

Stakeholders Group Minutes

Stakeholders Group

Meeting # 5

Date: June 4th, 2024

Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – June 4th, 2024

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Anders Palmqvist	Present
University of Gothenburg	Mette Sandoff	Not present
	<i>Karolina Catoni</i>	Present
Jönköping University	Agneta Marell	Not present
Linköping University	Matts Karlsson	Present
	<i>Margareta Alfredson</i>	<i>Not present</i>
Linnaeus University	Ann-Charlotte Larsson	Not present
Luleå University of Technology	Pär Weihed	Not present
Lund University	Erik Renström	Not present
	Kristina Eneroth	Present
Mid Sweden University	Anders Fällström	Not present
Mälardalen University	Helena Jerregård	Not present
Stockholm University	Astrid Söderbergh Widding	Not present
	<i>Tina Larsson</i>	<i>Present</i>
Uppsala University	Anders Hagfeldt	Not present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Urban Ahlin	Present
	<i>Maria Brogren</i>	<i>Not present</i>
Swedish Institute	Monika Wirkkala	Present
KK-stiftelsen	Eva Schelin	Present
SACC USA	Per Cedergren	Present
	<i>Karin Hammar</i>	<i>Not present</i>
	<i>Christer Bergman</i>	<i>Present</i>

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - Remarks by Ambassador Ahlin
2. SACC-USA Update by Per Cedergren, Chairman SACC USA
3. SIREUS - Progress Report
 - Minutes from last meeting
 - Project Update
 - Events
4. Decision / Discussion / Information
 - Financial Report
 - SIREUS 2.0 Decision
5. 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 5th Stakeholders Group meeting. He extended a warm welcome to Ambassador Urban Ahlin who gave a brief update on recent activities. As expected, it has been a hectic time with the situation in Ukraine and Sweden joining NATO. He again emphasized the importance of SIREUS when it comes to cooperation between Sweden and the U.S. regarding talent mobility, research and innovation. He is looking forward to following SIREUS closely, also after the initial 3 years project has ended. He welcomed everybody to reach out to him and hoped to meet everyone in person at a venue in the coming months.
2. Per Cedergren, the newly elected Chairman for SACC USA, introduced himself and gave a brief update on SACC USA activities. He was proud to announce that SACC USA had another success with the Executive Forum that was held in Washington DC on May 29-30th, 2024. He further mentioned the key events that SACC USA is arranging including the SACC Summit in Chicago, the possibility for trade delegation and the yearly Transatlantic Day in Sweden early 2025. He welcomed all the participants to explore the many benefits a SACC USA member can enjoy and encouraged all the SIREUS members to reach out to him or Karin Hammar, CEO of SACC USA if there are any questions regarding membership.
3. **SIREUS - Progress Report**
Christer then continued with reviewing the minutes from the previous meeting, events and other SIREUS activities. He then turned over to the current presentation as was distributed prior to the meeting.

SIREUS Stakeholders Group Minutes

Project Update.

Working Groups

All four working groups have been engaged in planning of events and defining the focused areas for SIREUS.

SIREUS Website

The website is regularly updated and has got many good remarks from SIREUS members as well as other parties. He mentioned the work around Thematic Areas as the foundation for further work, regarding SIREUS Research forum and focused workshops.

SACC Regional Chambers

Many of the regional chambers are very active in supporting SIREUS, representing SIREUS in the local community, introducing SIREUS to universities and to their Corporate and Business members.

SIREUS Affiliation of American Universities

Christer presented the status of the Affiliation of American Universities as of today.

As of last meeting Michigan Technology University, Dakota State University, University of Texas at San Antonio, Gustavus Adolphus College, Chapman University, Tufts University, Washington State University, Purdue University, Virginia Tech Institute, Penn State University and University of Colorado Boulder, were members. Recently Georgetown University and University of Georgia has also become members.

SIREUS Affiliation of Companies

Christer mentioned that the project of building an affiliation of companies interested in cooperations with universities for internships opportunities, post doc and workshop opportunities and potential guest lectures, has been paused pending the continuation of SIREUS

Events being held.

The **SIREUS RESEARCH forum**, our regular webinars for Research, Knowledge and Innovation started in December and we have so far held 3 forums and 3 new ones are being planned.

- *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*

The **Innovation (scouting) Tour to Texas** was done during February 5th – 9th, 2024. The tour included visits to the universities and Science Parks in San Antonio, Austin, College Station, and Houston. UU, LU, SU, LTU, MDU, MIUN and the Swedish Embassy participated, and all expressed a very high satisfaction with the content, contacts and the logistics of the trip. The working group is interested in exploring other areas in the US during 2025.

The **SIREUS ENTREPREURS forum** was held during the week of March 18th, 2024, in Colorado. UU, LU, SU, LTU, and LIU were participating with several of “their” startups. Again, the forum was considered a success, and all participants would be willing to come back for 2025 should the financial situation and focus of the forum be in line with the respective universities’ strategies.

SIREUS Stakeholders Group Minutes

Events being planned.

The Study-in-Sweden Road trip is being planned for October 4th in Washington DC, October 7th-8th in New York City and on October 11th -12th in San Francisco / Silicon Valley. The planning group from the SIREUS members and SIREUS is finalizing all the details for the trip.

4. SIREUS Decision / Discussion / Information

Financial report

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

SIREUS 2.0 Decision

Christer followed the distributed presentation and started reviewing the process that was put in place 6 months ago and involved the Evaluation team consisting of 12 members from all members and an equal mix from different working groups. He explained that the 2 separate documents distributed prior to the meeting were an integral part of the evaluation. The main question of today's meeting was deciding from SIREUS Stakeholders whether to continue with the SIREUS Member network as existing today. Christer also expanded on the lessons learned from the project.

- SIREUS Platform too ambitious for the resources allocated at universities
- Lack of government funding => not sustainable operation
- 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

He explained the recommendations from the Evaluation team and the recommendation from the Steering Committee meeting on May 28th, last week.

The Stakeholders Group all agreed that the project has been very valuable since new contacts and opportunities for partnerships have been introduced. There has been given plenty of opportunities to cooperate among the Swedish universities, although the meeting concluded that the members have not taken full advantage of this opportunity. They also expressed their gratitude to Christer, SACC USA and the trainees for their dedicated and focused work during the project.

The formal decision from the Stakeholders Group is that the SIREUS project in its current form should be concluded as per the project plan, January 31st, 2025.

Christer will bring this decision from the SIREUS group to SACC USA and will work on scenarios on how to continue some of the activities with a different business model. He will report on this to the Steering Committee after the summer.

He also mentioned that he will work with a subgroup of the Steering Committee to create a working group that will create a communication plan and a formal statement to the American Affiliated Universities.

SIREUS Stakeholders Group Minutes

5. AOB & Next meeting

Since there were no Other Business for the meeting, Christer thanked the participants for the meeting and wished all of them a “Glad Midsommar” and a relaxing summer vacation.

The next stakeholders group meeting will be held via Teams on December 17th, 2024 @ 16:00 CT (10:00 am ET). Christer asked the group if they still wanted to hold the planned meeting in December and everyone agreed that it would be good to have a final meeting for the project.

- December 17th @ 16:00 (10am ET)

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