



LySEF - “Longyearbyen Science and Education Forum”

MINUTES

Date: 15.05.2009 **Time:** 09:00 – 12:00

Place: Svalbard Science Centre, OPS-room

Minutes by: Elise Strømseng, LySEF secretariat, UNIS

Present:	<p>UNIS: Christin Kristoffersen, Fred S. Hansen, Martin Indreiten. SMS: Tor Punsvik. NPI: Ken Pedersen. SSF: Represented by Lisa Baddeley. EISCAT: Lisa Baddeley. Svalbard Reiseliv: Tove Eliassen.</p>
Inability to attend:	<p>SVALSAT: Sten C. Pedersen. SINTEF: Per Johan Brandvik. STATSBYGG: Tor Sverre Karlsen. Svalbard Museum: Tora Hultgren.</p>
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation of Chair (UNIS), Vice-Chair (NP), including new representatives 2. Orientation from the secretariat <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LySEF web-pages 2. Invoices 3. Founding principles 3. Presentations of activities by the different member-institutions. 4. Discussion – where do we go from here? 5. Any other business.
Attachments to the minutes	<p>Report from Lisa Baddeley on additional matters presented and/or discussed in the SSF meeting 21st/22nd of April 2009.</p>

<p>1/09</p>	<p>Presentation of Chair (UNIS), Vice-Chair (NP), new representatives:</p> <p>Christin Kristoffersen (Head of Department of Research and Academic affairs, UNIS) will function as the leader of LySEF on behalf of UNIS. Martin Indreiten was presented as an observer from UNIS in this meeting. The Vice-chair is hosted by NP and represented by Ken Pedersen in this meeting.</p> <p>Fred S. Hansen (UNIS) was asked to lead the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting leader asked for comments to the minutes of December 2008. A comment on the inclusion of more members in LySEF was raised. The discussion and outcome are referred in case no. 04/09.</p>
<p>2/09</p>	<p>Orientation from the LySEF secretariat</p> <p><i>LySEF in “the white paper”</i> – LySEF was mentioned in the governments’ white paper regarding Svalbard - at page 70. <i>“Longyearbyen Science and Education Forum (LySEF) ble opprettet i 2008, med det formål å fremme Longyearbyen som base for forskning og utdanning. Dette skal skje ved koordinering og ulike samarbeidstiltak. UNIS ivaretar sekretariatsfunksjonen.”</i></p> <p><i>LySEF web-pages</i> - are updated with meeting minute and all activity plans that have been sent to the secretariat. There has not been time to develop the web-pages into e.g. including news feeds (links to SSF).</p> <p><i>Invoices/Membership</i> – The member fee of 5000 NOK will be sent out in May 2009.</p> <p><i>Founding principles</i> – all institutions have signed the document, however the documents disappeared after they were sent to SINTEF in Trondheim. The secretariat will ask Gunnar Sand to contact SINTEF in order for them to look for these documents.</p>
<p>3/09</p>	<p>Presentation of activities in summer/autumn 2009 (some presentations are also located on the LySEF web-site)</p> <p>Norwegian Polar Institute – Ken Pedersen: R/V Lance will back June 13th and can potentially bring equipment northwards if needed. Summer projects are starting May 19th. There will be an exclusive visit from the UN-general secretary (Ban Ki-Moon) on September 2nd 2009. NPI is responsible for the logistics and will take the general secretary to the ice edge.</p>

The new research vessel:

The new ice vessel that will be operating in north areas is will probably be finished and operable by 2011/2012. The vessel can be used by all research institutions in Norway. Additional funding to fully finance the boat will hopefully be provided through the national budget. UNIS also has staff involved in the planning group for this new research vessel.

Comment from Fred S. Hansen (UNIS):

We will present the vessel more thoroughly in the December meeting.

NPI will have the same level of research projects as during IPY, especially due to the new Ice and Climate Centre. The establishment of the Ice and Climate Centre has led to an increase in the numbers of employees at NPI.

The December 2008 presentation still applies to NPI with regards to research projects and logistic plans.

