

Steering Committee Minutes

Steering Committee

Meeting # 11

Date: September 5th, 2023

Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – September 10th, 2023

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Mikael Enelund	Present
University of Gothenburg	Karolina Catoni	Not present
Jönköping University	Nerrolyn Ramstrand	Present
Karolinska Institute	Richard Cowburn	Not present
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Christina Murray	Not present
Linköping University	Maria Engelmark	Not present
	Margareta Alfredsson	<i>Present</i>
Linnaeus University	Ingela Åberg	Present
	<i>Ann-Charlotte Larsson</i>	<i>Present</i>
Luleå University of Technology	Jennie Hägg Wilhelmson	Present
Lund University	Richard Stenelo	Present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Present
Mälardalen University	Damir Isovich	Present
Stockholm University	Tina Larsson	Present
	Åsa Petri	Present
Uppsala University	Johan Tysk	Present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Present
Swedish Institute	Douglas Washburn	Not present
KK Stiftelsen	Linda Assbring	Not present
Chapman University	Niklas Myhr	Present
SACC USA	Christer Bergman	Present

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - Minutes from last meeting
2. Progress Report
 - Events & Activities
 - Thematic Areas and Research
 - SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities
 - SIREUS Affiliation of Companies
3. Decision / Discussion / Information
 - Financial Report
 - KTH
 - New SIREUS (Associated) members
 - SIREUS "2nd half"
4. AOB & Next meeting

Presentation material

During the meeting a ppt presentation was used containing information that was sent out prior to the meeting.

Minutes

1. Christer opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 11th Steering Committee meeting. In particular, he welcomed Åsa Petri, SU and Karolina Catoni, GU to SIREUS. Karolina, who could not make the meeting, has replaced Hans Abelius on the Steering Committee. Hans Abelius left GU and is now working for Chalmers. For the record – the 10th Steering Committee meeting was cancelled due to summer vacation (see previous minutes). The minutes from the previous meeting were then briefly reviewed and action items will be covered during the meeting.

2. Progress Report

Events & Activities

- **SIREUS MEMBERS forum** in Washington DC @ House of Sweden was held on May 31st. The event was a "mingle event" in conjunction with the NAFSA conference and had 200 participants including participants from 12 SIREUS members and 6 Affiliated members. Representatives from 16 countries and 23 US states, from 94 different universities and relevant organizations. The members that were at the forum agreed that it was very well done, and it provided an excellent opportunity to network
- **Study in Sweden** is being planned for mid-November at 3 different locations according to conversations with WG4. The locations are **SACC NY**, (New York City, NY) on November 2nd, **Washington State University**, (Pullman, WA) on November 4th (and potentially meeting WSU Vancouver staff on November 5th) and **Chapman University**, (Orange, CA), on November 7th.
- SIREUS RESEARCH forum is now being named **SIREUS VIRTUAL forum** and is being prepared as a monthly virtual event. *We are looking for an advisory Program Board from the SIREUS Members.* The plan is that the forums will be recorded and archived on the SIREUS YouTube Channel.
- The **SIREUS ENTREPREURS** forum is being planned for March 2024 in Colorado. WG3 is working on this.

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- A **SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum** is preliminary being planned for March 20th (evening) and March 21st (full day) at MDU, Eskilstuna. Christer will reach out to Damir for the event.
- An Innovation scouting tour for Texas is being planned for spring 2024, together with WG3.
- During the end of May, the University of Texas at San Antonio had an **Academic Delegation** to Jönköping University, Gothenburg University, Chalmers University of Technology and AstraZeneca. A very successful week that has motivated Chalmers to initiate new collaborations with UTSA on the research side, and this excitement is shared from UTSA's side.

Thematic Areas and Research

Christer informed the group about the progress with the thematic areas. The definitions and links to the SIREUS Members have been live on the website since mid-June. He emphasized that this was a fundamental milestone for the SIREUS project as this will allow us to focus our efforts on specific thematic areas. Many SIREUS members have sent in links to the thematic areas and Christer urged the Members that had not done so, to do it as soon as possible. Christer will then reach out to the Affiliated University Members to offer the possibility for them to add links as well.

