

## Working Group Minutes

Working Group 2 University

Meeting # 15

Date: June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Minutes prepared by Sara Lindenius– June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

### Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Jens Hansson	Not present
University of Gothenburg	Mikaela Green	Present
Jönköping University	Mudar Hill	Present
Linköping University	Caroline Sturesson	Present
Linnaeus University	Annett Wolf	Not Present
Luleå University of Technology		
Lund University	Alice Kjellson	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl Maria Fredlund	Not present Not present
Mälardalen University	Monica Odlare Marcus Kjellberg	Not present Not present
Stockholm University	Niklas Tranaeus	Not present
Uppsala University	Elizabeth Blum	Present
<b>Partners</b>		
SIREUS Trainees	Sarah Pålsson	Present
SIREUS Trainees	Sara Lindenius	Present
SACC USA - SIREUS	Christer Bergman	Present

## Agenda

1. Welcome
  - a. Update on WG participants
  - b. Review of minutes from last meeting
  - c. Update on SIREUS progress
2. SIREUS 2<sup>nd</sup> half evaluation
3. SIREUS Research Forum
4. Thematic Areas
  - a. Implementation on the website – desired focus...
5. WG2 activities
  - a. NAFSA 2024
  - b. Social Media Initiative
6. Next Meetings

## 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. a. Christer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.  
b. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.  
c. Christer circled back to the discussion about summer schools and mentioned that Hanna from the Swedish Institute responded, stating that it's not primarily the Swedish Institute's area to promote part-time students. However, she provided some helpful materials for summer schools. Christer also noted that the Swedish Institute has updated its portal, making it easier for us as a part of a chamber to apply for funding when it's not through the embassy. He added that we are consistently publishing posts on social media for the summer schools, a practice we intend to continue.
2. Christer provided updates from the recent steering committee meeting and his meeting with the stakeholder group on June 4th. It seems that the SIREUS project will undergo changes in its current form. The three-year project is set to conclude in January 2025. Both the Steering Committee and Stakeholder Group members are interested in adopting a more focused approach in specific areas, recognizing the valuable knowledge SIREUS has brought. The Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce is exploring the possibility of offering specific "products" such as NAFSA 2025, Study in Sweden, and ENTREPRENEURS forum, while maintaining the SIREUS brand. Finalizing decisions on this transformation, including how relationships with affiliated universities and companies will be managed, will take a couple of months. Discussions are also ongoing regarding potential collaboration with partners like Vinnova, KK-stiftelsen, and the Swedish Institute for potential sponsorship or partnership.

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3. Christer mentioned that SIREUS is planning three new research forums. One will focus on Green Transition, with the SIREUS team collaborating with the Green Transition Initiative (GTI). Sponsored by the Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova, and the Swedish Embassy, GTI is a sibling project of SIREUS, emphasizing green initiatives in the US. GTI plans to host a Green Transition Summit in October. In conjunction with this summit, SIREUS plans to organize a research forum in September, bringing together American and Swedish researchers to discuss the topic of green transition.

SIREUS is also exploring the possibility of a research forum on bilateral cancer research funding. Christer has reached out to Åsa Wallin from LiU, who moderated a similar discussion at the Swedish Embassy.

Additionally, Christer has been in discussions with Vinnova and the Swedish Embassy regarding a potential session related to the Vinnova and NSF agreement on bilateral funding. There is potential for their participation in a SIREUS research forum.

4. Christer has discussed with Vinnova, and they expressed interest in sponsoring relevant events, such as workshops focusing on 6G technology, both in digital and physical formats. Additionally, Christer updated the group about the round table discussion attended by SIREUS at the Swedish Embassy two weeks ago, which centered on AI and Social Change. We contributed by providing a speaker from South Dakota State.

5.a. During the remainder of the meeting, the SIREUS MEMBERS forum held on May 29th was discussed. Mudar Hill expressed his gratitude and positive impression of the event, noting that their partners were also pleased. Christer reminded the group that the event took place at BK House, a historic venue, and featured live jazz music performed by Sigrid, a Swedish singer residing in New Orleans. Cecilia Kjellgren, the Honorary Consul of Sweden in New Orleans, provided great assistance to the SIREUS team and attended the event. The Swedish Institute contributed \$5000 towards the event, which had a total cost of \$11,437. There were 191 registered participants from 24 countries and 21 American states, with 126 attendees in total. Many guests expressed their satisfaction with the event and thanked the SIREUS team.

The SIREUS team is currently developing a brochure to allow universities to purchase participation in next year's SIREUS MEMBERS forum in conjunction with the NAFSA conference. Meeting attendees discussed the challenges of sharing information about SIREUS within universities and persuading other institutions of its value. To address this, SIREUS plans to provide informative brochures, after which universities will attempt to promote the concept internally.

In conclusion, the event was highly successful, and plans are already underway for next year's SIREUS MEMBERS forum in San Diego.

b. Sarah Pålsson updated the group on the social media initiative for the SIREUS MEMBERS forum. Prior to the event, Sarah sent out questions about the NAFSA conference, which universities responded to.

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These responses were later shared on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Moving forward, it would be beneficial if universities were more proactive in reposting, liking, and engaging with the published posts.

6. Next scheduled meeting is on August 29<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST). Christer presented the meeting calendar for the rest of 2024.

- a. August 29<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- b. October 10<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- c. November 21<sup>st</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

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