

# Steering Committee Minutes

Steering Committee  
 Meeting # 7  
 Date: March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

*Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

## 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	Not present
	Margareta Alfredsson	<i>Present</i>
Linnaeus University	Ingela Åberg	Not 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	Not present
Mälardalen University	Damir Iovic	Present
Stockholm University	Tina Larsson	Present
Uppsala University	Johan Tysk	Present
<b>Partners</b>		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Not 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

## SIREUS Steering Committee Minutes

- SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities
  - Thematic Areas and Research
  - Financial Report
3. Decision / Discussion / Information
    - Vinnova – SIREUS 2.0
  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 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting was briefly reviewed and action items will be covered during the meeting.

#### 2. Progress Report

##### Events

Two big events were held in February and one will be hold in May.

- **SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum** in Denver, CO during February 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. 8 startups from UU, LU, SU and LiU participated and the feedback from the participants were very positive. Also comments during the steering committee was very complimentary.
- **SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum** in Washington, DC during February 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. 11 Swedish universities with a total of 20 delegates and 14 American universities with a total of 28 delegates participated in the forum. The forum had very strong support from the Swedish Embassy in Washington DC and also included representatives from the White House (Science and Technology), the US State Department, NSF, Vinnova and EU. Information from the forum can be found on the SIREUS website – Member area.
- **SIREUS MEMBER forum** in conjunction with the NAFSA conference is being planned for on May 31<sup>st</sup> with attendees coming from Swedish universities and their guests, Affiliated universities, and special invitees. The event will be a “mingle event” between 7-9pm at House of Sweden in Washington, DC.

##### SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities

Christer presented the status of the MOU process.

Signed MOU (as of March 7): Michigan Technology University, Dakota State University, University of Texas at San Antonio, Gustavus Adolphus College, Chapman University, Tufts University, Washington State University, Purdue University and Virginia Tech.

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 and Georgetown University.

MOU process stopped: University of Maryland.

## SIREUS Steering Committee Minutes

A question was raised regarding what universities are being approached to become affiliated. Christer answered that we have reach out to our (SIREUS, the Embassy and regional chambers) contacts and then had a number of conversations to qualify the universities. **Christer asked the steering committee members for their wishes for universities to approach.**

### Thematic Areas and Research

Christer informed about the work being done on thematic areas, the definitions and then structure for use this segmentation (see presentation for details). He further highlighted that some topics like National Security risks, Export control, Academic freedom, Risk awareness, social aspects for researchers and research funding are strategic and horizontal and needs to be addressed differently and more broadly.

One initiative is to create **SIREUS RESEARCHERS forum** that could work as an information channel for researchers. Another initiative that is being planned is to hold bilateral workshops with specific thematic focus.

### Financial Report

The financial report ending on February 28<sup>th</sup> was presented. Christer mentioned that there were no surprises and are in line with budget.

## **3. SIREUS Decision / Discussion / Information**

### **Funding – Vinnova project**

Christer informed during last meeting 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 is now in the final stage and will be submitted by mid-March to Vinnova with the proposed strategic plan for SIREUS 2.0 being attached. According to communications with Vinnova, they will review the proposal and then decide if they can partially fund the 5-year strategic plan. Please see the presentation for more details.

A conversation with the steering committee about the proposal was engaging and very helpful in the final preparation of the proposal. “It is very ambitious”, “Many activities that needs resources”, “Research funding is too late in the plan” and “Good luck with the requests”. Christer appreciated the feedback and explained that the process was very short due to the timeline from Vinnova. The meeting agreed that overall, it was a very good proposal and that we might need to finetune the plan once we have the feedback from Vinnova.

## **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 April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 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,

- April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 (9am ET)

## SIREUS Steering Committee Minutes

- May 30<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- July 18<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- September 5<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- October 24<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- December 5<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 (9am ET)

The Swedish American Chambers of Commerce of the USA, Inc.,  
House of Sweden, 2900 K Street NW, Suite 401, Washington DC, 20007  
[info@sireus.org](mailto:info@sireus.org), [www.sireus.org](http://www.sireus.org)

