

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 2 University

Meeting # 7

Date: May 9th, 2023

Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – May 9th, 2023

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Andreas Eriksson	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	Not present
Linköping University	Caroline Sturesson	Present
Linnaeus University	Ingela Åberg	Not present & Group Leader
Luleå University of Technology	Maria Vyatkina	Present
Lund University	Alice Kjellson	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl Maria Fredlund	Not present Present
Mälardalen University	Monica Odlare Marcus Kjellberg	Not present Present
Stockholm University	Niklas Tranaeus	Not present
Uppsala University	Elizabeth Blum	Present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Not present
Swedish Institute	Lisa Truedsson	Not present
SIREUS Trainees	Louise Murphy Tilda Thordmark	Not present Present
SACC USA - SIREUS	Christer Bergman	Present

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - a. Update on WG participants
 - b. Review of minutes from last meeting (SACC USA presentation)
 - c. Update on SIREUS progress
2. SIREUS MEMBERS forum (NAFSA activity, together w/ WG4)
3. Review of project plan
 - a. Updated Goals & Activities can be found on SIREUS Member area under “Goals & Activities”
 - b. Feedback from the group about the Project Plan
4. Report from subgroups
 - a. Internships
 - b. Short term activities
 - c. Virtual exchange
 - d. Ambassadors
 - e. How should we organize WG2?
5. Target American University
6. 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. He explained that Ingela could not make the meeting due to her health situation. Particularly he welcomed Marcus Kjellberg, MDU who is supporting Monica Odlare.
 - b) The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. He then informed the group that he wanted to discuss the leadership situation of WG2 due to the health situation with Ingela.
 - c) Christer then informed the group about the overall progress of SIREUS and the other working groups. He mentioned the continues work with affiliated universities, the Vinnova application (unfortunately not granted) and the upcoming delegation to Sweden by UTSA and the event on May 31st.
2. Christer informed the group about the upcoming SIREUS MEMBER forum (NAFSA event) and referred to Andreas and Mudar who is part of the planning group. As per the report sent out yesterday, the total number of attendees is around 165 and it would be desirable to have 200 participants. He and the other planning group members encourage the group to invite more appropriate partners, industry, and universities. An email with all details before the event will be sent out 10 days prior to the event.
3. Christer presented an updated version of the goals & activities of the project plan. He encourages everyone to review the document as it is readily available (on the website – members area). **The plan is**

that on May 15th we will conclude the process for input for this time and the plan will be presented to the Steering Committee on May 30th. All input can be provided direct to Christer for consolidation.

An engaged conversation followed about the goals & activities.

- We should have the American universities also participate in mapping of their international agreements.
- We need to find out if the affiliated universities are interesting to have a balanced student and research exchange.
- Early in the process of a potential international agreements. There needs to be a conversation about all the details of fees, insurance etc. (Mudar, JU mentioned that they always have that conversation very early in a conversation about international exchange agreements).

4. The group agreed to start with an update about the respective subgroup, participants, and tasks.
 - a. **Internships.** Mikaela presented that they had a meeting yesterday and that the group is active.
Notes from Mikaela – translated by google.
 - i. Mia Bjerke at KI has been replaced by Lise-Lotte Vedin, and Maria Fredlund is in our sub-group instead of Anna. LiU + Linnaeus University is currently taking a break.
 - ii. The next meeting is June 8.
 - iii. Maria, Lise-Lotte and Mikaela have had a briefing to provide current situation reports. We are all in slightly different stages regarding our university pilots but have identified suitable programs. KI has an international Master in Bioentrepreneurship, Mid Sweden University Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, and GU talks with Bachelor in Software Engineering and Management and Master in Communication. The arrangements may work a little differently, for example, some only have the opportunity to send students. It's a bit lukewarm on some fronts and others where you need to identify the next steps.
 - iv. We discussed funding and scholarships, what we have at our various universities, if ICM 20% funds could be used, etc. Was going to ask Christer about potential funding within SIREUS, but given that the Vinova application, it may not be relevant? Louise and Tilda started a survey in February, how far has it come? - *Now it's on the website!*
<https://www.sireus.org/students/scholarships>

Christer mentioned that SACC USA has nearly 20 years' experience with J1 VISA for trainees & internship. He further mentioned and showed SACC USA website and how positions are posted. He also mentioned that SACC USA also have the possibility to assist in the VISA for US Students coming to Sweden. **Christer will reach out to Mikaela to share information from SACC and SIREUS that might be relevant for that subgroup.** He also mentioned that we have included information about scholarships on the SIREUS website. Not everyone has recognized that, **and the group urged SIREUS to send out information to the working groups when update has been made.**

- b. **Short term activities.** Ronald, KTH was not present. Caroline, Mudar and Andreas all agreed that there have not been any major activities, after the group work hard on the project with mapping of exchange agreements.

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- c. **Virtual Exchange.** Elizabeth replaced Philipp and Pouneh is replaced by Alice, there has not been any activity.
 - d. **Ambassadors.** Christer mentioned that Ingela, Maria Brogren and Christer had an initial meeting, but no activities during the last two months.
 - e. **How should we organize WG2?** After a conversation, the conclusion was that we will continue with the Internship subgroup, since there is energy and activities in that group. Christer will reach out to Mikaela to share information from SACC and SIREUS that might be relevant for that subgroup. The other subgroups will be put on hold and the group will reevaluate once Ingela is back from her health situation. Christer will take the group leader role until Ingela is back.
5. **Target American Universities.** Christer again asked for help in defining what universities the SIREUS members would like to have an active exchange with and encouraged everyone to communicate this to him. SIREUS will then, with the help of SACC regional Chambers, do our utmost to reach out to those universities.
6. Next scheduled meeting is on June 13th @ 15.00 CET. Christer presented the meeting calendar for the rest of 2023 and have sent out invites for 2023 as follows,
- a. June 13th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
 - b. August 22nd @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
 - c. October 3rd @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
 - d. November 28th @ 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.

The Swedish American Chambers of Commerce of the USA, Inc.,
House of Sweden, 2900 K Street NW, Suite 401, Washington DC, 20007
info@sireus.org, www.sireus.org

