

# Steering Committee Minutes

Steering Committee  
 Meeting # 17  
 Date: May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

## Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Mikael Enelund	Not present
University of Gothenburg	Karolina Catoni	Present
Jönköping University	Nerrolyn Ramstrand	Present
Linköping University	Maria Engelmark	Not present
	<i>Margareta Alfredsson</i>	<i>Present</i>
Linnaeus University	Annett Wolf	Present
Luleå University of Technology	Jennie Hägg Wilhelmson	Not present
Lund University	Richard Stenelo	Present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Present
Mälardalen University	Damir Iovic	Present
Stockholm University	Tina Larsson	Present
	Åsa Petri	Not present
Uppsala University	Johan Tysk	Present
<b>Partners</b>		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Not present
Swedish Institute	Douglas Washburn	Present
KK Stiftelsen	Joakim Appelquist	Not 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 Decision
4. AOB & Next meeting

## Presentation material

During the meeting a ppt presentation was used containing information that was sent out prior to the meeting.

## Minutes

1. Christer opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 17<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 MEMBERS forum** in conjunction with the NAFSA 2024 conference in New Orleans is tomorrow (May 29<sup>th</sup>).
  - 8 SIREUS Members will attend
  - 4 Affiliated universities will attend
  - 180 registered attendees from 24 different countries and from 21 different US States.
- **SIREUS Study-in-Sweden** tour will be on October 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> – planning well under way
  - October 4<sup>th</sup> – Washington DC
  - October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> – New York City
  - October 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> – San Francisco / Silicon Valley
- **SIREUS RESEARCH forum** (“Research, Knowledge and Innovation”)
  - *First RESEARCH forum on December 11, 2023 – Research and networks Sweden / US*
  - *Second RESEARCH forum on January 24, 2024 – Tech Transfer in the US*
  - *Third RESEARCH forum on March 4, 2024 – How to pitch for money, start ups*
  - *3 new forums are being planned – Green Transition, Bilateral Cancer research funding & NSF / Vinnova*

- **Social Media** had been intensified, not only promoting SIREUS – but focusing on the SIREUS Members. Both in conjunction with the NAFSA event and for promoting Summer Schools for GU, LiU and JU. To get a stronger impact, it needs even more engagement from the members (which has shown to be a challenge at many universities).

### 3. **SIREUS Decision / Discussion / Information**

#### **Financial Report**

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

#### **SIREUS 2.0 Decision**

Christer referred to the previous meeting and the process leading up to the important decision for the continuation of SIREUS after the initial 3 years project. He thanked everyone for the conversations he has had with most of the steering committee members since the previous meeting.

He then asked the members individually to give some comments leading up to the decision and their decision on the continuation of the SIREUS project.

*“We have decided to not continue as a member, mainly because we are focusing on bilateral cooperation with a few selected US universities. We are interested in participating in potential SIREUS activities and are interested in exploring the possibility to become a SACC USA member”.*

*“We have the same feedback and are moving into a new phase of our US strategy. We want to emphasize our appreciation for all the effort that Christer and the team have made and is interested in potential SIREUS activities”.*

*“We have decided to not continue as a member. We have established a presence in Silicon Valley and will focus our US efforts there. We are looking in to becoming a SACC USA member”.*

*“We are focusing on SF/SV and will continue with our efforts in that region and will not continue to be a SIREUS Member, however we are interested in participating in potential SIREUS activities”.*

*“As I mentioned during the previous meeting, we will not continue as a SIREUS member, but are interested in potential SIREUS activities (mainly student recruitment).”*

*“We have also decided to not continue as a SIREUS member but are evaluating the possibility to become a SACC USA member. We are also interested in potential SIREUS activities”.*

*“We have decided to not continue as a SIREUS member and are not interested in becoming a SACC USA member. We might be interested in SIREUS activities”.*

*“We have decided that if there would be a SIREUS network, we would join the Talent Mobility track. We are very interested in participating in student recruitment efforts. I also want to emphasize that building a network takes time and it is unfortunate that SIREUS only lasted 3 years”.*

*“Our new international focus does not include the US, therefore we will not continue as a SIREUS member”.*

*“Since our mission is to support a number of higher educations in Sweden and after communicating with them not joining, we will not continue to support the SIREUS efforts as a member”.*

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*“Our mission is to promote Sweden as an excellent study destination, we have enjoyed supporting the Study-in-Sweden activities and also the NAFSA events and we are interested to continue to support such efforts”.*

Christer thanked everyone for the feedback and concluded that there will not be an extension of the SIREUS Member network after the initial 3 years project. However, from the feedback during the meeting, there seems to be a genuine interest from the SIREUS Members to participate in potential SIREUS activities next year. He intends to discuss this with the respective working groups during the upcoming meetings. He will communicate the decision from the Steering Committee to SACC USA leadership and will start with a transition plan that he will present during the August Steering Committee meeting. He will certainly also prepare material for the Stakeholders Meeting coming up next week accordingly and for the final decision.

Christer also asked for help and will form a smaller ad-hoc group (3-4 members) from the steering committee, to advise and help Christer in creating a transition plan, including a strong a positive marketing message regarding the transition.

#### 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 August 20<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST).**  
The main topic of that meeting is to decide on the transition for the SIREUS network.

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).

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