Strategic Platform items

Christer mentioned that the topics that were raised some time ago will be addressed via different media and he will get back to the group on the progress of these items.

SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities

Christer presented the status of the MOU process.

Signed MOU: Michigan Technology University, Dakota State University, University of Texas at San Antonio, Gustavus Adolphus College, Chapman University, Tufts University, Washington State University, Purdue University, Virginia Tech and **Penn State University**.

Verbal acceptance (not yet signed): University of Colorado Boulder.

MOU proposed: Kennesaw State, Rutgers University and George Washington University.

Ongoing conversations: Georgia Tech, University of Washington, Penn State, George Mason University, Georgetown University, University of Hawaii, North Park University, American University and Catholic University.

MOU process stopped: University of Maryland.

SIREUS Affiliation of Companies

Christer informed the group that the concept of having companies "linked" to the SIREUS program, is closer to reality. SIREUS has created a concept for companies that have an interest in being connected closer to academia offering internships for students and opportunities for researchers. Also potentially having company staff being prepared to give guest lectures and arranging workshops, will be possible in the program. SIREUS is reaching out to a few companies for a soft launch of the program. The description of the program will be archived along these minutes on the website. The first companies that will be introduced to the program is Ericsson, AstraZeneca, SAAB, Volvo and Einride. Christer encouraged the group to give feedback to the program and also to help implement the program.

3. SIREUS Decision / Discussion / Information

Financial Report

Christer presented the financial report and underscored the situation that some additional funding is needed, preferably this year. He informed about the activities to try to get new members among universities in Sweden this year. He has been in contact with more than 5 universities, but they are not able to join today either for the financial aspect and/or for the potential workload involved in the working groups. Christer will continue to monitor the financial status on a weekly basis and will alert the group to any changes.

KTH

Christer informed about the message from KTH, that they have chosen to discontinue their membership as of January 1st, 2024. According to the cancellation letter from KTH (see presentation), they have done a review of all their international network participations and made the decision. Christer mentioned that he has spoken with Stefan Östlund, KTH and understood the rational behind the decision, but still expressed his disappointment that KTH have chosen to not continue with SIREUS for the 3rd year. Christer opened for comments about this sad message from KTH. The group expressed surprise and disappointment and will surely miss KTH as an active SIREUS member.

New SIREUS members

Christer mentioned his conversations with DIS Copenhagen and DIS Stockholm. He further mentioned that he will visit DIS Stockholm next week. On the question whether DIS could join the program in any form, there was a clear message from the group that DIS is not a university and could NOT be considered a potential SIREUS Member. Christer appreciated the clear feedback and will get back to the group after the meeting with DIS Stockholm.

Christer also presented an idea of creating SIREUS Associated Members (as per the presentation) with lower membership fees and less active involvement in the working groups. The feedback was very clear, that it would not be in the best interests of the current SIREUS Members. Again, Christer appreciated the feedback and asked the group for active assistance on how to increase the funding for the project.

SIREUS “2nd half”

Christer highlighted that SIREUS is 19 months into the project and has 17 more months to go. We need to have conversations with every SIREUS Member to prepare a decision about the future of SIREUS beyond the inaugural 3 years project.

Everyone once again agreed that we need to be able to make a clear decision on the 2nd anniversary of the project, i.e., by February 1st, 2024. It was also clear that the final decision about an extension of SIREUS needs to be based on an evaluation of the 3-year project.

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4. AOB & Next meeting

Since there were no Other Business for the meeting, Christer thanked the participants for the meeting and asked for input of topics to be included in the next steering committee meeting. **The next steering committee meeting will be held via Teams on October 24th @ 15.00 CT (9:00 am ET).** Christer presented the meeting calendar for 2023 (see the presentation) as per invites for 2023 as follows,

- October 24th @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- December 5th @ 15.00 (9am ET)

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