UNIS – Fred S. Hansen:

Fred referred to the logistic activities at UNIS in the spring term 2009. Peak activity was in March and April. Summer season starts in mid June and fall season in mid July. Student-courses will be fewer in autumn 2009 (11 courses have been cut) due to UNIS budget situation.

Fred gave a presentation of the projects at UNIS from June 15th → Dec 2009. UNIS tries to use external companies and stations as much as possible (Kapp Linné, Svea, Hornsund and Ny-Ålesund) with regards to fieldwork. UNIS will also use different boats of different size and for different purposes in autumn 2009. The UNIS boat Viking Explorer will be operating up-until Christmas.

Fred presented and reported from 4 projects with UNIS engagement:

1. **Arctic Nature Guide study** (cooperation between Svalbard Reiseliv, UNIS, Høgskolen i Finnmark), 20 participants.
Objective: Improve the quality of future guides. The course will be implemented at UNIS from autumn 2009. Students are officially students at “Høgskolen i Finnmark”, however they will be looked upon and treated as UNIS students while they are present at UNIS.
2. **GTO** (Guide- og Turlleder opplæring) – Svalbard Reiseliv is ordering the teaching at the course from UNIS. First module will be starting in June.

Comment from Svalbard Reiseliv – Tove Eliassen:

The guide education system had operated since 1998 with mostly local institutions and internal guides involved. In contrast to previous years this new model opens for external and international guides to participate as all teaching will be done in English.

Comment from SMS – Tor Punsvik: The Governor supports the GTO and states that it is really important that Svalbard guides are credited and educated under good circumstances.

3. **Youth Camp in Billefjorden** – an initiative from Longyearbyen Lokalstyre. UNIS has offered Lokalstyret the UNIS camp facilities in Billefjorden for the kids involved in the Youth Camp in late August 2009.

4. **CO₂-Lab:**

Fred handed out a folder describing the plans and establishment of the Longyearbyen CO₂ lab. The drilling can be followed LIVE on UNIS web-pages → "weather-station". The drilling of the 4th hole will commence in mid August. UNIS is leading the project.

Elise briefly presented the International and Interdisciplinary IPY Field School that will be held at UNIS from June 15th – July 3rd. The field school is a cooperative effort between several research and education institutions/organizations (UNIS, IPY Norway, APECS, UArctic – with lecturers from NPI, UiTø, CICERO, NTNU, UiB, UNIS, The International Reindeer Centre, Oxford University etc.).

Svalbard Reiseliv:

M/S Nordstjernen is not coming to Svalbard this summer and will be replaced by M/S Expedition. It seems like there will be more cruise trafficking during the summer of 2009. GTO and Arctic Nature Guide are among the main focuses of Svalbard Reiseliv. In autumn Svalbard Reiseliv will try to extend the tourist season by encouraging people to come to Svalbard during the polar night and the dark season. Tove Eliassen will leave her position in mid-July, hence Unni Myklevoll will replace Tove Eliassen in autumn 2009.

Governor in Svalbard (SMS) – Tor Punsvik:

Two field-teams with inspectors will be based in Isfjorden and Magdalenefjorden from 28/6-9/8 - 2009.

IPY is facing out – however the level of science activity and application matters maintains. The Governors office notices that there is a considerable scientific interest for eastern Svalbard. Hence, science in the eastern parts of Svalbard is an issue of concern for the Governor. Tor refers to the white paper and Svalbard as a platform for science and the issues raised by the white paper, especially due to Nature Reserves and preparation of guidelines for field activity in these areas

The Governor and SSF has agreed to host a workshop where management and science come together to set predictable framework for future science in eastern Svalbard. The workshop will also include station building, multiannual activity, the use of technology/ monitoring/mapping etc. as well as cooperation across institutions and nations.

There are guidelines for scientists planning projects, fieldwork or operating in the Svalbard area on the governors WEB-page.

Two comments from NPI – Ken Pedersen:

The research environment wants the Governors office to figure out if the RiS-database has to demand researchers to fill in their project information every year.

