

Stakeholders Group Minutes

Stakeholders Group

Meeting # 3

Date: June 8th, 2023

Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – June 16th, 2023

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Anders Palmqvist	Present
University of Gothenburg	Torbjörn Lundh	Present
Jönköping University	Agneta Marell	Present
Karolinska Institute	Robert Harris	Present
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Stefan Östlund	Not present
Linköping University	Matts Karlsson	Not present
Linnaeus University	Ann-Charlotte Larsson <i>Ingela Åberg</i>	Not present <i>Present</i>
Luleå University of Technology	Pär Weiheid	Not present
Lund University	Erik Renström Kristina Eneroth	Not present Not present
Mid Sweden University	Anders Fällström <i>Anna Lindahl</i>	Not present <i>Present</i>
Mälardalen University	Helena Jerregård	Not present
Stockholm University	Astrid Söderbergh Widding	Present
Uppsala University	Anders Hagfeldt	Not present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Karin Olofsdotter <i>Maria Brogren</i>	Not present <i>Present</i>
Swedish Institute	Monika Wirkkala Douglas Washburn	Not present <i>Present</i>
KK-stiftelsen	Eva Schelin	Present
SACC USA	Signhild Hansen <i>Christer Bergman</i>	Not present <i>Present</i>

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - Minutes from last meeting
2. SACC-USA Update & SIREUS overall progress
3. SIREUS - Progress Report
 - Project Update
 - Events
 - New SIREUS members
 - SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities
4. Decision / Discussion / Information
 - Funding & Financial Report
5. 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 3rd Stakeholders Group meeting. He extended a warm welcome and an excuse from Signhild, that could not make the meeting due to family health situation. Christer further welcomed Robert Harris, KI to the Stakeholders Group as well as Monika Wirkkala who could not make the meeting today. Robert gave a brief background on himself and appreciated the SIREUS initiative very much. Maria Brogren (The Embassy of Sweden) commented the importance of the SIREUS program on behalf of the Embassy and gave her regards from Ambassador Karin Olofsdotter, who could not attend the meeting. She also mentioned that Ambassador Olofsdotter will no longer be in the Stakeholders Group, since she will start her new diplomatic posting in another country after the summer.
After a roll call, the minutes from the previous meeting was briefly reviewed and any action items will be covered during the meeting.
2. On behalf of Signhild, Christer briefly updated the meeting on progress and activities for SACC-USA. He mentioned the Transatlantic Days in Stockholm on February 7th, 2023, where a number of SIREUS members participated and the Executive Forum in Washington DC on May 4th, 2023 where some SIREUS members attended. He further mentioned the SACC Summit in Detroit on September 13th-14th, this will be held in conjunction with the Auto and Battery Show and the host company will be Autoliv. He also mentioned that Erik Renström, LU and Per Pettersson, MDU are on the Board of Directors for SACC-USA.

3. SIREUS - Progress Report

Christer then continued with making a presentation about the progress of the project.

Project Update.

Working Groups

All four working groups have had seven meetings and have been instrumental when planning events, mapping of cooperation agreements and review/update of the Project Plan / Goals & Activities (can be found in the Member Area of the website). A major undertaking has been to agree on focus areas for the project – the Thematic Areas, and the related definitions and links to the universities. The five major thematic areas are Digital Transformation, Green Transition, Life Science, Society and Culture and Space Technology. All thematic areas have sub areas, and the result is now live on the website.

SACC Regional Chambers

Many of the regional chambers are very active in supporting SIREUS, they are representing SIREUS in the local community, introducing SIREUS to universities and are starting to market SIREUS to their Corporate and Business members.

Events

Events being held.

SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum was held in Denver, CO on February 14th-17th. Eight start-up companies from LU, UU, SU and LiU participated and in all 20 participants from Sweden attended the forum which also gave the opportunity for the university representatives to meet their counterpart from the Intermountain West region.

SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum was held in Washington, DC on February 21st – 22nd and had in total 75 leadership level participants from Sweden and the U.S. The topics were Leadership, Sustainability, Funding, Artificial Intelligence and Soft Diplomacy. The event was very appreciated and have had some concrete follow-up after the event.

SIREUS MEMBERS forum was held in Washington, DC on May 31st and had close to 200 participants from 12 SIREUS members and 6 Affiliated members. The event was held in conjunction with NAFSA 2023 and was set up as a mingle event at House of Sweden. In total there were 16 countries and 23 US States represented and 94 different universities and related organizations present.

Events being planned.

A Study in Sweden Tour is planned for November and the three locations are being finalized, but most likely it will include two places on the west coast and one stop in New York. The working groups are very involved in deciding the planning and locations. We are also in conversation with the working group of having SIREUS / SACC Regional Chamber attending local student fairs on behalf of the SIREUS members. A series of webinars are being planned, preliminary it will be called SIREUS RESERACHERS or KNOWLEDGE forum and will be combined with a YouTube channel for archiving.

SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum is being planned for next February (Denver, CO - same location and context as we did a couple of months ago). We are also contemplating having an exploratory “Innovation” delegation at another location for scouting for a future start-up forum.

Christer brought up the idea of having the SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum being held in Sweden early spring 2024. He was thinking about having the leadership forum in conjunction with SACC Transatlantic Days and build in possibilities for American Affiliated Universities to have a combination of academic

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delegation at SIREUS Members. Christer proposed March 20th, 2024; however, it was brought up that on that date, the SUHF has a leadership meeting. March 21st would be possible. Christer will continue with the planning for that week or the following week. He will try to lock in the date very soon.

Academic leadership delegation

Christer mentioned that the first SIREUS initiated academic delegation took place during May 22nd and May 25th. University of Texas at San Antonio, UTSA visited JU, GU and Chalmers. Christer extended his (and UTSA's) appreciation for the very welcoming, positive, and productive meetings at the universities. There are already follow-up activities scheduled between the universities.

New SIREUS members

Christer mentioned that he is contact with 6 Swedish universities that are interested in becoming members of SIREUS, but no one has decided to join at this moment.

SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities

Christer presented the status of the Affiliation of American Universities as of today.

MOU signed: 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 Institute.

MOU Verbal agreed: University of Colorado Boulder.

MOU Proposed: Kennesaw State University, Rutgers University, George Washington University and Penn State University.

New contacts: Georgia Tech, University of Washington, George Mason University, Georgetown University, University of Hawaii, North Park University, American University and Catholic University.

MOU process stopped: University of Maryland

4. SIREUS Decision / Discussion / Information

Funding & Financial update

As previously presented to the 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 23rd as per the plan and on April 20th, 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.

This means that the chances of getting substantial governmental funding for SIREUS is most likely close to zero unless someone has any new and creative way to receive substantial governmental funding.

Christer showed the financial situation as of now with a reduced forecast reflecting the financial reality we have to operate under for the rest of the year. The plan calls for another university to join mid-year and an additional \$20KUSD government support during the fall of 2023.

The Stakeholders Group 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.

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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 2nd anniversary of the project, i.e., by February 1st, 2024.

5. 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 stakeholders group meeting. He thanked the members for their support of SIREUS and wished everyone a relaxing and great summer.

The next stakeholders group meeting will preliminary be held via Teams on December 12th, 2023 @ 15.00 CT (9:00 am ET). BUT, since some of the members indicated that there might be a conflict – Christer promised to send out an email with alternative dates for the next meeting. He would appreciate a quick turnaround on the availability and will send out invites accordingly.

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