



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

## Terms of Reference for UArctic Rectors' Forum

### Background

UArctic membership includes practically all northern universities and colleges, which together have the potential for strong influence on the development of northern areas, which are drawing more and more interest on a global scale (natural resources, energy, access to water and land, climate change etc.).

UArctic aims to engage the leadership of its member institutions more actively in the strategic development of UArctic, as well as in discussion about the role of higher education institutions in the development of the region and globally. UArctic established the UArctic Rectors' Forum in the inaugural meeting hosted by Dartmouth College, Hanover, USA, in March 2007.

### Membership

The UArctic Rectors' Forum brings together university and college Presidents, Rectors, Provosts, Chancellors, as well as designated vice-representatives from UArctic's Higher Education members around specific themes. The forum is reserved for institutional leadership and is not intended as an institutional representative forum; the Council of UArctic serves that function.

### Purpose

- The UArctic Rectors' Forum is a forum for discussion between the leadership of UArctic Higher Education members'.
- The Rectors use the Forum to discuss issues relevant to Higher Education and training as well as research with various stakeholder groups, as well as to jointly agree on common implementation strategies.
- The Rectors collectively formulate and endorse a UArctic Charter to provide guidance concerning the member institutions' commitment. Through the Forum, the Rectors are able to monitor the implementation of the Charter.
- The Forum serves both as a discussion and meeting place for northern university leaders, as well as a venue for the Rectors to advocate for positive developments in Arctic policy.
- The Forum addresses the following:
  - UArctic issues, operations, funding, institutional commitments
  - Topical issues for Arctic higher education and research
  - Arctic Science Policy
  - Coordinating universities' input and influence on circumpolar governmental cooperation (Arctic 8, Arctic Council, etc.)

### Participation

Institutional leaders (i.e. Rectors, Chancellors, Presidents, Provosts, Vice-Rectors, Vice-Chancellors, Vice-Presidents, Vice-Provosts, etc.) are eligible to participate as formal delegates in the Rectors' Forum. They may, in addition, bring along expert(s), advisor(s) and/or support staff as part of their delegation. All participants must register for the Rectors' Forum; however only one delegate can participate in and vote at the Rectors' Forum Business Meeting where formal decisions are taken.

The Board of Governors of UArctic will routinely be invited to participate in the meetings of the Rectors' Forum, but members are not formal delegates of the Forum unless they concurrently represent a member institution.

## **Organization and Rules of Procedure**

The UArctic Rectors' Forum is convened every 1-2 years. The decision on the next meeting is based on invitations from UArctic members and agreements to partner with other relevant Arctic organizations.

The Rectors' Forum has a Planning Committee, consisting of a Chair, Vice-Chair, UArctic President and Vice-President Administration, and at least four members representing a diverse group of member institutions, representative of the host institution for the next Rectors' Forum,

The UArctic International Secretariat serves as the Secretariat for the Forum, coordinating the agenda planning, distribution of announcements to members, managing the meeting web-pages, and maintaining records of the proceedings. The host institution of each Forum is responsible for the local organization of the meeting.

The Chair and members of the Planning Committee should be chosen by the Rectors' Forum from the ranks of the delegates of the Forum. All UArctic Higher Education members can make nominations for the Chair and members of the Planning Committee to the UArctic Secretariat up until the time of the election at each Forum.

When a member of a Planning Committee needs to be changed during the planning period for the next Forum, all efforts will be made to find an eligible replacement from the same institution. In case the Chair of the Committee steps down, the Committee will appoint a new Chair from the ranks of its membership.

In line with the values of UArctic, special effort shall be made to ensure the engagement of UArctic's indigenous institutions in the Rectors' Forum and also in the Planning Committee.

When relevant, the Rectors' Forum will be organized in partnership with other Arctic fora or with other organizations relevant to Higher Education and international cooperation. Such organizations are, for example:

- Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)
- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)
- International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)
- World Indigenous Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC)
- European Union
- Arctic Council
- United Nations University
- Northern Forum
- UNESCO

The Rectors' Forum can create sub-groups to address a specific interest area, to share information on a specific theme, to present UArctic issues and initiatives to external audiences, to fundraise as consortia, etc. (For example, indigenous institutions, research oriented members, southern institutions with an Arctic research profile). Such groups are not formal decision-making bodies of UArctic, but are encouraged to use the Rectors' Forum as a meeting place for internal discussions.