

## Working Group Minutes

Working Group 2 University

Meeting # 12

Date: January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Minutes prepared by Sara Lindenius–January 23rd, 2024*

### 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
Linköping University	Caroline Sturesson	Present
Linnaeus University	Ingela Åberg	Not present
	Annett Wolf	Present
Luleå University of Technology	Maria Vyatkina	Not present
Lund University	Alice Kjellson	Present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Not present
	Maria Fredlund	Not present
Mälardalen University	Monica Odlare	Not present
	Marcus Kjellberg	Not present
Stockholm University	Niklas Tranaeus	Present
Uppsala University	Elizabeth Blum	Not present
<b>Partners</b>		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Present
SIREUS Trainees	Sara Lindenius	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. WG2 activities
  - a. Short term activities- summer school
  - b. Internships
  - c. NAFSA 2024
3. Thematic Areas
  - a. Implementation on the website – updated status
4. Target American University
  - a. Individual plans
5. SIREUS Research Forum
6. SIREUS 2<sup>nd</sup> half evaluation
7. 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. Christer only mentioned that he has not found the right contact at SI for brainstorming about Summer School.
- c. Christer briefed the working group with the latest updates in the SIREUS project. He mentioned that there are three big projects that the team is currently working on. It is the Texas Innovation tour, SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum and Affiliated Companies.

The Texas Innovation Tour involves six Swedish universities visiting five different universities in Texas, including the University of Texas at San Antonio, University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, Rice University, and University of Houston.

The SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum is taking place from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. The SIREUS team are now planning the details of the event. There are six universities and eight companies attending the event. There are also two webinars planned with the companies that are attending.

Christer also mentioned that the SIREUS team has started with a soft launch of the concept Affiliated Companies. Christer has sent out MoU's (Memorandum of Understanding) asking if companies are interested in internships, post-docs, PhD Students and being guest speakers. Christer has contacted

## SIREUS Working Group 2 University Minutes

Astra Zeneca, Ericsson and Volvo for MoU's. Christer was happy to announce that Ericsson already has signed their MoU. He was also proud to present that the collaboration is on a "Research Leadership level", meaning that the collaborations is with the highest level of research and innovations at the Swedish companies. Christer mentioned that once SIREUS receives a few more signed MoU's the Affiliated Companies' concepts will officially be launched.

Christer also informed the working group that KTH and Karolinska Institutet are no longer members of SIREUS.

2.

a. Christer reminded the team of their previous decision during the latest meeting, confirming that Summer School has been decided as the most common short-term activity. He emphasized the possibility for member universities with summer school programs to share accurate links on the SIREUS website. As mentioned, Christer is in the process of contacting SI to arrange a brainstorming meeting focused on the Summer School initiative.

b. Furthermore, Christer mentioned that internship has a page on the SIREUS website. He suggested the possibility of extending it but hasn't reached a definitive conclusion on potential actions, except considering increased promotion. He also discussed the importance of the Affiliated Companies for the internships.

c. Christer mentioned that there is a great possibility of arranging a new SIREUS MEMBERS forum in New Orleans on 29<sup>th</sup> of May at 6:30 PM. The NAFSA conference is occurring at the same date and the plan is that the "Swedish Pavilion", which the members forum will be called, will be on a walking distance from the conference. Christer is therefore working to find a venue within walking distance of the conference. The working group was very positive about the event but mentioned that a few improvements can be made to last year's SIREUS MEMBERS forum. Worth noticing was that Lund University and perhaps other universities will not attend the conference and will therefore not be able to visit the Swedish Pavilion. The group also agreed that the project was only interesting if it was economically justifiable, which Christer also agreed on.

3. Christer briefed the working group on the progress made in updating the website with thematic links. He mentioned that SIREUS has received links from all participating universities in the working group. Christer shared that he has received positive feedback from the member universities but also other external contacts about thematic areas.

4. Christer requested the participants to visit the Archive on the SIREUS website's member area. He reminded them that they can find their private plans under the University Specific Areas page. Christer emphasized that their private plans are restricted to each individual university and the SIREUS team. In other words, the private plans cannot be viewed by anyone else.

5. Furthermore, Sara provided details about the SIREUS RESEARCH forum that occurred on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January. The theme of this month's SIREUS RESEARCH forum was Technology Transfer, and the co-host of the forum was Nicole (Forsberg) Sheppard, Business Development Executive at University of Colorado Boulder. The speaker at the event was Stephen Susalka one of the foremost experts in the technology transfer area and CEO of AUTM. Maria added that the presentation can be found at the SIREUS website.

## SIREUS Working Group 2 University Minutes

Christer mentions that if the member universities are interested in having their researchers speak at the event there are great opportunities for that. Christer also mentioned that the goal is to build a database with the collected information about the researchers with the help of these forums.

6. Because SIREUS is entering its last year Christer presented that an evaluation of the SIREUS project will be done. Participants from the working groups will in a several meetings discuss what the SIREUS project has contributed to and how it can be developed. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of April the evaluation will be presented to the steering committee. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, the steering committee will decide the project's future.

Christer raised the question within the working group regarding the frequency of their meetings. The group discussed that it could work to have the meetings every eight weeks and shorten the meetings to around 45 minutes to one hour. It was agreed that we keep the meeting frequencies, but schedule shorter meetings.

Christer also presented who is included in the evaluation teams, which can be found in the published PowerPoint. The individuals in the evaluation teams will represent the universities and the participants in all working groups.

During the discussion about evaluation of the SIREUS project one of the participants expressed his wish to learn more about how to contact American research funders. This subject has not been discussed at the steering committee or in the working groups. Maria mentioned that researchers can search for research funding at Vinnova, Vetenskapsrådet, NSF, Darpa and National institution of health. But the participants wished for a form of seminar or lecture where this area could be discussed. Christer suggested that this would be a great subject in upcoming RESEARCH forums.

7. Next scheduled meeting is on March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST). Christer presented the meeting calendar for the rest of 2024.

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

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