

Steering Committee Minutes

Steering Committee

Meeting # 4

Date: October 18th, 2022

Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – October 20th, 2022

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Mikael Enelund	Present
University of Gothenburg	Hans Abelius	Not present
Jönköping University	Nerrolyn Ramstrand	Not present
Karolinska Institute	Richard Cowburn	Present
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Christina Murray	Present
Linköping University	Maria Engelmark <i>Margareta Alfredson</i>	Present <i>Present</i>
Linnaeus University	Ingela Åberg <i>Ann-Charlotte Larsson</i>	Not present <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
Uppsala University	Johan Tysk <i>Philipp Baur</i>	Not present <i>Present</i>
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Not present
Swedish Institute	Douglas Washburn	Not present
KK Stiftelsen	Linda Assbring	Not present
Chapman University	Niklas Myhr	Not present
SACC USA	Christer Bergman	Present

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - Welcome KK-stiftelsen
 - Minutes from last meeting
2. Progress Report
 - Project Update
 - Financial Report
 - New SIREUS members
 - SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities
3. Decision / Discussion / Information
 - Funding Update
4. AOB & Next meeting

Presentation material

During the meeting an updated ppt presentation was used, based on the information that was sent out prior to the meeting.

Minutes

1. Christer opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 4th Steering Committee meeting. He especially welcomed KK-stiftelsen as part of the Steering Committee as they have agreed to partially fund the program. Linda Assbring from KK-stiftelsen could not make the meeting this time. Furthermore, he mentioned that Douglas Washburn from SI will replace Malin Wilsson. He also acknowledged that in a couple of cases, more than one representative from the university was present. The minutes from the previous meeting was briefly reviewed and action items will be covered during the meeting.

2. Project Update

Sweden trip

Christer thanked everyone for their hospitality during his recent Sweden trip, where he personally had meeting with most universities (he only missed Mid Sweden University). He also met SLU and had a very good meeting, but they decided to not join at this moment. He further reported that he met KK-stiftelsen, UHR (“Platform for Internationalization”), SI and Foreign Ministry (“UD”). The meeting with UHR was very good and both parties agreed to continue to be informed of the progress and meet at least twice per year. The meeting with KK-stiftelsen and UD will be covered later during the meeting.

SACC Regional Chambers

Christer presented that the SACC USA Regional Chambers are very active with the SIREUS project. 10 of the chambers have a specific contact person for the project and during our monthly webinars with the regional chambers, they have expressed a need to better understand the focus of the SIREUS members in order to get the right information and contacts in their region. They are also in contact with many

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SIREUS member universities, which is very encouraging. Christer brought up a question about financial contribution to the regional chamber when they arrange events or help with SIREUS tasks. When many SIREUS members are involved in an event, then the plan is that SIREUS will use part of the fund to cover for the cost for the regional chamber. But, if the event/activity is only for one or a few universities, then that cost will be covered by the university/universities separately. The meeting agreed that this is a normal model and would not cause any issue.

Working Groups

The working groups have had three meetings with a lot of energy and events being planned. Christer briefly summarized his view of the different working groups and raised a concern that he has. Although the project is supposed to focus on Students AND Researchers, the working groups do not cover research as much as students and innovation. The Steering Committee understood the concern and in fact many of the members have the same concern. A healthy conversation followed and most of the members agreed that we must look into this concern and find a solution for this. Christer proposed that a separate ad-hoc group from the steering committee should be formed and try to find a solution. The members supported the idea and during the meeting **Christina (KTH), Ann-Charlotte (LNU), Anna (MIUN) and Richard (LU) agreed to serve on the ad-hoc group. Christer will check with the members that was not here and potentially have more participants in the ad-hoc group. Christer will lead the group and arrange for meeting invites.**

Financial Report

The financial report ending on September 30th was presented with an updated forecast for the year. Not all costs are being recorded but are included in the forecast. Otherwise, no surprises and the A/R that is shown on the balance sheet are being solved. Budget for 2023 is being worked on and Christer mentioned that it will be difficult due to the currency situation between SEK/USD and the fact that we have not got the needed funding from the government. There was a question regarding external auditing. **Christer explained that SACC-USA (where SIREUS is a part of) do have external auditing on a yearly basis and will get back to the Steering Committee with an answer.**

New SIREUS members

Christer informed that he has been working with Högskolan Halmstad, Högskolan Skövde and Malmö University. They have now all decided for not joining SIREUS due to different situation with resources and in some case change of executive management. On the positive side, Stockholm University reach out to Christer early September and had reevaluated their previous decision. Christer met them in Stockholm mid-September and as of a couple of days ago, **Stockholm University has joined SIREUS.** The Steering Committee applauded the work trying to get more universities and certainly were happy that Stockholm University joined SIREUS. However, the Steering Committee agreed that we should NOT actively trying to get more members.

SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities

Christer presented that he has send out the MOU proposal as previously agreed on to five American Universities. Michigan Technology University has signed the MOU and Christer expect that a couple of more universities will sign the MOU within the next couple of weeks. The intention is then to open the program, make it visible and try to sign up more American Universities that could be attractive to the SIREUS members.

3. SIREUS Decision / Discussion / Information

Funding

Christer informed that Vinnova has agreed verbally that they will support the initiative with 200 KSEK and potentially 2023-2024 as well, pending on other funding. Christer will have the next meeting with Vinnova on October 25th.

KK-stiftelsen has agreed to partly fund the program with 200 KSEK for 12 months. They will be represented in the Stakeholders Group, the Steering Committee and have the option to participate in the working groups.

Christer reported back from the meeting with the Foreign Ministry (UD Amerika enheten). He was told that UD, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation (Näringsdepartementet) and the Department of Education all think that SIREUS is a fantastic initiative, BUT none of the departments can fund the initiative.

Especially now with the potentially change of government (Meeting was held on September 6th)

Bottom line is that funding will be scarce for 2023 – 2024 and we need to find external financing in order to fulfill the SIREUS project as planned. Christer asked for support in finding new ways for funding and proposed to start an ad-hoc group in order to discuss this topic. Christina (KTH) and Maria (LIU) agreed to help in that group. **Christer will check with the members that was not here and potentially have more participants in the ad-hoc group. Christer will lead the group and arrange for meeting invites.**

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 November 29th @ 15.00 CT (9:00 am ET).**

Christer also proposed dates for 2023 as follows:

- January 17th @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- March 7th @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- April 18th @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- May 30th @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- July 18th @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- September 5th @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- October 24th @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- December 5th @ 15.00 (9am ET)

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