

## Working Group Minutes

Working Group 2 University  
 Meeting # 13  
 Date: March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

*Minutes prepared by Sara Lindenius– March 21<sup>st</sup>, 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	Annett Wolf	Present
Luleå University of Technology		
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
<b>Partners</b>		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Not Present
SIREUS Trainees	Sarah Pålsson	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. SIREUS 2<sup>nd</sup> half evaluation
3. SIREUS Research Forum
4. Thematic Areas
  - a. Implementation on the website – desired focus
5. Target American University
  - a. Individual plans- what university would be interesting...
6. WG2 activities
  - a. NAFSA 2024
  - b. Social Media Initiative
7. 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.
- c. Christer initiated the meeting by announcing that future Working Group meetings will be limited to 45 minutes.

He updated the group about what has been going on with SIREUS since the last meeting. SIREUS has organized an innovation trip to Texas, known as the Texas Innovation Tour. This tour involved six Swedish universities visiting five different universities in Texas, which included the University of Texas at San Antonio, University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, Rice University, and University of Houston

Moreover, Christer also mentioned that the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum is taking place in Colorado this week. Seven companies and 20 individuals from Sweden are participating, offering them the chance to pitch their ideas to investors and universities.

Lastly, he mentioned that the evaluation of the project has been started. Which he gets back to later in the meeting.

## SIREUS Working Group 2 University Minutes

2. Christer provided an update on the progress of SIREUS in the evaluation process. There have been both digital meetings and one in-person meeting held in Stockholm to deliberate on the future of SIREUS. Both written and oral feedback have been integral components of each meeting. Christer and Margaretha Alfredsson are leading the evaluation process. They are currently summarizing the outcomes of the recent meetings and exploring various future scenarios for SIREUS.

On April 9th, the evaluation group will decide on proposals to present to the steering committee regarding SIREUS's future. On May 28th, the steering committee will make decisions regarding the future of SIREUS.

3. Christer briefed the working group about the SIREUS RESEARCH forums. He reminded the group that past webinars are accessible on YouTube. Additionally, Christer expressed his satisfaction in informing that SIREUS has established contact with more researchers who were previously unaware of the platform. Attendance at the previous SIREUS RESEARCH forum fluctuated, with approximately 40 to 60 participants.

Christer is also considering organizing a SIREUS RESEARCH forum focusing on funding. He attended a seminar in DC where Sweden's Minister of Health was present. The seminar featured a panel discussion on funding, which Christer noted could be relevant for a future SIREUS RESEARCH forum. He has since been in discussions with Vinnova and NSF about their potential participation in such an event.

He reminded the working group that each attendee is required to indicate their affiliated university and their area of interest thematically and that SIREUS stores information about the researchers who attend the events in a database.

4. a. Vinnova, KK Foundation, and the Swedish Research Council are highly supportive of the thematic area concept. They also believe that organizing workshops within each specific thematic area is a beneficial idea.

5. a. During the working group meeting, Christer expressed interest in obtaining information about the American universities that Swedish member universities are keen to connect with. SIREUS currently has 11 affiliated universities, with Georgetown University having signed but not yet officially becoming an affiliated university.

6. a. Christer discussed the upcoming NAFSA conference scheduled for May 29th in New Orleans, which took place in D.C. last year. This year the event will take place at Tulane Coastal and River Center, next to the convention center in New Orleans. The event will feature music performed by a Swedish artist, a brief speech by Professor Torbjörn Törnqvist from Tulane University and catering and beverages will be provided. Member universities can extend invitations to 20 guests, while affiliated universities can invite 5 guests. For this year's SIREUS MEMBER forum, the option of purchasing separate tickets for non-members has become available, facilitating collaboration with the Swedish Institute. This concept may be taken into consideration for future implementation within SIREUS. Christer also mentioned that the event expenses totaled \$4000 last year, and he aims to keep the costs around \$5000 for this year.

## SIREUS Working Group 2 University Minutes

Members of the planning group expressed their appreciation and interest in this type of event. It's considered a valuable opportunity that facilitates networking among the universities.

Sara Lindenius and Sarah Pålsson also showed the "Save the Date" email that will be sent out to Working Group 2 on Monday March 25<sup>th</sup>, along with the Eventbrite page. They demonstrated how attendees can access tickets and obtain information about the event.

b. Sarah Pålsson mentioned that SIRUES have the ambition to promote the member universities through social media more. The plan is that SIREUS will upload content before and during the SIREUS MEMBERS forum. Sarah will send out some questions about the NAFSA conference and SIREUS MEMBERS forum to each university, the answers will then be published on SIREUS social media channels.

Christer noted that this method of promoting the universities is simpler than establishing official collaborations with the social media platforms of member universities. This is because SIREUS has limited contact with the media and communication personnel at the universities.

7. Next scheduled meeting is on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 15.00 CET (9 am EST). Christer presented the meeting calendar for the rest of 2024.

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

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