

Steering Committee Minutes

Steering Committee

Meeting # 6

Date: January 17th, 2023

Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – February 15th, 2023

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Mikael Enelund	Not present
University of Gothenburg	Hans Abelius	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	Present
Linnaeus University	Ingela Åberg <i>Ann-Charlotte Larsson</i>	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
Stockholm University	Tina Larsson	Present
Uppsala University	Johan Tysk <i>Philipp Baur</i>	Present <i>Not present</i>
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren <i>Jenny Majidyar</i>	Not present <i>Present</i>
Swedish Institute	Douglas Washburn	Present
KK Stiftelsen	Linda Assbring	Not present
Chapman University	Niklas Myhr	Present
SACC USA	Christer Bergman	Present

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - Minutes from last meeting
 - Thank you for SIREUS's first year
2. Progress Report
 - SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities
 - Events
 - Steering Committee ad-hoc group for research
 - SIREUS focus on research
 - Financial Report
 - Funding
3. Decision / Discussion / Information
 - Budget 2023
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 6th Steering Committee meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting was briefly reviewed and action items will be covered during the meeting.
2. **Project Update**
 - SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities**
 - Christer presented the status of the MOU process.
 - Signed MOU (as of Jan 17): Michigan Technology University, Dakota State University, University of Texas at San Antonio, and Gustavus Adolphus College.
 - Verbal acceptance (not yet signed): Chapman University, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Maryland, and Tufts University.
 - Ongoing conversations: Washington State University, George Washington University, Purdue University, Virginia Tech Institute, Rutgers University, Georgia Tech, University of Washington.
 - The SIREUS website is being prepared to include SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities and make the program official and more public. The plan is to send out a press release during January, once we have at least five MOU signed.

Events

Two big events in February are the focus for the SIREUS team.

SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum in Denver, CO during February 14th to 17th. The forum is for startups from the innovation groups at the universities. 8 -10 startups from UU, LU, SU and LiU with a total of 15-16 participants is planned to attend. The forum is arranged and managed by SACC CO, SACC AZ and SIREUS.

SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum in Washington, DC during February 21st to 22nd. The forum is for leadership for SIREUS as well as Affiliated Members. 11-13 Swedish universities are planned to attend and 10-12 Affiliated universities. Representatives from the Embassy, Industry and US officials will attend. All together 45-55 delegates will participate in this inaugural SIREUS forum. Christer mentioned that it has been difficult to get leadership from Sweden attending but directed a special thank you to Linköping University and Maria, since they have managed to get their “Rektor” Jan-Ingvar Jönsson to attend.

There was a question if any events are being planned around the NAFSA conference in Washington DC by the end of Maj. **Christer answered that SIREUS will try to arrange an appropriate event in conjunction with NAFSA.** He also mentioned that there is a high desire from the Affiliated universities to start with academic delegations and workshop together with SIREUS members.

Steering Committee ad-hoc group for research

The ad-hoc group have had two meetings and have recommended a couple of things;

Thematic areas – Below is a list of proposed thematic areas for SIREUS. WG1 is also working on this and will handle this question.

Digitalization (AI, Big Data, Quant, Automation, Cloud, Cybersecurity,..)

Green Transition (Energy grid, Smart Cities, Battery, Renewable Energy, Forest – CO2,..)

Life Science (Cancer, Precision Health, Prevention Health, Art as a tool)

Society (Democracy, Sustainability, Climate Change, Social impact of ..., ...)

Material Science and Space technology – small satellites (not sure where we place this)

Strategic Platform items – how do we incorporate it in SIREUS?

National Security risks, Export control, Academic freedom, Risk awareness, social aspects for researchers, **Research funding**

Individual researchers: their needs, how to design activities, how to reach them?

Create a SIREUS RESEARCHERS forum that can work as an information channel to researchers.

Workshops. Recommend that SIREUS is designing 1-2 workshops within thematic areas and or strategic questions that can attract researchers during 2023.

SIREUS more focus on Research

Christer informed that SIREUS hired a consultant as temporary support during 3 months. Jwan Khisro, earned her PhD at GU last year and will help with the Vinnova project as well as general research topics during her project. Pending on securing necessary funding, there might be a possibility to make this a permanent position. SIREUS is also working close with the STARS network.

Funding – Vinnova project

Christer informed that SIREUS received 200 KSEK in funding from Vinnova in November for creating a “SIREUS – Strategic Plan” to become a “Horizontal and Sustainable Platform”. The project ends in February and the report is due a couple of weeks later. Vinnova will then decide if they can partially fund the 5-year strategic plan.

Financial Report

The financial report ending on December 31st was presented with a preliminary financial result for 2022. Christer mentioned that there were no surprises, although he wanted to highlight a couple of things.

- There has been an issue with receiving the payment from KI, who paid the invoice in mid-February. After a thorough investigation between SACC-USA (SIREUS) and KI, the conclusion is that there was a fraud in conjunction with SACC-USA sending out the invoice. The result is that SACC-USA and SIREUS had to write off 22.2 KUSD for the year. It was decided that the write off will be split between SACC-USA and SIREUS. Hence there is a 11.1 KUSD cost under UP Miscellaneous related to the write off. (SACC-USA will have a similar financial impact on their P&L statement). Lessons learned is that we will be extra careful when sending out the invoices for 2023 and if possible use the portal that the universities are advising us to use.
- The second topics is related to deferred revenue to 2023. Funds received from KK-stiftelsen, SU and Vinnova was received later in the year and the decision was made to defer in total \$ 35,430 USD to 2023. This is merely an accounting topic and have nothing to do with receipt of the funds.
- 2022 ended with a surplus of \$ 24,678 USD and cash balance at the US Bank Account of \$ 52,484 USD.

3. SIREUS Decision / Discussion / Information

BUDGET 2023

Christer presented a detailed budget for 2023 with planned revenues of \$ 441,780 USD and planned costs of \$ 471,137 USD. Hence a deficit for the year of \$ 29,357 USD. He also emphasized that SIREUS is paying a close attention to the “Cashflow” shown at the bottom of the budget (that was presented). Christer emphasized that under no circumstances will SIREUS operate with a negative balance and SIREUS will adopt tis costs depending on the actual revenues received during the year (similar operating principle as during 2022).

Christer asked the members if there were any questions for the budget, as the Steering Committee got the authority to vote and decide on the budget for 2023 from the Stakeholders Group, since the budget was not presented as the final budget during the last Stakeholders Group meeting in December.

After a couple of comments, questions, and answers – **the Steering Committee unanimously approved the budget as presented for 2023.**

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 March 7th @ 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,

- 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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