting then shifted to the importance of engaging young scientists; a subject introduced by Hanne Sagen. She highlighted Richard Davy's initiatives in reducing age barriers and stressed the need for the academy to appeal more to the younger generation. Richard Davy referred to his satisfaction with the level of engagement observed at the summer school in Svalbard.

Lars-Otto Reiersen voiced concerns regarding NVP's attractiveness to younger scientists and the absence of a definitive plan to engage them in the upcoming years. Thor Bjørn Arlov emphasised the significance of collaborating with APECS and UNIS, particularly in relation to the summer school, and underscored the necessity for the academy to bolster its visibility among early career scientists and PhD students. Hanne proposed a partnership with Svalbard Science Forum for field grants and questioned the academy's allure for intermediate researchers like Richard Davy and Helene Reinertsen Langehaug.

Lawson Brigham referred to the concept of "term membership" for young scientists, which would allow them to contribute to work within the Academy for a set period, gaining experience and potentially leading to future full membership. Lars-Otto Reiersen reiterated the importance of this discussion to avoid the Academy from becoming dominated by senior academics.

Grete K. Hovelsrud referred to the day's board discussions, which had addressed the revision of NVP's strategy and the need to improve involvement and engagement by young scientists. The potential to introduce a new membership category for younger scientists had been discussed. A draft strategy will be presented at the annual meeting in the spring 2024.

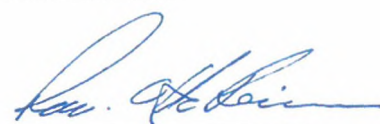
The meeting concluded with a unified commitment to revise NVP's strategies to better engage younger scientists, to amplify the Academy's role in international collaboration, and actively participate in initiatives such as the IPY.

30 November 2023

Longyearbyen, Norway


Place and date

Place and date



Lars-Otto Reiersen


Place and date

Place and date



Gunnar Sand