

# Steering Committee Minutes

Steering Committee  
 Meeting # 16  
 Date: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

## Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Mikael Enelund	Present
University of Gothenburg	Karolina Catoni <i>Lena Pedersen</i>	Not present <i>Present</i>
Jönköping University	Nerrolyn Ramstrand	Present
Linköping University	Maria Engelmark <i>Margareta Alfredsson</i>	Present <i>Present</i>
Linnaeus University	Annett Wolf <i>Ann-Charlotte Larsson</i>	Present <i>Not present</i>
Luleå University of Technology	Jennie Hägg Wilhelmson	Not present
Lund University	Richard Stenelo	Present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Not present
Mälardalen University	Damir Isovich	Present
Stockholm University	Tina Larsson Åsa Petri	Present Not present
Uppsala University	Johan Tysk	Present
<b>Partners</b>		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Not present
Swedish Institute	Douglas Washburn	Not present
KK Stiftelsen	Joakim Appelquist	Present
Chapman University	Niklas Myhr	Not present
SACC USA	Christer Bergman	Present

## Agenda

1. Welcome
  - Minutes from last meeting
2. Progress Report
  - Events & Activities
3. Decision / Discussion / Information
  - Financial Report
  - SIREUS 2.0 Evaluation
4. AOB & Next meeting

## Presentation material

During the meeting a ppt presentation was used containing information that was sent out prior to the meeting. The minutes from the Evaluation Team meeting @ SU on February 28<sup>th</sup> were also sent out prior to the meeting and were referred to during the meeting.

## Minutes

1. Christer opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 16<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were then briefly reviewed and action items will be covered during the meeting.

### 2. Progress Report

#### Events & Activities

- The **SIREUS ENTREPREURS forum** was held during the week of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Colorado. Nicole Forsberg from CU Boulder & SACC CO was the host together with SIREUS staff. UU, LU, SU, MDU and LIU were participating at the forum and had 6 of “their” companies attending and presenting.
- The SIREUS MEMBERS forum in conjunction with the NAFSA 2024 conference in New Orleans is in the final stage of planning.
- The first **SIREUS RESEARCH forum** was held on December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 16:30 CET and had 60 participants, the second SIREUS RESEARCH forum was held on January 24<sup>th</sup> @ 16:30 and had 48 participants and the third was held on March 4<sup>th</sup> @ 16:30 and had 56 participants. SIREUS is planning the coming forums continuously and planning to focus on funding for researchers.
- More activities in Social Media are being planned, not only in conjunction with events. There is a request to also promote individual universities.

### 3. SIREUS Decision / Discussion / Information

#### Financial Report

Christer presented the financial report for March 2024 and emphasized that there are no surprises compared with the budget.

#### SIREUS 2.0 Evaluation

Christer referred to the previous meeting and the process for the Evaluation. The meeting today will focus on discussing the recommendation from the Evaluation Team.

Prior to the meeting the Minutes from the meeting @ SU on February 28<sup>th</sup> was referenced. Please review the document in its entirety to get a complete picture.

Some of the feedback can be summarized as.

1. SIREUS Platform too ambitious for the resources allocated at universities.
2. Lack of government funding => not sustainable operation
3. Difficult to satisfy all => workgroup participation is not always highest priority
  - Larger vs. smaller universities
  - Focus on Talent Mobility vs Innovation/Research
  - Different universities have different maturity for their US Strategy

After a summary of the feedback, Christer answered some questions and then summarized the recommendation from the Evaluation Team.

1. SIREUS 2.0 More focused, fewer meetings, focus on events and open up the network. > ~10 universities need to join to form a network.
2. Only focus on Study-in-Sweden events. Not enough substance to have a network. SACC does not see it as strategic and would probably not be involved.
3. SIREUS will end after January 31st, 2025.

Christer went through the recommendation in detail as per the presentation and then the participants commented on the recommendation. Some questions were answered during the conversation and the conclusion is that most SIREUS MEMBERS need to digest the recommendation and will get back to Christer individually during the next month. Some of the universities referred to a change of priorities for the US, while others mentioned that they want to focus on either talent mobility or research & innovation.

Christer also mentioned that he has been in contact with Vinnova and other government organization and the conclusion is that with a focused approach in talent mobility and innovation, there is a better possibility to get funds from SI, Vinnova and others, for specific events and activities. They all emphasized that in order to get funding the SIREUS activities and events need to be "open" for other universities, although they might have to pay a fee for participation.

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Christer also showed a preliminary financial outlook for different scenarios and emphasized that the funding for the project will be a challenge. He further mentioned that he has a parallel conversation with SACC-USA, whose board must approve an extension of the SIREUS project.

The Steering Committee thanked Margareta, Christer and the Evaluation Team for a good job and will get back to Christer with their decision in good time before the next meeting (May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024).

#### 4. AOB & Next meeting

Since there were no Other Business for the meeting, Christer thanked the participants for the meeting.

**The next steering committee meeting will be held via Teams on May 28<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST).** The main topic of that meeting is to decide on the way forward for SIRUES 2.0

Christer reminded us about the dates for the steering committee meetings for the whole of 2024. Invites have been sent out.

- a. ~~January 16<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)~~
- b. ~~March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)~~
- c. ~~April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)~~
- d. May 28<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- e. August 20<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- f. September 24<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- g. November 5<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- h. December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

The meeting calendar is also published on the website (private area).

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](mailto:info@sireus.org), [www.sireus.org](http://www.sireus.org)

