



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC REPORT TO THE SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS

April 9-10, 2003

Strategic Planning: Strategic Plan and Funding Strategy

In the Inari Ministerial Declaration in 2002, the Ministers of the Arctic Council stated that they, “welcome the good progress of the University of the Arctic (UArctic) and encourage appropriate authorities in the Arctic states to increase their efforts to secure financing of the core activities of the UArctic”.

During the first part of the Icelandic Chairmanship of the Arctic Council UArctic, particularly its Board of Governors and leadership, focussed on formulating relevant strategies on what UArctic will do in the future, who will be involved, what will be the projected costs, and how UArctic activities will be funded. These are documented in the following UArctic documents that lay the foundations for the planning and implementation for the next five years:

- University of the Arctic Strategic Plan
- University of the Arctic Funding Strategy with Budget

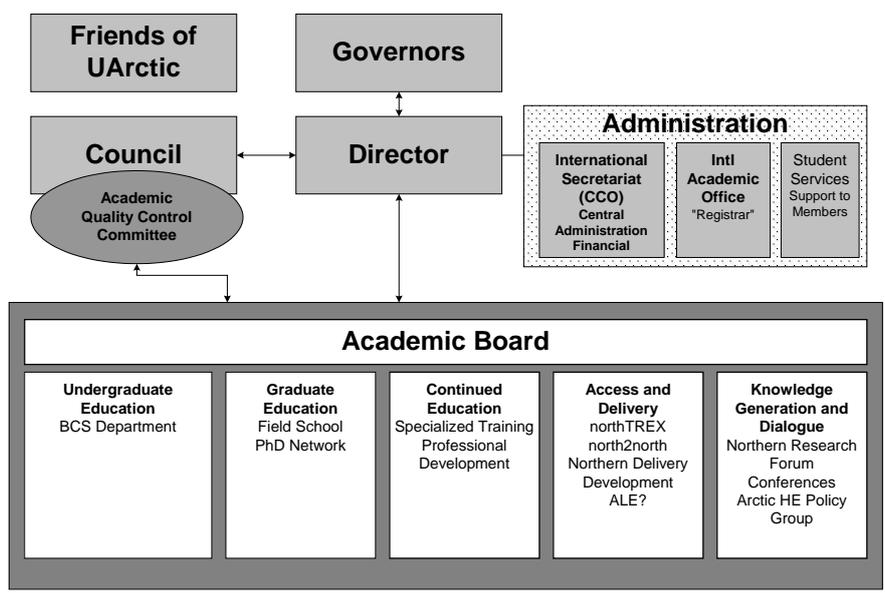
The University of the Arctic’s new Strategic Plan and target budget for its operations for the period 2003 – 2007 marks the transition from concept and institutional development, to operation. The planned activity level will require a mixture of in-kind contributions from members, substantial funding from governments, and project funding from various other sources.

The Funding Strategy is based on the model that for the five-year-period 2003-2007, governmental funding should be secured through sharing among Arctic Countries. A realistic model would be that Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden all supply ½ million € Canada should match 3 times this sum while Iceland, USA, and Russia should identify resources scaled to the Arctic population (and scale of economy). This approach will generate half of the anticipated total cost of UArctic operations. This is considered to be a realistic model as it matches Finland’s current level of funding to UArctic, that is ½ million € per year (approximately 250 000 € Circumpolar Coordination Office, 100 000 € for north2north, 50 000 € for other projects, and the rest in-kind). The governmental funding will be used to secure longer-term commitments for UArctic that will benefit students and core administration provide, and for minimal program operation.

Costs related to the development of new programs and other variable activities will be funded through projects, sponsorship, in-kind contributions from members, donations, or other kinds of support. It is the responsibility of the UArctic Board of Governors, management and members to raise this required funding.

New Programs Organization

UArctic’s Board also endorsed a new organization structure which included Program Departments and Deans, an international Academic Board and a supporting International Secretariat.



UArctic Programs

The transition from development to delivery of UArctic's programs has continued apace since October with the continuation of the north2north student exchange program and the online pilot of BCS331/332, Contemporary Issues in the Circumpolar World.

Fourteen UArctic member institutions from Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Russia, USA are participating in the current round, which will see students studying at other UArctic member institutions in the 2003-2004 academic year. This round welcomed the addition of Iceland as a member of the north2north program with the participation of the University of Akureyri. Canada and Denmark are currently discussing their own participation in the program, which is expected for the forthcoming application round beginning this fall.

Beginning on the January 15, 2003, twenty-five students from eight UArctic member institutions in six different circumpolar countries began taking BCS331, Contemporary Issues in the Circumpolar World as an online course. The online course is hosted by Athabasca University, and the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) is providing registrarial assistance. This project is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The second course of the pilot, BCS332, will be delivered at a condensed pace beginning in May. The course is also being taught in a traditional classroom setting at UNBC.

Other programs continue to develop. The Northern Research Forum held its very successful second meeting, or Open Veche, in Novgorod, Russia in September 2002, and is planning the next for Canada in 2004. The UArctic Field School launched its own Catalogue of northern field courses in March. The remaining components of UArctic's programs structure continue to develop that complement the existing core, including a revised Arctic Learning Environment to promote access, Continuing Education programs that target specific educational and skills needs, and channels of networking and dialogue to integrate UArctic with partners in science, education, and policy.