

UArctic Student Declaration 2012

Arctic Sustainability: Building Partnerships through Education

Sustainability today requires the integration of the following key elements: health and social well-being, natural sciences, economic growth, multiculturalism and indigenous development – meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future. Specifically in the Arctic, sustainability must be accomplished through the understanding of global challenges and responding locally through adaptation, resilience and environmental responsibility. In order to achieve this, UArctic needs **active student representation**, which will enhance UArctic **visibility**, in turn strengthening **knowledge exchange**, leading to the development of meaningful research and **improved educational opportunities**.

Student Representation

We propose a UArctic student council representative to have a fixed position as a qualified voting member in decision making meetings, such as board meetings and strategic planning.

Student Forum 2012 participants will establish a Student Council. In the future the student council will consist of student representatives at each member institution who are currently enrolled in any UArctic curriculum or have UArctic interest.

Visibility

UArctic must develop a clear and concise mandate as a means for communicating and increasing the visibility within member institutions, affiliated students and the global community. Therefore we recommend UArctic:

- targets audiences aimed at current and prospective students;
- expands means of external communication through appropriate media;
- internally promotes UArctic programs via academic advising and presenting to undergraduate students;
- implements an Annual Day of the UArctic, highlighting member institutions' contributions to Arctic interdisciplinary sciences and academic programs;
- creates a contract between the North2North student and their home and host institutions to promote UArctic pre- and post-exchange.

Knowledge exchange

UArctic should increase brand visibility and values within mobility programs using current students and alumni. We recommend:

- host institutions should offer lectures on native language, traditional knowledge and land management to introduce exchange students to the local culture in the context according to UArctic values;

- UArctic create a new logo for North2North that clarifies their relationship;
- member institutions support internal and external exchange;
- strengthening of faculty and student exchange.

Education

UArctic needs to establish itself as the leader in Arctic distance education. Therefore, we recommend:

- a consistent online platform and quality in design, development, and delivery using all available internet resources;
- increasing the number of multi-lingual courses offered, as well as language courses, both undergraduate and graduate, through online supported learning;
- UArctic member institutions need to promote and recognize online education programs as equally valuable as classroom-based programs (i.e. Circumpolar Studies program);
- enhanced career opportunities for UArctic students by collaborating with organizations in the North to increase internships, work studies and sponsorship.

In conclusion, successful realization of this declaration is vital for the future of UArctic and crucial for the achievement of Arctic sustainability.

In witness thereof, UArctic Student Delegates 2012

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