

# Steering Committee Minutes

Steering Committee  
 Meeting # 9  
 Date: May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

*Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – June 14<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 Margareta Alfredsson	Not 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	Not present
Lund University	Richard Stenelo	Present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Present
Mälardalen University	Damir Iovic	Present
Stockholm University	Tina Larsson	Present
Uppsala University	Johan Tysk	Present
<b>Partners</b>		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	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
  - Minutes from last meeting
2. Progress Report
  - Events
  - Project Plan – Updated Goals & Activities
  - Thematic Areas and Research
  - Other SIREUS activities
  - SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities
3. Decision / Discussion / Information
  - Vinnva
  - Financial Report
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 9<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were then briefly reviewed and action items will be covered during the meeting.

### 2. Progress Report

#### Events

- **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. At the moment there are 226 registered participants for the event from 12 SIREUS Members and 6 Affiliated Universities, there are 15 countries and 22 US States represented.
- **Study in Sweden** is being planned for mid-November at 3 different locations according to conversations with WG4. The locations are **Chapman University**, (Orange, CA), **Washington State University**, (Pullman, WA) and **Consulate General of Sweden**, (New York City, NY)
- **SIREUS RESEARCH forum** is being prepared as a monthly virtual event. More information and details will be shared prior to the launch.

#### Project Plan – Updated Goals & Activities

During the last couple of meetings with the working groups, the Goals & Activities have been reviewed and are now updated. It can be found on the website “Member Area” and according to the governance model it is the Steering Committee that formally approves changes. The meeting approved the minor changes to the Goals & Activities.

### Thematic Areas and Research

Christer informed the group about the progress with the thematic areas. The definitions and the structure on the website for this segmentation are completed and will “go live” very soon. He emphasized that this is a fundamental milestone for the SIREUS project as this will allow us to focus our efforts into specific thematic area. He extended his appreciation for the help with the definitions SIREUS have got from a couple of SIREUS members. Once launched, the SIREUS members will have a chance to add relevant links for their specific universities. Once the SIREUS members have had a chance to add links, then the question will go to the Affiliated members for them to add links.

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

### Academic delegation from UTSA

Christer informed that he was part of the first academic delegation from an Affiliated member during May 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 25<sup>th</sup>. University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) visited Jönköping University, Gothenburg University and Chalmers University of Technology. The delegation from UTSA included President Eighmy and several of his leadership members and was very appreciated from both UTSA and the Swedish universities. Christer expressed his appreciation for all the works that went into the preparation from the Swedish universities; Nerrolyn (JU), Hans (GU) and Mikael (Chalmers). Nerrolyn, Hans and Mikael all commented about the delegation and were very impressed with UTSA and their global strategic direction. Several follow-up activities are already under way. The delegation also visited AstraZeneca and Lindholmen Science Park.

### 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 and **Penn State University**.

Ongoing conversations: Georgia Tech, University of Washington, Penn State, George Mason University, Georgetown University, University of Hawaii, North Park University, **American University and Catholic University**.

MOU process stopped: University of Maryland.

Christer asked Mikael Enelund to give a brief description of the Capstone project with Penn State. 24 engineering students from each university participated in the project this year. Volvo Group is one of the industrial partners who specify the “realistic open-ended design requirements. The students also had the opportunity to visit each other’s university during the project.

Richard Cowburn mentioned that he appreciated the introduction to the SVP Research at Georgia Tech as they are meeting in Stockholm in conjunction with the upcoming UIDP conference @ KI.

### 3. SIREUS Decision / Discussion / Information

No topics

#### Vinnova Financial update

As mentioned during the previous Steering Committee meeting, Vinnova funded a planning project in November 2022, to develop a Strategic Plan for SIREUS to become a Horizontal and Sustainable Platform (“SIREUS 2.0”). The report was submitted on March 23<sup>rd</sup> as reported during the previous meeting and 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>.

This means that the chances of getting governmental funding for SIREUS is most likely close to zero unless someone from the Steering Committee has any new and creative way to receive substantial governmental funding. Christer showed both the financial situation as of now and a revised financial plan to operate for the rest of this year. The plan calls for another university to join mid-year and an additional \$20KUSD government support during the fall of 2023.

The committee understood the financial reality and emphasized that they appreciated all the work that SIREUS and SACC-USA has done of trying to get governmental funding and did not have any spontaneous ideas of how to navigate the governmental funding area any better than has been done. Christer also mentioned that SIREUS is 15 months into the project and has 21 more months to go. He will reach out to all steering committee members after the summer to prepare a decision about the future of SIREUS beyond the inaugural 3 years project.

Everyone agreed that we need to be able to make a clear decision on the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the project, i.e., by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

### 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. He also wished everyone a very relaxing and great summer. **The next steering committee meeting will be held via Teams on September 5<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,

- 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)

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