

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 4 Sweden

Meeting # 9

Date: August 24th,2023

Minutes prepared by Edith Malmberg – August 24th, 2023

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Linda Millsvik	Present
University of Gothenburg	John Molander	Not present
Jönköping University	Eric Freid	Present
Karolinska Institute	Johanna Gasslander	Not present
	Ulrica Kristhammar	Present
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Åsa Andersson	Present
	Hans Lundin	Not present
Linköping University	Therese Winder	Present
Linnaeus University	Stefan Haglund	Present
Luleå University of Technology	Robert Omberg	Present
Lund University	Maria Lindblad	Present
Mid Sweden University	Ellen Horbach	Not present
Mälardalen University	Johanna Forsström	Not present
	Niclas Johansson	Present
Stockholm University	Tina Larsson	Present
Uppsala University	Lina Solander	Not present & Group Leader
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Jenny Majidyar	Present
SACC Trainees	Edith Malmberg	Present
SACC USA	Christer Bergman	Present & Group Leader

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - a. Update on WG participants
 - b. Review of minutes from last meeting (SACC USA presentation)
 - c. Update on SIREUS progress
2. Thematic Areas
 - a. Implemented on the website- still need help with relevant links.
3. Individual University Plan
 - a. Aligned with the project plan
4. Review of Activities
 - a. New Study in Sweden events, Plan for Nov 2-7, 2023
 - b. Student fairs, plan- action!
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 introduced Edith as one of the new interns for fall 2023, and informed that she would have the main responsibility to follow working group 4 from the interns.

b) The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

c) Christer reminded the group 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 working Group 4 that will start in New York, and continue to Washington State University, Pullman, and

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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. a.) Christer encouraged everyone to review the five chosen Thematic Areas on the SIREUS website. He showed a summary of which links SIREUS has received from each university and reminded those who have not sent their links to do so. The universities can submit their links connected to each Thematic Area to show their expertise within those specific fields. The plan is that after each Swedish university has submitted relevant links, the U.S. Affiliated universities will do the same. This will help faculty and researchers from universities in both Sweden and the U.S. find areas of collaboration.
3. a.) Christer presented the structure for Individual Plans on the website and explained that each university will have their own page under “Member Area” called “University Specific Documents” where their documents regarding their university's status in the SIREUS project will be kept. To exemplify, Christer mentioned that someone from Lund University will not have access to the Chalmers University specific page. This will ensure that specific plans and documents for SIREUS remain private for each university on the webpage. The questions (see presentation) will be sent out to all members of the universities within the next few days.
4. a.) Christer thanked the members of the Study in Sweden planning group and briefly updated everyone on the progress of the tour. He mentioned that SACC-NY is booked on Nov 2 between 4 – 8 PM and that this location will serve as the starting point of the Study in Sweden tour. He mentioned that the planning group will continue to discuss the specifics of the fair in New York (how we can attract students, what the setup will look like etc.).

The second stop of the tour is in Pullman at Washington State University's campus on November 4th. Christer mentioned that the Study in Sweden event will take place as a “tabletop fair” before WSU’s home game (football) against Stanford University- which means that there will be a lot of students around campus that day. The group will be staying at hotels in Spokane since the hotels in Pullman will be expensive or sold out due to the football game. After the stop in Pullman, the participants on the tour have the opportunity to meet faculty at WSU’s Vancouver campus on Nov 5th. This stop does not feature a Study in Sweden fair as it takes place on a Sunday. The group then discussed whether or not this stop is applicable to all participants.

The tour ends at Chapman University on November 7th where a study in Sweden fair will take place on campus outside. Christer mentioned that he is also in contact with faculty there about finding a suitable conference room inside. After the stop in Chapman, some participants on the tour will continue to Mexico.

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In regards to the coordination of the tour, the group said that the universities book their hotels and flights separately but that they will try to coordinate with each other. The planning group will continue to develop the logistics of the tour. **[Christer to schedule next meeting]**. Furthermore, the group decided that there should be a shared document where everyone can see updates about the trip.

Linda raised the question about safety precautions in regard to the heightened security level in Sweden. Jenny mentioned that she would ask her colleagues at the embassy if they have any specific recommendations.

b.) Next, Christer raised the topic of student fairs. **(Document to be included in the archive)**. He mentioned that SIREUS can represent the universities at these fairs. He explained that SIREUS has been in touch with NACAC about their fairs but that this might not be relevant since at least two member universities have to be present for us to attend. Christer also showed the group a list of potential Study abroad and university fairs close to Washington D.C. Maria mentioned that many fairs could be connected to already existing study abroad partners and that it could be more interesting to consider graduate or career fairs where students can be informed about university opportunities in Sweden.

Christer asked the group to reflect about how SIREUS could represent the universities and what material SIREUS could use at the fairs. Maria mentioned that SI and the Embassy have some material that they use when they represent the universities.

Jenny explained that the Embassy will have a meeting with the State Department in connection to the problems with FAFSA. She asked the universities to update her on how many universities have these problems and if they know if any more universities from other countries have had the same issues with FAFSA.

4. The next scheduled meeting is on October 5th @ 13.00 CET. Christer presented the meeting calendar for the rest of 2023 and have sent out invites for 2023 as follows,

- a. October 5th @ 13.00 CET
- b. November 30th @ 13.00 CET

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

