

Steering Committee Minutes

Steering Committee
 Meeting # 18
 Date: August 20th,2024

Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – August 21st,2024

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Mikael Enelund	Present
University of Gothenburg	Karolina Catoni	Not present
Jönköping University	Nerrolyn Ramstrand	Not present
Linköping University	Maria Engelmark	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	Not present
Stockholm University	Tina Larsson	Not present
	Åsa Petri	Present
Uppsala University	Johan Tysk	Present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Present
Swedish Institute	Douglas Washburn	Not present
	<i>Linnea Lindgren</i>	<i>Present</i>
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 back after the summer and to the 18th 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

- **SIREUS Study-in-Sweden** tour will be on October 4th to 12th – planning well under way
 - October 4th – Washington DC
 - October 7th & 8th – New York City
 - October 11th & 12th – San Francisco / Silicon Valley
- **SIREUS RESEARCH forum** (“Research, Knowledge and Innovation”)
 - *Fourth RESEARCH forum on September 10th, 2024 – Green Transition / Smart Buildings*
 - *New forums are being planned – Bilateral Cancer research funding, NSF / Vinnova & start up w/ CU Boulder*
- **Social Media** activities continue to not only promote SIREUS – but focus on the SIREUS Members. With events, the social media activities are intensified and SIREUS is welcoming more engagement from the members.
- **New trainees started in mid-July.** Alice Berntson is focusing on Marketing and Annie Arcini Lundwall is focusing on events.

- **Exploring the possibilities** with WG´s to sell events during 2025 and beyond. Since SIREUS network is changing, the event being offered and organized will have to be committed early in the process. The events / initiatives that will be discussed are.
 - SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum, March 2025
 - SIREUS MEMBERS forum, May 2025
 - Innovation Tour, tbd
 - Study-in-Sweden October/November 2025

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

Financial Report

Christer presented the financial report for July 2024 and emphasized that there are no real surprises. He explained that since the funding is below budget, the expenses also need to be adapted. A new detailed forecast and actions will be presented during the next steering committee meeting in September.

SIREUS 2.0 Decision

Christer referred to the decision before the summer that SIREUS will not continue as a network on the same conditions, he then presented a potential way forward.

Situation

- SIREUS will NOT be a membership network.
- Steering Committee, members and all other stakeholders will be part of the legacy.
- We need to create a positive narrative for the change.

Proposal

- SIREUS as a concept needs to continue for at least 2 years to claim and argue benefit of the initiative.
- SIREUS website continues with changes in content and structure.
- SIREUS members will transition into an affiliation, like the American Affiliation
- The government stakeholders need to endorse and preferably partly fund the transition.
- The message about the transition should be a very active marketing communication campaign

Decision

- ***SIREUS members need to transfer to affiliated members***

Christer asked Maria Brogren to inform the group about the work that has been going on related to funding from "government".

Maria started by thanking the universities for the answers to the survey that was sent from the Embassy before the summer. She did however comment that it was difficult to conclude the need from the universities since the answers were very different. The one conclusion was that the universities have really enjoyed being in a network that have access to and support from the Swedish Embassy and would like to have a similar contact going forward.

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Maria then referred to conversations with STINT, KK Foundation and government departments in Sweden. The conclusion is that funds are available for research and innovation, but the universities must request directly to the foundations. There are no funds available for a network (like SIREUS) to get funding.

Christer asked for comments and suggestions about the “way forward” and particularly the proposal of transferring the SIREUS Members to SIREUS Affiliated Universities.

“Thank you for the presentation and for the survey (Maria). We are interested in the move to affiliated universities, but need to know more what it means”

“We are also interested in the proposal, but need to know more about resources needed and the network structure”

“Interesting idea. Will the American Affiliated universities be in the same affiliation? In keeping the website beyond January 2025 – what is the traffic to the website today?”

“We certainly don’t want to lose or hurt the relationship we have gained. What is the American Affiliated Universities reaction to the change of SIREUS Members to Affiliated Universities?”

“I like the idea, but need to have a conversation at my university before we can commit. “

Christer thanked everyone for their comments and input and will send out more detailed information about the proposal of Affiliated Universities before the next meeting. He will also present some statistics for the website and social media impact during the next meeting.

The idea with the affiliated universities would be like the structure of the American Affiliation. ***Below is a summary from the presentation of that program.*** The idea is to create a similar affiliation in Sweden. Some parts certainly must be modified – also the existing MOU with the American universities needs to be modified and renewed, beyond February 15th, 2025, as it currently states.

SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities

Voluntary association of American universities interested in participating in the SIREUS project and potentially cooperate with Swedish universities.

To qualify for membership the university should be willing and able to;

- *Explore possibilities of "balanced" student and research exchange.*
- *Potentially host a workshop for Swedish universities exploring mutual beneficial opportunities.*
- *Potentially travel to Sweden for bilateral and mutually beneficial projects.*
- *Being interested in exchange of operational management best practices / foster lessons learned.*

Membership will be granted once the MOU between SIREUS and the university is signed.

The value proposition for membership

- *Unique opportunity to cooperate with international colleagues in a non-competitive environment.*

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- *Potentially engage in bilateral student- and research agreements to broaden the talent mobility for the university.*
- *SIREUS is supported by the Swedish Embassy and contact with the Swedish government can open strategic alliances.*
- *Access to early opportunities for research & collaborations with Swedish academia, industry and government.*
- *Membership has no fee.*

The members of the Affiliates agree to;

- *Attend the twice-yearly virtual meetings.*
- *Commit themselves and their institutions to pursuing the goals of the Affiliate.*
- *Facilitate active participation by their faculty and staff in Affiliate strategies and activities in which they believe they can make a positive contribution to collective success.*
- *Pursue transparency and sharing of data that will facilitate progress toward common goals and promulgation of best practices for Swedish student and research success.*

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

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

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