

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 3 Innovation

Meeting # 14

Date: April 29th, 2024

Minutes prepared by Aida Aboutalebi – April 29th, 2024

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Charlotte Emlind Vahul	Present
University of Gothenburg	Jonas Rimbäck	Not present
Jönköping University	No representation	Not present
Linköping University	Åsa Wallin	Not present
Linnaeus University	Johan Höglund	Not present
	Annett Wolf	Present
Luleå University of Technology	Marita Holst	Present
Lund University	Niclas Nilsson	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Sten Wigert	Present
Mälardalen University	Christer Nygren	Present
	Radu Dobrin	Not present
Stockholm University	Maryam Hansson Edalat	Present
Uppsala University	Malin Graffner Nordberg	Not present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Present
	Jenny Majidiyar	Not present
SACC Trainees	Aida Aboutalebi	Present
SACC USA	Christer Bergman	Present & Group Leader

SIREUS Working Group 3 Innovation Minutes

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - a. Update on WG participants
 - b. Review of minutes from last meeting
 - c. Update on SIREUS progress
2. SIREUS 2nd half evaluation
3. SIREUS RESEARCH forum
4. Thematic Areas Implemented on the website.
 - a. Workshops – desired focus?
5. Individual University Plan
 - a. Updated status - what area would be extra interesting?
6. SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum
 - a. Destination Start Up – Feedback
 - b. Innovation Tour Texas Feb 5-9, 2024 – next?
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 by welcoming everyone.
 - b) During the last meeting, the primary focus was on the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum, which recently took place. Additionally, discussions centered around the evaluation group and thematic areas. Many of these topics will be revisited according to the agenda.
 - c) Christer began by informing the group that SIREUS will be hosting the SIREUS MEMBERS forum in conjunction with the NAFSA conference in New Orleans on May 29. This MEMBERS forum is currently in the final planning stage, with working group 2 being heavily involved. NAFSA provides an opportunity to connect with partner universities from around the world, and last year's conference hosted approximately 10,000 attendees. The idea of a SIREUS MEMBERS forum was proposed due to Sweden not having a delegation at NAFSA. Although Sweden does not have a consulate in New Orleans, we have an honorary consulate that has provided significant support for this event. Additionally, SIREUS has collaborated closely with the Swedish Institute, who have endorsed the idea of Sweden having an event for the Swedish universities to host their partners. This collaboration has also enabled SIREUS to extend invitations to non-members/affiliates.

SIREUS is currently in the planning stages of the annual Study in Sweden event, primarily overseen by Working Group 4. The event is tentatively scheduled for October 4th in Washington D.C., with plans to expand to other cities thereafter.

SIREUS Working Group 3 Innovation Minutes

Maria Brogren provided an update on the bilateral implementation agreement for cancer signed between Sweden and the U.S. This agreement signifies a more advanced level of cooperation between the two countries in the field of cancer research. Vinnova and The Swedish Research Council, representing Sweden, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Science Foundation from the U.S., paving the way for further collaboration and joint initiatives.

2. Christer updated the group on the second phase of SIREUS and its ongoing continuation. The recommendations from the evaluation groups have been forwarded to the steering committee, which is currently devising a plan for continuation. Thus far, all stakeholders have acknowledged the broad scope of the SIREUS platform. It is likely that the continuation plan will focus into two main directions: one focusing on talent mobility and the other on innovation and entrepreneurship.

There is an incentive from Vinnova to organize workshops and concentrate on specific thematic areas. Similarly, the Swedish Institute is keen on emphasizing talent mobility and providing support accordingly, such as the support SIREUS has received for NAFSA. By refining the focus of SIREUS 2.0, the goal is to better assist and support SIREUS members and affiliates.

Additionally, there are plans to reduce the membership fee from 200K to 100K by opting for one of the two new directions offered by SIREUS. A new meeting with the evaluation group is scheduled for May 8th to review feedback received from the steering committee. Subsequently, the steering committee will decide on May 28th, followed by an official decision by the stakeholder group.

3. So far, SIREUS has successfully hosted three SIREUS RESEARCH forums and is currently in the process of organizing additional ones. There has been a growing interest in focusing on funding-related topics for upcoming forums. Maria provided the group with insights into the US-Sweden Cancer Summit 2024, where a new bilateral collaboration agreement between Sweden and the USA was signed to advance cancer and cancer research. During a panel discussion moderated by Åsa Wallin, representatives from The Swedish Research Council, Vinnova, and the National Cancer Institute shared valuable insights into existing funding opportunities for cancer research cooperation and discussed potential future initiatives. Building on this, Christer suggested exploring the possibility of organizing a similar panel for the next research forum, which could greatly benefit researchers.

Moving forward, the plan is to reach out to Åsa to inquire about the possibility of hosting a similar session for the Research forum. Additionally, there are discussions about organizing a session moderated by Maria, possibly focusing on the bilateral funding opportunities by NSF and Vinnova. A third possible SIREUS RESEARCH forum could be with the Green Initiative (GTI) which would be moderated by Linda Andrén (the head of GTI). Maria provided an overview of the Green Transition Initiative, which focuses on promoting trade between Sweden and the U.S.

SIREUS Working Group 3 Innovation Minutes

4. a. As SIREUS is planning to host workshops related to different thematic areas, Christer inquired about the group's preferences for workshop topics. Participants shared their interests, suggesting various subjects they would like to explore during these workshops. One recurring interest was the topic of NATO and dual use of research. Another topic is the Intellectual Property questions, especially working bilaterally.
5. a. This point aligns with the previous one as the participants shared different areas of interest that SIREUS could help with in the form of workshops or webinars. These included the topic of IP and responsible internationalization. Furthermore, specifically regarding responsible internationalization, there was an interest in discussing the university's approach and strategies for addressing these issues.
6. a. The feedback from the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum survey was generally positive, which is incredibly valuable if SIREUS plan to organize it again next year. There is a hopeful anticipation that it will indeed happen again. Even if SIREUS doesn't continue, the hope is that some of SIREUS' programs such as the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum might. Christer Nygren then shared some comments about his experience, expressing that it had been highly beneficial.

b. Regarding the Innovation tour in Texas, there is interest in continuing it in some capacity. Suggestions were made by group participants to explore visiting Boston or North Carolina next time. Maria also proposed the idea of clusters and emphasized the importance of building innovation ecosystems around various technologies. She further elaborated by mentioning some existing clusters in New York and Maryland.
7. Next meeting is scheduled to be held on June 4th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
 - ~~April 29th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)~~
 - June 4th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
 - August 27th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
 - October 8th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
 - November 19th @ 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 and concluded 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



SIREUS Working Group 3 Innovation Minutes