

## Working Group Minutes

Working Group 2 University

Meeting # 10

Date: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

*Minutes prepared by Johanna Schoug – October 3, 2023*

### Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Jens Hansson	Present
University of Gothenburg	Mikaela Green	Present
Jönköping University	Mudar Hill	Present
Karolinska Institute	Lise-Lott Vedin	Present
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Ronald T Nordqvist	Present
Linköping University	Caroline Sturesson	Not present
Linnaeus University	Ingela Åberg	Not present
Luleå University of Technology	Maria Vyatkina	Present
Lund University	Alice Kjellson	Present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Present
	Maria Fredlund	Not present
Mälardalen University	Monica Odlare	Not present
	Marcus Kjellberg	Not present
Stockholm University	Niklas Tranaeus	Present
Uppsala University	Elizabeth Blum	Present
<b>Partners</b>		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Not Present
SIREUS Trainees	Johanna Schoug	Present
SACC USA - SIREUS	Christer Bergman	Present

## Agenda

1. Welcome
  - a. Update on WG participants
  - b. Review of minutes from last meeting
  - c. Update on SIREUS progress
2. Report from Subgroups
  - a. ~~Internships~~
  - b. ~~Short term activities~~
  - c. ~~Virtual exchange~~
  - d. Ambassadors
3. Thematic Areas
  - a. Implementation on the website – updated status
4. Target American University
  - a. Individual plans
  - b. Thematic areas, regions
5. Next meetings

## Presentation material

During the meeting a ppt presentation was used following the agenda that was sent out prior to the meeting. This ppt presentation will be archived on the SIREUS website alongside the minutes.

## Minutes

1. a) Christer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.  
b) The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

When it came to the issues regarding Kammarkollegiet insurance raised by Jens during the last meeting, Christer mentioned that he had discussed this matter with Anders Ahlstrand at UHR. They have also concluded that it depends on the different situations in the particular US State and would be impossible to create a united system. Christer also mentioned that several ongoing discussions with UHR regarding responsible internationalization and other similar topics have been discussed.

c) Christer updated the group about what's been going on with SIREUS since the last meeting. The **SIREUS VIRTUAL forum** is starting to take shape and we need to have a Program Borad of 3-4 members that can help with topics. Christer then mentioned about the possible **Innovation trip to Texas** that is now scheduled to be during February 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> 2024 – a planning group is formed, but we need more members to the group. They are also working on planning for the **SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum** in Denver in conjunction with Destination Start-Up, now to be held March 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Christer further mentioned that SIREUS is in the final planning stage for a larger **Study in Sweden** trip within working Group 4 that will start in New York, and continue to Washington State University, Pullman, and Chapman University in California. Last meeting, we mentioned that SIREUS is planning a soft launch

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**SIREUS Affiliation of Companies.** This is now in full swing and Ericsson, AstraZeneca, SAAB, Volvo and Einride are engaged in the dialogue.

Christer further informed the group that he had had an intensive visit to Stockholm a couple of weeks ago. He “promoted” SIREUS and met KK, STINT, VR, IVA, UHR, SI, UD, KMH, AmCham and Einride. They all articulated that they are very impressed with our achievement so far and is willing to support the program in any way they can. He also mentioned that he is researching the possibility of having the SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum in Stockholm during the spring. The original plan for March 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 @ MDU will not work for different reasons.

2 . Christer then opened the conversation about the sub-groups.

- a. Internships. Mikaela provided an update, stating that there had been no development since the last meeting. Christer asked about internships and exchange agreements. What is included in the term “balanced exchange”? Mikaela mentioned that internships could be one part of the exchange agreements and then the concept of balanced exchange was further discussed, including the possibility of exchanges not being limited to student-to student interactions but also extending to student-to-teacher or teacher-to-researcher exchanges.
- b. Short-term activities. Christer summarized the consensus that summer schools were the most popular short-term activities, according to the recent (limited) survey from the universities. A discussion followed regarding various university-offerings which included summer school, summer courses, intensive courses, and even winter courses during the spring semester. Summer schools would not reflect the consensus from the group about short term activities. Christer asked the question weather or not the Swedish Institute is promoting the short-term activities. The conclusion was that it would be interesting to have a conversation about promoting short/term activities by the Swedish Institute **[Christer to try to arrange such a brainstorm meeting with SI].**
- c. Virtual Exchange. The group agreed that this activity would not be covered going forward.
- d. Ambassadors. Christer expressed concerns about the lack of progress in this area and stressed the importance of having “ambassadors” who can speak positively about exchange programs and universities. The group discussed on how to proceed with selecting ambassadors, considering the possibility of targeting exchange students currently in the U.S. from Sweden. Niklas proposed involving teachers at U.S. universities and American teachers in Sweden. It was agreed that the “ambassadors” needs to cover both staffs having an interest in Sweden and in the United States. Maria pointed out that having an academic ambassador is valuable but reminded that they cannot make decisions for new or existing universities. It was suggested that efforts should be made to locate and map potential ambassadors, define their roles, and determine what actions we would want them to take. **[SIREUS to propose an action plan to move forward with this important group].**

Christer introduced a question regarding what areas the universities think / know their exchange students from the US for the spring semester 2024 is from. The Swedish Embassy has raised the question in conjunction with where the best place for “pop-up booths” for the VISA process would be. **[Johanna to reach out to the group for a quick answer].**

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3 . Christer presented the Thematic Areas and the links to various thematic areas that the universities have sent in. (Christer found out after the meeting that the picture had some error in it and will be corrected). He showed a summary of which universities had provided these links so far (with a blue indicator on the presentation) and urged the universities that had not done so to send in links as soon as possible. Christer referred to a presentation to Vetenskapsrådet, VR recently, when asked about what areas SIREUS is focusing on, he could refer to the website and the VR was very impressed with the focus and saw it as a promising direction for the research aspect of SIREUS moving beyond the student level.

4 . Target American Universities. Christer referred to the previous presentation with a number of questions that SIREUS needs answers to from the Universities. The questions are based on the Project Plan and would provide SIREUS with the information needed to introduce the Individual Plans of each university. Individual plans will be implemented on the webpage under “University Specific Documents” that will only be accessible for the specific university they concern. This is to optimize the individual plans for each university, and for SIREUS to make it possible to help with the specific areas each university wants to focus on. At this meeting he simplified the questions to a brief template with a few questions that we SIREUS would like to have input on from all the universities. **[Johanna will send out an email with a few simple questions asking what areas they want to focus on with American universities next week]**. Maria asked if the same question were to be sent to the affiliated universities, and it was discussed whether we should do this as well. **[Christer will get back on this topic]**.

5 . Next scheduled meeting is on November 28<sup>th</sup> @ 9 am EST. Christer presented the meeting calendar for the rest of 2023 and presented a proposal for meetings next year 2024. Meetings next year are planned to be held on Thursdays instead of Tuesdays. Next meeting is:

- a. November 28<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

Christer presented a proposal for preliminary dates for the working group meeting for 2024.

- a. January 25<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- b. March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- c. May 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- d. June 6<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- e. **July 18<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)**
- f. August 29<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- g. October 10<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- h. November 21<sup>st</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- i. **December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)**

The proposal in red for July and December indicates that the recommendation is not to hold those meetings. Everyone agreed that the preliminary schedule with the above-mentioned changes will work.

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Before concluding, a brief question from Uppsala University was asked about how exchange students from West Africa manage their Visas to the United States. A shorter conversation followed.

No other topics were discussed, and Christer thanked the members for the meeting.

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