

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 2 University

Meeting # 8

Date: June 13th, 2023

Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – June 16th, 2023

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Andreas Eriksson	Not 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	Present & Group Leader
Luleå University of Technology	Maria Vyatkina	Not present
Lund University	Alice Kjellson	Present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Not present
	Maria Fredlund	Present
Mälardalen University	Monica Odlare	Not present
	Marcus Kjellberg	Present
Stockholm University	Niklas Tranaeus	Present
Uppsala University	Elizabeth Blum	Present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Present
Swedish Institute	Lisa Truedsson	Not present
SIREUS Trainees	Louise Murphy	Not present
	Tilda Thordmark	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. Project plan
 - a. Updated Goals & Activities is approved and can be found on SIREUS Member area.
 - b. Are we aligned with the project plan?
 - c. How do we move forward
3. Report from subgroups
 - a. Internships
 - b. Short term activities
 - c. Virtual exchange
 - d. Ambassadors
 - e. How should we organize WG2?
4. Target American University
 - a. Individual plans
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.
c) Christer then informed the group about the overall progress of SIREUS and the other working groups. He mentioned that the SIREUS MEMBER forum was a success; close to 200 participants from 12 SIREUS members and 6 Affiliated members. Representatives from 16 countries and 23 US states come from 94 different universities and relevant organizations. The members that were at the forum agreed that it was very well done, and it provided an excellent opportunity to network.
Christer then informed the group about the work with thematic areas that now are published on the web, and referred to the email regarding the launch and that we still need some help with some definitions and relevant links.
Christer mentioned about the Vinnova application that unfortunately was not granted, this means that the financial situation for SIREUS will be difficult going forward.
Christer mentioned that the first SIREUS initiated academic delegation took place during May 22nd and May 25th. University of Texas at San Antonio, UTSA visited JU, GU and Chalmers. Christer extended his (and UTSA's) appreciation for the very welcoming, positive, and productive meetings at the universities. There are already follow-up activities scheduled between the universities.

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2. Christer mentioned that the updated version of the goals & activities of the project plan is now approved and can be found in the SIREUS member area. He encourages everyone to review the document periodically, since this is what we have committed to do and will be measured on.

He then asked the questions;

- Are we aligned?
- How do we move forward?

Christer presented a picture of his interpretation of what is needed to comply with the project plan.

- Goal 2.1.2 & 2.2.3 –is for the universities to do and eventually document this in the **Individual Plan that can be stored on the website in “individual containers”** – Christer will inform when this feature has been fully tested.
- Goal 2.2.2 is for SIREUS and the regional chamber to do and present for the universities.
- Goal 2.2.6 is for SIREUS (with the help of Team Sweden) to try find other desired universities that each SIREUS member wants to connect with.
- Other goals relate to what tools do we want to use, i.e. exchange programs, summer school, and/or internships. Delegations, Fairs and “Ambassadors”. There are many actions that we could do, but initially, the most important is to find out what each SIREUS member wants to focus on.

An intense conversation followed.

- “We need more internal conversations in order to have a united strategy.”
- “There are many projects going on in parallel and we need to focus on getting internal resources for SIREUS”
- “We know that we would like to focus on CA and WA”
- “We also would like to focus on WA”
- “How do we focus SIREUS in order for everyone to get the benefits”
- “We would like to have balanced exchanges with CA”
- “We need to develop the Ambassador concept within SIREUS, since the need for key faculty at universities is very valuable when developing and maintaining an exchange agreement.”

Maria Brogren described that the Embassy is focusing on five US States for potential collaborations: WA, NY, CA, TX and IL. She also briefed the group about her latest visit to Texas. Maria and her team recently visited Rice University in Houston and were very impressed with the visit. Rice is very interested in collaboration with Swedish universities and have a couple of specific research areas they would like to start with. Similarly, a visit to the University of Texas at Austin was very interesting, since they have a very progressive international strategy and a specific program called Texas Global at UTA.

The group appreciated the briefing and agreed that we need to approach the different universities in Texas within the SIREUS project.

3. Christer opened the conversation that he did agree that the group structure with subgroups was an interesting approach, but time has proven that it does not work. The group agreed and Ingela & Christer will have a separate meeting about this topic. However, the subgroup that has had activities and are very active is the **Internships subgroup**. Mikaela presented their progress (as can be read in the

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presentation). Since there is “Internships” element in more WG, Christer will meet the **Internships subgroup** separately and will try to figure out how the different actions / tasks will be utilized across WGs.

4. **Target American Universities.** The group discussed this topic under agenda topic #2 and everyone agreed that we need to start developing and communicate the focus to SIREUS, so SIREUS can, with the help of SACC regional Chambers, try to reach out to those universities.
5. Next scheduled meeting is on August 22nd @ 15.00 CET. Christer presented the meeting calendar for the rest of 2023 and have sent out invites for 2023 as follows,
 - a. August 22nd @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
 - b. October 3rd @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
 - c. 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.

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