

Stakeholders Group Minutes

Stakeholders Group

Meeting # 4

Date: December 12th, 2023

Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – January 3rd, 2023

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Anders Palmqvist	Present
University of Gothenburg	Mette Sandoff	Not present
	<i>Karolina Catoni</i>	Present
Jönköping University	Agneta Marell	Not present
Karolinska Institute	Robert Harris	Not present
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Stefan Östlund	Not present
Linköping University	Matts Karlsson	Not present
	<i>Margareta Alfredson</i>	Present
Linnaeus University	Ann-Charlotte Larsson	Present
Luleå University of Technology	Pär Weihed	Not present
Lund University	Erik Renström	Not present
	Kristina Eneroth	Present
Mid Sweden University	Anders Fällström	Not present
Mälardalen University	Helena Jerregård	Present
Stockholm University	Astrid Söderbergh Widding	Not present
	<i>Tina Larsson</i>	Present
Uppsala University	Anders Hagfeldt	Not present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Urban Ahlin	Present
	<i>Maria Brogren</i>	Present
Swedish Institute	Monika Wirkkala	Not present
KK-stiftelsen	Eva Schelin	Present
SACC USA	Signhild Hansen	Not present
	<i>Karin Hammar</i>	Present
	<i>Christer Bergman</i>	Present

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - Remarks by Ambassador Ahlin
2. SACC-USA Update & SIREUS overall progress
 - Minutes from last meeting
3. SIREUS - Progress Report
 - Project Update
 - Events
 - SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities
4. Decision / Discussion / Information
 - Financial Report & Budget 2024
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 4th Stakeholders Group meeting. He extended a warm welcome to our new Ambassador Urban Ahlin who recently transferred from being the Swedish Ambassador to Canada. Christer also welcomed Karolina Catoni, Margareta Alfredson and Tina Larsson who attended this meeting on behalf of their principals who had other engagements.

Ambassador Ahlin was not able to attend at the start of the meeting, but addressed the meeting towards the end and emphasized the importance of SIREUS when it comes to cooperation between Sweden and the U.S. regarding talent mobility and innovation. He further gave his view on current affairs with regards to the NATO membership and tensions in Europe. He welcomed everybody to reach out to him and hoped to meet everyone in person at a venue in the coming months.

2. On behalf of Signhild Hansen who could not make the meeting, Karin Hammar briefly updated the meeting on progress and activities for SACC-USA. She mentioned the “Riksdagsseminarium” on January 23rd in Stockholm and the Transatlantic Day on March 18th in Stockholm. Karin also mentioned that the Executive Forum will be held in Washington DC on May 29-30th, 2024 and encouraged everyone to check the SACC-USA website regularly for news.

Christer then gave a brief update on the progress of SIREUS and reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting and mentioned that action items will be covered during the meeting today.

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 been engaged in planning of events and defining the focused areas and activities for SIREUS.

SIREUS Website

The website is regularly updated and has got many good remarks from SIREUS members as well as other parties. A major task for SIREUS during 2023 was to agree on focus areas, the **Thematic Areas**, for the project. The website now reflects the Thematic Areas with 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 relevant links from all universities are now uploaded. The next step is to get links from the Affiliated Universities. There is a NEWS section with several interviews and interesting articles that is being pushed out via social media. The Archive on the Members area is working very well and SIREUS members have access to all SIREUS documents this way.

SACC Regional Chambers

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

SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities

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

Michigan Technology University, Dakota State University, University of Texas at San Antonio, Gustavus Adolphus College, Chapman University, Tufts University, Washington State University, Purdue University, Virginia Tech Institute, Penn State University and University of Colorado Boulder.

SIREUS Affiliation of Companies

Christer mentioned the project of building an affiliation of companies interested in cooperations with universities for internships opportunities, post doc and workshop opportunities and potential guest lectures. A soft launch has started involving Ericsson, Volvo, SAAB, AstraZeneca and Einride.

Events being held.

The Study in Sweden Road Show was held at SACC NY, (New York City, NY) on November 2nd, Washington State University, (Pullman, WA) on November 4th and Chapman University, (Orange, CA), on November 6th. The participants all thought it was well organized and gave insight into different regions and cities when it comes to student recruitment. The group is doing an evaluation of the trip to optimize the next Study-in-Sweden arrangement for the fall of 2024.

SIREUS VIRTUAL forum is now being named **SIREUS RESEARCH forum** and is planned to be held as a monthly recurring webinar, recorded and archived on the SIREUS channel on YouTube. The first SIREUS

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RESEARCH forum was held on December 11th @ 16.00 CET. There were 96 registered participants and between 50 – 60 showed up for the event, which by all counts is very good for a new webinar initiative.

Events being planned.

An **Innovation (scouting) Tour to Texas** is planned for February 5th – 9th, 2024. The plan is to visit the universities in San Antonio, Austin, College Station, and Houston. Currently UU, LU, SU, LTU, MDU and MIUN are planning to participate in the trip. Maybe LIU and Chalmers will also be joining.

The **SIREUS ENTREPREURS forum** is being planned for the week of March 18th, 2024, in Colorado. A planning group including Nicole Forsberg from CU Boulder & SACC CO is working on the focus and the agenda for the forum. Currently UU, LU, SU, LTU, and LIU are planning to participate at the forum and currently there are 10-12 companies that have shown interest to participate.

A potential **SIREUS MEMBERS forum** in New Orleans, LO is being evaluated and a new **Study in Sweden Tour** is planned for November 2024.

Christer mentioned that the idea of having the **SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum** being held in Sweden early spring 2024 has been cancelled after input from the Steering Committee. He is researching if there is any appetite for any less ambitious activity involving the American Affiliated Universities that would be of interest, e.g. academic delegation and/or workshop in a specified thematic topic.

4. SIREUS Decision / Discussion / Information

Financial report and Budget 2024

Christer presented the financial report and emphasized that there are no surprises and that the cash situation is dire. He ensured again that we are monitoring the situation carefully on a weekly basis and will alert the group to any change.

Proposed budget 2024

Christer informed the group that the budget proposal for 2024 (as per the presentation) is preliminary and will be refined during the next month. He intends to have the budget proposal for 2024 ready before the Steering Committee meeting on January 16th and **proposed that the Steering Committee get the authority to approve the budget for 2024. The members of the Stakeholders Group were all in favor of this approach.**

Christer informed again that KTH has decided to not continue with SIREUS for 2024 (as per previous communication). He also was very sad to inform that KI has taken the same decision (in a letter received on November 22nd, 2024). Hence there are only member fees from 11 universities in the budget proposal.

SIREUS “2nd half”

Christer mentioned that a “cross members” team is being selected from all working groups and all SIREUS university members to be part of the evaluation of SIREUS and make recommendations to the Steering Committee. The Evaluation Team will work in the process to evaluate the results so far, give genuine feedback and to propose the way forward. The plan is to have four virtual meetings and one in-person meeting in Stockholm during February. The Steering Committee will discuss the

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recommendations during the April 16th meeting and make a formal decision on the recommendations to be sent to the Stakeholders Group meeting on June 4th for the formal decision on the next step for SIREUS.

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 during 2023 and wished everyone a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season.

The next stakeholders group meeting will be held via Teams on June 4th, 2024 @ 16:00 CT (10:00 am ET). Christer presented the meeting calendar for 2024 and will send out invites for 2024 as follows,

- June 4th @ 16:00 (10am ET)
- *Preliminary* December 17th @ 16:00 (10am ET)

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