

Steering Committee Minutes

Steering Committee

Meeting # 5

Date: November 29th, 2022

Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – December 12th, 2022

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Mikael Enelund	Present
University of Gothenburg	Hans Abelius	Present
Jönköping University	Nerrolyn Ramstrand	Present
Karolinska Institute	Richard Cowburn	Present
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Christina Murray	Not present
Linköping University	Maria Engelmark	Present
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	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Present
Mälardalen University	Damir Isovich	Present
Stockholm University	Tina Larsson	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	Present
KK Stiftelsen	Linda Assbring	Not present
Chapman University	Niklas Myhr	Present
SACC USA	Christer Bergman	Present

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - Welcome Stockholm University
 - Minutes from last meeting
2. Progress Report
 - Project Update
 - New SIREUS members
 - SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities
 - Financial Report
 - Funding
3. Decision / Discussion / Information
 - Budget 2023
 - SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum Feb 21-22, 2023 (see preliminary agenda)
4. AOB & Next meeting

Presentation material

During the meeting a ppt presentation and a preliminary agenda for the SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum was used containing information that was sent out prior to the meeting.

Minutes

1. Christer opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 5th Steering Committee meeting. He especially welcomed Tina Larsson, Stockholm University as part of the Steering Committee as SU joined the SIREUS program. The minutes from the previous meeting was briefly reviewed and action items will be covered during the meeting.
2. **Project Update**
 - Steering Committee ad-hoc group formed**

As per the minutes from the last steering committee meeting, a decision to form an ad-hoc group to discuss what can be done to raise the focus and activity for researchers, was taken. The ad-hoc group includes Jörgen (Chalmers), Hans (GU), Richard (KI), Christina (KTH), Ann-Charlotte (LNU), Richard (LU) and Anna (MIUN). The first meeting was held on December 8th.
 - SACC Regional Chambers**

Christer presented that the SACC USA Regional Chambers are very active with trying to find opportunities for SIREUS in their region and with events being conducted. At the Round Table Discussion held at Stanford, CA organized by Åsa W (LIU), Viveka Rydell-Anderson (SACC SF/SV) was also representing SIREUS. On October 30th a SACC/SIREUS event was held in Boulder, CO. This was in conjunction with the Brighter program from KTH, who was held that week at CU Boulder. It was a great learning experience for SIREUS as we are planning similar events going forward. Finally, a “Study in Sweden” event was held in Washington, DC on November 1st. Eight SIREUS Universities was present and

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by all participants it was considered a very well organized and well attended event. The WG are looking into possibilities to hold similar events at other geographic locations going forward.

Working Groups

The working groups have had four meetings and are busy with planning events, finetuning the focus and planning for 2023.

New SIREUS members

Christer informed that **Stockholm University has joined SIREUS**. The Steering Committee commented that they were very happy that Stockholm University joined SIREUS, and looked forward to work with SU in different groups.

SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities

Christer presented that he has send out the MOU proposal as previously agreed on to the five American Universities. Lately he has sent out the MOU to another two universities and is in contact with additionally four universities.

Signed MOU (as of Dec 12): Michigan Technology University, Dakota State University, and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Verbal acceptance (not yet signed): Chapman University, University of Colorado Boulder, Gustavus Adolphus College, and University of Maryland.

Ongoing conversations: Washington Stats University, George Washington University, Purdue University and Virginia Tech Institute.

The SIREUS website is being prepared to include SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities and make the program more official and public. The plan is to send out a press release during January, once we have at least five MOU signed. It is also the plan to have 10 Affiliated Universities attending the SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum in February.

Financial Report

The financial report ending on October 31st 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. Preliminary budget for 2023 is covered later in the meeting. During the last steering committee, there was a question whether SIREUS will have an external auditing being done for 2022. Christer mentioned that SACC-USA have a review and tax audit done for the year (not an external audit that was wrongly referred to during a previous steering committee meeting). He has consulted with the tax auditor, and they would be willing to review a "Year End Report" regarding SIREUS finances and sign this as being reviewed. This will not be a formal external audit and the steering committee agreed on the proposal. **Christer will create a SIREUS Year End Report that the tax auditor will review.**

Funding

As Christer informed in a previous steering committee meeting, that KK-stiftelsen has agreed to partly fund the program with 200 KSEK for 12 months. They are being integrated into the Stakeholders Group, the Steering Committee and have the option to participate in the working groups. A new conversation about funding going forward will be discussed during 2023.

Swedish Institute partly funded the Study in Sweden event with 40 KSEK for material and catering.

Christer informed that Vinnova has agreed to support the initiative with 200 KSEK for a planning project from November 2022 to February 2023. The project should support the creation of a sustainable, horizontal platform for the period 2023-2027 and be presented as a Strategic Report including indication

of financial support to implement the Strategic Plan. Vinnova has indicated that they would consider supporting such an initiative if the right strategy and conditions are included.

During the previous steering committee meeting, Christer asked to form an ad-hoc group for funding and financing. **Christer proposed to wait until the new year to start this initiative since we need to know more about the Vinnova and other potential sources of funds. The group will consist of Christina (KTH), Maria (LIU), Jennie (LTU) and Richard (LU).** If other members of the steering committee would like to join, please reach out to Christer.

3. SIREUS Decision / Discussion / Information

BUDGET 2023

Christer presented a preliminary budget and mentioned that it is very difficult to do an accurate projection of resources needed vs. activities and external funds being available. The preliminary budget is based on a similar resource allocation and plans of activities as 2022. He further mentioned that 2022 shown a forecasted surplus of \$ 52 KUSD, mainly due to not hiring resources and being conservative with activities and events. The plan is to use the forecasted surplus as a cash reserve going into 2023 and before we know more about external funds being available. Christer proposed to present the preliminary budget 2023 to the upcoming Stakeholders Group Meeting and ask that the Steering Committee will get the authority to approve the budget. The steering committee members were all in favor on this approach.

SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum Feb 21-22, 2023

Christer referred to the preliminary agenda for the SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum in February. The plan is to have about 10 SIREUS Swedish University members and 10 Affiliated American universities attending. The event is planned to have an executive level attendance with at least 2-3 presidents from both Swedish as well as American universities. Additional attendance will be from some companies and the Swedish Embassy. The Steering committee members were asked to try to get their presidents, vice president research and head of international or equivalent to plan to attend. **Christer will reach out to all members to get a preliminary list of attendees very soon.**

There were also suggestions that we might check with the US Embassy in Stockholm if they can attend in some way. The steering committee members were very optimistic that there will be a great turnout from the Swedish side. Christer confirmed that he is working to get the American universities executives to attend as well.

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 January 17th @ 15.00 CT (9:00 am ET).** Christer presented the meeting calendar for 2023 (see the presentation) and will send out invites 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)

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- 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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