Also, how much can the governor help out NPI and UNIS with cruises? What is the Governors policy in this matter?

Reply from SMS – Tor Punsvik: Nordssysel has become stricter with regards of transporting/helping scientific institutions. They can execute sample collections and observations if requested, but not transport researchers to field locations. Perhaps LySEF can raise this issue on behalf of the science institutions directly to the Governors office, instead of each institution raising the questions itself.

Tor will send the Nordssysel cruise plan to the members of LySEF in order for everyone to get an overview of the sailing plan.

EISCAT – Lisa Baddeley:

EISCAT has appointed a new director, Dr. Esa Turnunen, formerly located at the Sodankyla Geophysical Observatory. Dr. Turnunen will be based in Kiruna, Sweden. Lisa Baddeley has resigned from EISCAT, hence there will be no permanent scientific presence from EISCAT at Svalbard from July 2009. There will still be three engineers present at the station. Additionally, EISCAT will keep the

	<p>office in the UNIS building for visiting scientists. The station will be closed due to maintenance in July/August.</p> <p>EISCAT is currently working both internally and cooperatively with SSF regarding the issue of future representation of SSF.</p> <p>EISCAT are in the early planning and negotiation phases regarding the possible installation a new antenna at the site.</p> <p>Report from SSF – Lisa Baddeley: Meeting 21st/22nd April. New chair of NySMAC is Paal Berg (NILA), Vice-Chair: Roland Neuber (AWI). A new information centre for tourists and scientists in Ny-Ålesund will open in mid June.</p> <p>The Research in Svalbard (RiS) database of SSF will be upgraded in 2009 due to funding from NFR. NFR has also agreed to fund the SPEAR radar.</p> <p>SSF will offer a science cooperation workshop from August 17th - 21st onboard Horysont II. The mission will be to discuss mechanisms on how to improve cooperation between the research bases and identify research fields with potential for fruitful cooperation and synergy effects.</p> <p>The workshop in Oslo (May 2009) on terrestrial ecosystems was very successful.</p> <p>SSF is on Google Earth – hence all projects can be viewed through Google Earth. http://www.ssf.npolar.no/pages/RiSmap.htm</p> <p>Please see the attached document for the report made by LySEF observer in SSF, Lisa Baddeley, on other SSF issues (attachment 1).</p>
<p>04/09</p>	<p>LySEF – Where do we go from here?</p> <p>LySEF need to invite potential new members for the next meeting:</p> <p>Fred points out the following institutions: SNSK, LNS, Pole Position, Longyearbyen Skole. The secretariat should invite these institutions for the next meeting..</p> <p>What do we get from LySEF?</p> <p>Are LySEF discussing the same matters as other forums? Has LySEF found its role yet?</p>

	<p><i>Comments:</i></p> <p>NPI – Ken Pedersen: NPI are not yet content with the mandate and way of working within LySEF. It looks to NPI as LySEF functions more as a forum for presentation of activity plans. NPI does not regard LySEF as a natural forum to present and coordinate this kind of activity. Therefore LySEF should clarify its own mandate, agenda and working area before upcoming meetings.</p> <p>UNIS – Fred S. Hansen: It is important that LySEF focus on the Longyearbyen logistical coordination and connect the different institutions within Longyearbyen. Also, it is important to enhance Longyearbyen as a scientific platform, especially towards the tourist industry.</p> <p>UNIS – Christin Kristoffersen: There is room for more observers/information in this forum. LySEF should lead to an improved collaboration and coordination among institutions and organizations with interests within both science and education in Longyearbyen.</p> <p>Tor Punsvik (SMS): We agreed that LySEF should not be the local SSF. This is a body for which we can use to get to know each other, work on issues within our mutual interest, how to combine information and how to help each other out within logistical, outreach or educational matters.</p>
<p>05/09</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>As EISCAT no longer have a representative located in Svalbard, there is a need to find another person or institution to represent LySEF in SSF meetings.</p>
	<p>Next meeting: Tuesday December 1st, 2009, 09:00-12:00</p>