

**Draft minutes from meeting of
Svalbard Science Forum,
Telephone meeting
31 March 2006 (13:00-14:30)**

Participants:

Svalbard Science Forum members:

Kirsten Broch Mathisen, The Research Council of Norway, (RCN) (chair)
Oddvar Midtkandal, Kings Bay AS (KB)
Kim Holmén, Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI)
Lasse Lønnum, The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS)

Secretariat:

Fridtjof Mehlum, RCN
Monica Sund, Svalbard Science Forum (SSF)

AGENDA

1. Awards of the Arctic Scholarship

In total, applications for the Arctic Scholarship were received from 39 students and 23 researchers. As agreed upon in the last meeting, Fridtjof Mehlum, Kim Holmén and Monica Sund evaluated the applications and prepared a proposal for funding of applications for the consideration of SSF.

SSF approved the the proposal made by the evaluation committee. Among the applications, 5 student proposals and 7 researcher proposals were not found qualified for funding. 10 of the nominated students and 9 nominated researchers were granted the requested amount of funds. The others were granted a reduced amount.

In total, NOK 1 271 000 were granted, of which NOK 498 000 from NPI and the rest from RCN..

The evaluation emphasized the following criteria:

- The means should cover extra cost related to projects carried out in Svalbard and projects in Ny-Ålesund should be given priority.
- Priority should be given to researchers not already established in Svalbard. Thus applications from NP and UNIS were refused.
- Regarding the rejected students the applications were refused due to projects not related to Master and PhD studies.

Budget

34 student applications	761 000,-
16 researcher applications	499 000,-
<u>Total</u>	<u>1 260 000,-</u>
Contribution from NP	498 000,-
Contribution from SSF	762 250,-