

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 2 University

Meeting # 11

Date: November 28th ,2023

Minutes prepared by Johanna Schoug – December 6, 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	Present
Linnaeus University	Ingela Åberg Annett Wolf	Not present Present
Luleå University of Technology	Maria Vyatkina	Not present
Lund University	Alice Kjellson	Present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl Maria Fredlund	Not present Not present
Mälardalen University	Monica Odlare Marcus Kjellberg	Not present Not present
Stockholm University	Niklas Tranaeus	Present
Uppsala University	Elizabeth Blum	Not present
Partners		
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. Ambassadors
3. Thematic Areas
 - a. Implementation on the website – updated status
4. Target American University
 - a. Individual plans
5. SIREUS Research Forum
6. Next Meeting

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 comes to the questions of internships, there is designated time to speak of this during today's meeting. Short term activities will be continued discussed, and ambassadors will also be discussed today. Thematic areas and Individual plans were reviewed and will be continued during this meeting.

c) Christer continued to update the group about what is happening at SIREUS. SIREUS successfully coordinated a Study in Sweden event with working group 4. The tour started on November 2nd in NYC, continued November 4th to Pullman Washington State University, and finally concluded on November 6th in Orange County California. The events were all seen as successful and the SIREUS Team are currently reviewing feedback and statistics in detail. We learned that it is challenging to plan events on three different locations, and in the future, SIREUS may do more activities in one location instead. Such as connecting more with the university contacts in that area, as well as involving the contacts of the working groups. The second point we learned is that it is better to have a welcome area in the larger cities where various students and universities are located. In summary, everything worked well, and we reached out to various students.

Furthermore, SIREUS is currently in the process of planning an Innovation Tour in Texas in February with Stockholm, Lund, Uppsala, and Luleå from working group 3. The idea with the Innovation Tour in Texas is that the annual Entrepreneurs Forum will come back to Denver in March. We wanted to look for other places in the U.S. where Innovation is flowing, and thus Texas was chosen as a destination. The locations

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will be Austin, San Antonio and Huston, and we have collaborated with the local SACC chambers to coordinate. The second event that is currently in the process of planning is SIREUS Entrepreneurs Forum, and this is where we include the companies. This is also where we have the Destination Startup. We are currently gathering interesting companies to participate, and we currently have between 12-14 companies that have signed up. Nicole Forsberg has helped us a lot with this, and she has been a great help, she is also leading the SACC Chamber in Colorado.

Finally, SIREUS is launching the SIREUS RESEARCH forum. We have been in the process of this startup for some time, and we are finally happy to launch the first meeting – on Monday December 11th. Lastly, we are also in the planning of SIREUS Chancellors Forum next year in May 2024, and we will talk more of that later.

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

- a. Internships. Mikaela started the conversation of how internships are handled in an exchange. For Gothenburg University, Mikaela stated that Internships are usually handled on the side and that they are usually not included in the original agreements if not mentioned. Jens continued that Chalmers handled internships like Gothenburg University, and that the internships are handled separately. Christer mentioned that NSF recently launched a grant for American non-profit organizations to help undergraduates and graduates to go abroad and contribute to research. We will investigate this and see if SIREUS could apply for this to benefit the working group members. Christer also informed the group that SIREUS will add a page on our webpage dedicated to internships, and that we may coordinate this with the working groups.
- b. Short-term activities. Christer continued the conversations about summer schools since this is one of the more important and most common short-term activities. Christer suggested that SIREUS may add a segment dedicated to summer schools on the webpage, and it was agreed that this sounded like a great idea. Caroline added that Linköping University works with their partner universities when it comes to summer schools, and that the idea of summer schools is usually to even out exchange. She said that Linköping will have to continue this discussion internally. Ronald continues that KTH also collaborates their summer schools with one or two partner universities, and that the summer school is usually not open for anyone. **[Christer to try to arrange such a brainstorm meeting with SI].**
- c. Ambassadors. Christer continued the idea that it would be interesting to have ambassadors at different universities to help with questions that might arise, however, it was said that it was difficult to create a program for this. It was said that some universities have regional people that are to help with these kinds of questions, and that the idea might not be needed for everyone. It was said that this is important, but we might have too much to do right now, and that this issue might be brought up more next year. It was agreed that it was good to wait with this issue right now.

3. Christer continued to present the current update of the Thematic Areas and the links to various thematic areas that the universities have sent in. Christer said that SIREUS will also continue to reach out to the American Affiliate Universities to provide links to their thematic areas, and the idea is to connect which universities work with similar thematic areas. This will be the next step for the development of SIREUS and make it easier for member universities to connect with affiliate universities.

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4. Target American Universities. Christer reviewed what was said about this topic the last time and explained that SIREUS currently gathers the answers of all working groups in order to create a summarized information page on the webpage. He then showed how it could be presented at the website. The example presented is for Gothenburg University. Christer mentioned that not many universities have sent in answers but reminded the universities to do so.

5. Christer continued to talk about the SIREUS RESEARCH Forum. The first webinar will take place on December 11th, 2023, 4.00pm Swedish Time Zone. Maria Brogren from the Office of Science and Innovation at the Swedish Embassy and Sofia Sedergren from the STARS network will talk about Swedish American collaboration in research. We currently have 25 signups, and it is exciting that new people are signing up. The webinar will be conducted on Teams, no longer than 45 minutes, and a maximum of two speakers and one moderator. Christer will be the moderator for the first forum on the 11th. The plan is that these webinars will continue monthly, but SIREUS will start with a few webinars to evaluate their success. One of SIREUS' goals is to reach out to more researchers and innovators in Sweden and the U.S. This is a difficult task, but we hope that these virtual forums will be a start of a successful few events that promotes the research collaboration between Sweden and the United States. We kindly ask for feedback from those who participate.

6. Next scheduled meeting is on January 25th @ 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:

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

Calendar invites will be sent out.

- a. January 25th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- b. March 21st @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- c. May 2nd @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- d. June 5th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- e. August 29th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- f. October 10th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- g. November 21st @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

The meeting calendar will also be published on the website (private area).

No other topics were discussed, and Christer thanked the members for the meeting and for being very supportive during the whole of 2023 and wished everyone a happy holidays season.

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