Programme Aurora Biannual Spring 2021

On May 20th and 21st, Aurora will hold its 10th Biannual Meeting. Spread over the entire day of Thursday, May 20th and Friday, May 21st until Mid-afternoon, academics, students, university leaders and administrators will come together to continue ongoing work, meet new colleagues and celebrate existing friendships.

The Aurora Spring 2021 Biannual commences with a plenary session featuring European Commissioner Mariya Gabriel (in a recorded address) and a panel discussion on the future of academic collaboration between British and other European universities following Brexit. Prof. Paul Boyle, the vice-chancellor of Swansea University, UK and EUA Vice-President, will discuss this and join a panel discussion with Prof. Yassine Lakhnech (president of the University of Grenoble Alpes, member of Aurora) and an Aurora student representative (TBC). The panel will be moderated by John Style, Vice-Rector International of the University of Rovira i Virgili.

The first full day on May 20th will end with a lively and informal virtual reception. Jón Atli Benediktsson will be introducing the incoming Aurora Secretary-General.

In between Plenary and Reception, the first Biannual day will offer many active Aurora task teams the time to sit and work together in parallel time slots in the morning and early afternoon. Simultaneously, the Aurora presidents will discuss their vision of Aurora's future and the future benefits of being an Aurora university.

The afternoon will also feature four broad parallel sessions, each covering one of the more overarching themes of Aurora, such as "Education", "Stakeholders", "Academic engagement", and "Sustainability". Aurora welcomes president Joan Gabel of the University of Minnesota as a guest of honour. President Gabel will take part in the "Sustainability" session and share her views on the topic.

On Friday, May 21st, both the Aurora Universities Network and the Aurora European University Alliance will have a session of their respective supreme governance bodies: the Network General Council and the Alliance Board of Presidents. These formal meetings will be part of the first and second Friday parallel timeslots. The Aurora Network, General Council meeting, will run concurrently with many dissemination sessions in which Aurora Biannual participants can find out about tools and services being developed to help Aurora academics, students and administrators. The Aurora Alliance Board of President's meeting will run simultaneously with more task team working sessions.

Virtual venue & registration

The virtual conference platform will allow us to switch between formal sessions and meeting informally and casually as we see each other passing by the Aurora Biannual lounges.

Registration is through this **link**. We will liaise on registered participants with the institutional coordinators of your university, and we invite you to also inform your institutional coordinator of your intention to participate. Once your registration is confirmed, you will receive information by May 13th at the latest on how to log on to the virtual conference platform and instructions on how to navigate it.

Overall schedule

May 20th				
CET				
09.00	**Getting in, mingling, info-desk**			
10.00	**Opening plenary**	Formal opening Introduction	Jón Atli Benediktsson - Aurora Network President Adrienn Király – European Commission	
		Discussion	Panel External Expert Aurora President Aurora Student Council	Paul Boyle - Vice-Chancellor Swansea University, UK Yassine Lakhnech - President Universite Grenoble Alpes (UGA) Participant to be communicated
11.15	**Coffee Break**			
11.45	Parallel sessions*			
13.00	**Lunch Break**			
14.00	Parallel sessions*			
15.15	**Coffee Break**			
15.45	**Reports & Reflections** Moderated by	Aurora & Education Neil Ward and Barbara Buchenau	Aurora & Stakeholders John Style and David Kosina	Aurora & Academics Karen van Oudenhoven	Aurora & Sustainability Susana Borras
17.00	**Coffee Break**			
17.30	**Reception**			
		Opening words Jón Atli Benediktsson, Aurora Network President, introducing Anne-May Janssen, incoming Aurora Secretary-General Speech: Lilja Alfredsdottir, Iceland Minister of Education, Science & Culture Mirjam van Praag, Aurora Alliance President: 6 months into the Alliance programme Entertainment		
19.00				

*For the list of sessions, please view the detailed overview of specific sessions on page 3

May 21st				
CET				
09.00	**Getting in, mingling, posters**			
10.00	**Parallel sessions* & General Council meeting**			
11.15	**Coffee Break**			
11.45	**Parallel sessions* & Alliance Board meeting**			
13.00	**Lunch Break**			
14.00	**Plenary wrap-up**			
		Reports from Education, Stakeholders, Academics, & Sustainability Message from the students			
	Farewell by President			
15.00				

*For the list of sessions, please view the detailed overview of specific sessions on page 4

Overview of specific sessions

May 20th	
9.00 – 10.00	Getting in, mingling, info-desk!
10.00 – 11.15	Opening plenary
11.15 – 11.45	Coffee Break
11.45 – 13.00 Parallel sessions	1. WP3.3.3 IT-services 2. WP3.3.4 OER 3. WP4.4 CDS 4. WP5.1 SDG Research Dashboard 5. Vice Rectors Research 6. WP3.1.1 Aurora Competence Framework 7. Presidents' strategy Session Part I
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 15.15 Parallel sessions	1. Presidents' strategy Session Part II (from 13.30 to 14.30) 2. WP3.1.2 International Internships 3. WP3.4.4. Culture 4. WP4.2 Academic collaboration 5. WP5.1 SDG Research Dashboard 6. WP5.3 Sustainable campus 7. Vice rectors Education 8. WP4.3 Social Entrepreneurship & innovation
15.15 – 15.45	Coffee Break
15.45 – 17.00 Reports on activities, reflection on overall issues	1. Aurora & Education, moderated by Neil Ward and Barbara Buchenau 2. Aurora & Stakeholders, moderated by John Style and David Kosina 3. Aurora & Academics, moderated by Karen van Oudenhoven 4. Aurora & Sustainability, moderated by Susana Borras
17.00 – 17.30	Coffee Break
17.30 – 19.00	Reception
May 21st	
9.00 – 10.00	Getting in, mingling
10.00 – 11.15 Parallel sessions (Dissemination)	1. Network General Council 2. WP3.1.1. Aurora Competence Framework: 3. WP3.1.3 International Service Learning Toolbox 4. WP3.3.1 Turing seminar 5. WP3.4.1 / WP5.2.2 Sustainability 6. WP6.1 & 6.2 Sustainability & Dissemination 7. Aurora Student Champions Scheme
10.15 – 10.45	Coffee Break
11.45 – 13.00 Parallel sessions	1. Alliance Board of Presidents 2. WP2 3. WP3.1 Coordination 4. WP3.2 Social Transformation 5. WP3.4.1 and WP5.2.2 Pilot Sustainability 6. WP5. Sustainability pioneers
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 15.00	Plenary wrap-up