

<b>Meeting of the UFI Board of Directors</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	January 15, 2021
<b>Time:</b>	2 hours (10:00-12:00)
<b>Place:</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture meeting room and Zoom
<b>Participants:</b>	<p><i>Board members:</i> Ólavur Ellefsen Marita Rasmussen Anders Bjarklev (via Zoom) Elaine Munthe (via Zoom) Marin Strøm Jónrit Halling Brandur Arnoarson</p> <p><i>Deputy board members:</i> Páll Isholm Heidi Poulsen Anna Kirstin Sigurðardóttir (via Zoom) Martin Zachariassen (via Zoom) Firouz Gaïni Jóhannes Miðskarð</p> <p><i>University administration representatives:</i> Chik Collins (via Zoom) Johan Hansen</p> <p><i>Ministry representatives:</i> Jenis av Rana Poul Geert Hansen Helena Dam á Neystabø Alda Joensen</p>
<b>Minutes by:</b>	Johan Hansen

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Welcome speech by the Minister
3. Election of chair and vice chair
4. Discussion of board meeting schedule

1. Introductions

The board members, deputy board members, participants from the university leadership and representatives from the ministry made brief introductions.



## 2. Welcome speech by the Minister

Jenis av Rana, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Culture, welcomed the new board and gave the following speech (text provided by the ministry):

*“I would like to thank you all for agreeing to become members (and deputies) of the new board of directors of the University of the Faroe Islands - Fróðskaparsetrið. We really appreciate and wish you very welcome.*

*Some of you continue as members of the Board, some of you are new. I would like to thank you all.*

*I am confident that this Board has the right composition to deal with all the different challenges the University will meet in the coming years. The educational landscape here as well as abroad is constantly developing, and it is crucial that educations received in the Faroe Islands are academically strong, competitive and interesting. And that we constantly develop a vibrant research environment.*

*The Board is the supreme authority of the University, and it is your responsibility, together with the rector, Chik Collins, to lead the University the coming four years.*

*The University is a very important institution in the Faroe Islands. It is our centre for knowledge and research. It is at the University that many of our young people get their education and lay the foundation for their working life. And it is at the University that we produce and create knowledge for important parts of our society.*

*The University has been through a huge development during the past 10 years, with many new courses and studies that are relevant to our society. I am sure, it is one of the reasons why the population of our country has been growing the past years. It is important to have relevant educations that the society needs, and the adolescents want. We want to make it possible for our students to stay in the Faroe Islands for some more years after they have finished secondary school. Until recently it has been a serious challenge to our society that our young people were leaving the country to get an education. This current has luckily changed – partly thanks to the University. But we can still do better.*

*What are the challenges in the coming years? As I can see, we have at least three now:*

*We are planning to make an external evaluation of the University this year. It is particularly within the faculty of education where there have been discussions about the content of the courses, the quality and how they fit the needs of the society.*

*We have also been working on getting the Faroe Islands more into the Bologna process. Here there is a job to be done at the University as well as we must facilitate this process in the ministry. This work must continue and be finished as soon as possible.*

*Another major task in relation to the University is the Campus plan. We must improve the physical conditions over the coming years and bring together all the students and teachers in a Campus. This work has started, and the Board should play a role in this process.*

*I could name many other issues and challenges for the University, e.g. education in medicine and journalism – but I will stop here.*

*I just wanted to greet you all and wish you good luck in the exciting tasks that lay ahead.*



*If you have any questions, do not hesitate to bring them forward, and we will try to answer them.”*

*Following the speech, the Minister left the meeting together with Poul Geert Hansen (Permanent Secretary), Helena Dam á Neystabø (Head of Division) and Alda Joensen (Advisor).*

*The latter part of the meeting was only attended by the board members, the deputy board members and the rector and university director.*

### 3. Election of chair and vice chair

Anders Bjarklev proposed that Ólavur Ellefsen should continue as chair of the board and Marita Rasmussen should continue as vice chair. Ólavur and Marita accepted the nominations and the proposal was unanimously approved by the other board members.

### 4. Discussion of board meeting schedule

The board agreed to have a briefing/orientation meeting in February during which the new board will be briefed on relevant legislation, regulations etc. The meetings for the remainder of the year will also be agreed upon at that time. It was decided that for the next meeting all participants will participate via Zoom.

*Meeting ended at 12.00*