

# Steering Committee Minutes

Steering Committee

Meeting # 8

Date: April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

*Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023*

## Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Mikael Enelund	Present
University of Gothenburg	Hans Abenius	Not 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
	Margareta Alfredsson	<i>Present</i>
Linnaeus University	Ingela Åberg	Not present
	<i>Ann-Charlotte Larsson</i>	<i>Not present</i>
Luleå University of Technology	Jennie Hägg Wilhelmson	Not present
Lund University	Richard Stenelo	Present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Present
Mälardalen University	Damir Iovic	Present
Stockholm University	Tina Larsson	Not present
Uppsala University	Johan Tysk	Present
<b>Partners</b>		
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
  - Minutes from last meeting
2. Progress Report
  - Events
  - Vinnova
  - Thematic Areas and Research
  - SIREUS Team
  - SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities
  - Financial Report
3. Decision / Discussion / Information
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 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting. He then brought up the tragic passing of Jörgen Sjöberg, Chalmers. Personally, and on behalf of SIREUS, he expressed the tremendous loss of an amazing person and a mentor. Jörgen meant so much for the SIREUS program and his passing will affect all of us. He also reminded everyone that there will be a service for Jörgen on April 24<sup>th</sup>, at Chalmers and also virtually. Everyone agreed that Jörgen was a tremendous inspiration to a lot of people in the international academic world and will be missed by many, many people.  
The minutes from the previous meeting were then briefly reviewed and action items will be covered during the meeting. One correction to the minutes was that during the previous meeting it was agreed that we should cancel the meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>, since many members are on vacation at that time.

### 2. Progress Report

#### Events

One member event will be held in May.

- **SIREUS MEMBERS forum** in Washington DC @ House of Sweden will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The event will be a “mingle event” in conjunction with the NAFSA conference. It is expected to be 150-200 guests. All SIREUS members have been given a number of “tickets” for their own staff or for guests of their choice. Initially each SIREUS Members will have 15 tickets and Affiliated Members will have 5 tickets.
- **SIREUS RESEARCH forum** is being prepared as a monthly virtual event. More information and details will be shared prior to the launch.

### Vinnova update

The report was submitted on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and at the time of the meeting, no feedback had been given, despite a number of attempts to contact the contact person at Vinnova. Christer expressed concern about the situation and asked the group if they have heard anything about Vinnova and the potential reorganization.

*After the meeting, on April 20<sup>th</sup>, Christer received a message from the contact person that Vinnova due to a major “Digitalization project from the government”, they would not be able to finance SIREUS 2.0. Christer sent out a separate email about this on April 21<sup>st</sup>.*

### Thematic Areas and Research

Christer informed about the work being done on thematic areas, the definitions and then structure on the website for this segmentation. He appreciated the help with the definitions from a couple of SIREUS members.

The SIREUS team is now preparing a launch of that section to the website, which will be a phased approach. The intention is to use the thematic areas for focusing on the next phase of the SIREUS project.

It is the intention to create 1-2 bilateral workshops / conferences during 2023 within a specific thematic area.

### SIREUS team update

Christer mentioned that the next couple of months will be very challenging for the team, due to transition of trainees and the departure of Jwan Khisro due to lack of funding (from Vinnova).

Jwan Khisro will end her current consultancy contract (80%) on April 30<sup>th</sup>, she will then work 40% during the months of May and June.

Louise A has now “graduated” from SIREUS and made a tremendous work with the events during February as an extension to her traineeship.

Louise M will “graduate” from SIREUS on May 15<sup>th</sup> and is doing an amazing job recruiting new trainees and ensuring that the different manuals and processes are up to date to make an efficient introduction to the new group of trainees, during her extension of the traineeship.

4 new trainees will start on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

### 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 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, Georgetown University, University of Hawaii and North Park University.

MOU process stopped: University of Maryland.

## SIREUS Steering Committee Minutes

An academic delegation from UTSA will be visiting JU, GU and Chalmers during the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The delegation is a leadership level and is led by the president of UTSA. Christer will be with them to have the (first SIREUS) academic delegation being a success.

### Financial Report

The financial report ending on March 31<sup>st</sup> was presented. Christer mentioned that there were no surprises and were in line with budget. The only remark Christer had was that the Accounts Receivable is too high and ask the SIREUS members that have not paid yet, for help in order straighten out the potential issues. He also mentioned that the office lease is now being added to the balance sheet as per a strong recommendation from our accountant. This has no impact on the cash flow nor the operation of the SIREUS project.

### 3. SIREUS Decision / Discussion / Information

No topics

### 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 May 30<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CT (9:00 am ET).** Christer presented the meeting calendar for 2023 (see the presentation) as per invites for 2023 as follows,

- May 30<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 (9am ET)
- ~~July 18<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 (9am ET)~~ - cancelled
- 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)

