

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 1 Business

Meeting # 16

Date: August 27th, 2024

Minutes prepared by Annie Arcini Lundwall – April 27th 2024

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology		
University of Gothenburg	Lena Pedersen	Present
Jönköping University		
Linköping University	Therese Lindkvist	Not present
Linnaeus University	Torbjörn Håkansson	Present
Luleå University of Technology		
Lund University	Lisa Thelin	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Not present
Mälardalen University	Daniel Boqvist Mikael Hjorth	Not present Not Present
Stockholm University	Maryam Hansson Edalat	Present
Uppsala University	Cecilia Nilsson	Not present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Charlotte Kramer	Not present
SIRUES Trainee	Annie Arcini Lundwall	Present
SACC USA - SIREUS	Christer Bergman	Present & Group Leader

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - a. Update on WG participants
 - b. Review of minutes from last meeting
 - c. Update on SIREUS progress
2. SIREUS 2.0 Decision
3. WG Structure
4. SIREUS RESEARCH forum
5. SIREUS Affiliation of Companies
6. Thematic Areas
7. Next meeting

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. Christer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone back after the summer. He introduced Annie Arcini Lundvall and Alice Berntson as the new trainees for SIREUS. He then spoke briefly about the agenda for the meeting. He talked about the upcoming student recruitment events in the US.

2. SIREUS 2.0, we will not have a membership network where the universities will pay an amount per year but keep SIREUS as a concept so that we can have different events. We need to create a positive narrative for the change since there are many stakeholders involved, including all the universities. The proposal is that the SIREUS concept will continue for 2 years, we continue to have a network and SACC USA will offer different SIREUS Events that have been popular during the SIREUS project. The difference being that the universities must commit and pay for the specific events prior to the event. The proposal is to transition the members network to an affiliation, like what we have with the American universities, with no membership commitments from the universities. Christer referred to the latest Steering Committee and expects the final decision on structure and the way forward at the next steering committee in September.

SIREUS have made some program sheet (“two-pagers”) for 4 different events, specifically Study in Sweden (fall of 2025), SIREUS ENTREPRENURS forum (Denver – March 2025), SIREUS MEMBERS forum in conjunction with the NAFSA conference (San Diego, May 2025) and a potential Innovation tour (place and time to be decided).

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This fall we will have Study in Sweden 2024 – Washington DC, October 4th, New York, October 7th and San Francisco/Silicon Valley on October 11th & 12th.

3. Lena mentioned that maybe WG 1 is not that “important” anymore? Torbjorn asks if the concept will be that they pay if they want to join an event. Christer confirms that and then says that we need to have commitment in that case and that we will need info on who wants to join around 5 months prior to the event. Then Christer confirms that he recommends that WG1 should be shut down, all meeting participants agreed.

4. RESEARCH forum, webinar series, Christer informs about the fourth RESEARCH forum on September 10th GTI (Green Transition Initiative) will moderate and invite speakers for the webinar that will focus on Smart Buildings. Christer mentioned that more RESEARCH forums are expected during the fall. He also mentioned that there is a dialog with Maria Brogren about potentially taking a lead of this webinar series after SIREUS project has ended.

5. The SIREUS Affiliation of Companies project is paused, due to the uncertainty of the SIREUS 2.0

6. When it comes to the Thematic Areas that SIREUS has focused on, Christer extended a warm thanks to Torbjörn for being very supportive when this project started. Many organizations (both Swedish and American) have been very impressed about the areas that were chosen and the content that is displayed on our website. The idea has always been that there should be arranged workshops within a specific thematic area. Christer mentioned that GTI arrange the Green Transition Summit on October 22nd and SIREUS will arrange a roundtable on a specific topic the following day. Information will be sent out very soon.

7. There will no next meeting, since we decided that the WG1 will be dissolved. Christer thanked all the participants for their support, wisdom and dedication and hoped that our paths somehow cross in the future. Maryam thanks for the time, all then contacts and ideas that have developed, “US will still be on the map for the academy and says that we probably will keep in contact in other ways”. Lena also thanks for the time, that things take time and resources and agrees with Maryam that it still will be opportunities in the US. Torbjorn also wants to thank for this time and Christer's leadership, also about the connections and network that has been built.

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