

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 2 University

Meeting # 9

Date: August 22nd, 2023

Minutes prepared by Johanna Schoug – August 22, 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	Not Present
Linköping University	Caroline Sturesson	Present
Linnaeus University	Ingela Åberg	Present & Group Leader
Luleå University of Technology	Maria Vyatkina	Present
Lund University	Alice Kjellson	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Not present
	Maria Fredlund	Present
Mälardalen University	Monica Odlare	Not present
	Marcus Kjellberg	Not present
Stockholm University	Niklas Tranaeus	Present
Uppsala University	Elizabeth Blum	Present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	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 - review
 - b. Short term activities – next step
 - c. Virtual exchange
 - d. Ambassadors - ?
3. Thematic Areas
 - a. Implementation on the website – still need help with relevant links.
4. Target American University
 - a. Individual plans
 - b. Thematic areas, regions
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. He welcomed back Jens and introduced Johanna as one of the new interns for fall 2023, and informed that she would have the main responsibility to follow working group 2 from the interns.

b) The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

c) Christer reminded about the two events that were a huge success in the spring; the University of Texas at San Antonio **academic delegation** to Jönköping University, Gothenburg University, Chalmers University of Technology and Astra Zeneca. A very successful week that motivated Chalmers to initiate new collaborations with UTSA on the research side, and this excitement was shared from UTSA's side. The second activity was the **SIREUS Member forum**, where 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 continued to inform the group about what's been going on with SIREUS during the summer. SIREUS has recruited four new interns for the fall of 2023; Edith, Märta, Johanna, and Oskar that will all be responsible for one working group each. **SIREUS VIRTUAL forum** is planning to launch during this fall, and this is why Oskar will mainly be working with this as the new event intern. Christer then mentioned a possible **Innovation trip to Texas** that is currently in the planning within working group 3 that Märta is responsible for. Christer further mentioned that SIREUS is planning a larger **Study in Sweden** trip within

SIREUS Working Group 2 University Minutes

working Group 4 that will start in New York, and continue to Washington State University, Pullman, and Chapman University in California. SIREUS are also excited to soon be able to launch **SIREUS Affiliation of Companies**. The concept will be tested with Ericsson, Astra Zeneca, SAAB and most likely Volvo. Christer informed the group that Märta is mainly working with this and will inform them about the launch further when we have more information.

Christer further informed the group about the challenge of funding for SIREUS for the future, and that this is something that he is still working on.

2. Christer presented the discussion of sub-groups. He informed the group that he and Ingela had decided that the permanent sub-groups did not work out, and that they were to evaluate where to go from now.
 - a. Mikaela spoke of the internships (as was presented during the previous WG meeting) and said that they all agreed that Internships as a sub-group has presented the status and the results could be used as a tool with exchange.
 - b. Short term activities were briefly presented (see presentation), and the group agreed to archive the presentation at the website. Christer and Ingela will discuss how to use the results in the best way.
 - c. The subgroup for virtual exchange has never got started and the group decided that we pause that initiative for the moment.
 - d. Ingela started an attempt with defining “Ambassadors” and still needs to be developed. Ingela will propose the process forward during our next WG meeting.

Christer then asked Mikaela about the short-term activity that were held at GU this summer; GU summer school for sustainability that was arranged for the first time 2022. 150 students from 37 different countries from GU exchange partners for five weeks in Gothenburg. Mikaela said that this was very popular amongst their American partners.

Christer further gave the word to Jens who introduced a challenge with insurances that they had experienced. He explained that many American universities did not accept Kammarkollegiets “Student Ut” insurance which negatively affected many of their students. Many agreed that they had also experienced similar situations which prompted a long discussion.

“Clarkson University accepts Kammarkollegiets insurance, but others do not”

“Some universities have a solution for international students who do not need the same kind of coverage as U.S. students”

“Most universities have standardized policies that everyone needs to have the same kind of insurance for administrative reasons”

It was agreed that the problem lies in the fact that the different states have very different requirements and policies, which the universities have to follow. This explains why some universities accept Kammarkollegiet insurance and some do not. It was decided that this problem was worth bringing up as a group through SIREUS as a forum, and that Christer would present this problem when meeting with

SIREUS Working Group 2 University Minutes

UHÄ (Plint) and other government organizations, and that SIREUS could potentially support the universities with this problem.

3. Christer presented the development of the Thematic Areas. He explained that the Thematic Areas is the focused area for SIREUS, and that the website has been greatly enhanced to articulate this. Christer said that we needed to decide what areas we were going to focus on for each university, and encouraged all universities to provide links to various thematic areas that will be displayed on our website. Christer showed a summary of which universities had provided these links so far (with a blue indicator on the presentation). It was agreed that all universities would try to provide SIREUS with these links, as per previously requested via email (June 5th, 2023).

Christer gave the word to Maria Brogren who mentioned that she is publishing a newsletter from her Office that is reaching about 500 people (many in the Swedish government) and would appreciate if any of the Swedish universities had a positive story about a project they were doing between Sweden and the U.S., or with SIREUS, that could be included. Christer gave Penn State and Chalmers as an example and encouraged all universities to read about this (on our website) as an inspirational example.

4. Christer presented a questionnaire with eight questions that SIREUS need answers to from the Universities. The questions are based on the Project Plan and would provide SIREUS with the information needed to introduce the Individual Plans of each university. Individual plans will be implemented on the webpage under “University Specific Documents” that will only be accessible for the specific university they concern. This is to optimize the individual plans for each university, and for SIREUS to make it possible to help with the specific areas each university wants to focus on. The questions will be sent out to the universities during the next couple of days.
5. Next scheduled meeting is on October 3rd @ 9 am EST. Christer presented the meeting calendar for the rest of 2023 and have sent out invites for 2023 as follows,
 - a. October 3rd @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
 - b. November 28th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)The meeting calendar is also published on the website (private area).

Christer briefly mentioned the planning of SIREUS chancellors Forum in Sweden on March 21st that was in the planning, and Christer thanked the members for the meeting.

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