

## Working Group Minutes

Working Group 2 University

Meeting # 15

Date: August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Minutes prepared by Alice Berntson – August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

### Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Jens Hansson	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	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	Present
Uppsala University	Elizabeth Blum	Not Present
<b>Partners</b>		
SIREUS Trainees	Alice Berntson	Present
SIREUS Trainees	Annie Arcini Lundwall	Present
SACC USA - SIREUS	Christer Bergman	Present
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Present

## 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 MEMBERS forum
5. SIREUS RESEARCH forum
6. Thematic Areas
7. Next meetings

## Presentation material

During the meeting, a ppt presentation was used following the agenda sent out before it. This ppt presentation will be archived on the SIREUS website alongside the minutes.

## Minutes

1. Christer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
  - a) Christer presents the new interns Alice and Annie, both of whom have studied in Lund.
  - b) The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.
  - c) Christer briefly presented the progress on SIREUS and the activities.
2. Christer explained that on June 5th, the Stakeholders Group (principals of the university) decided on the way forward for SIREUS. The decision was that SIREUS will not continue as a member network. The recommendation is that the member network will be transitioned to an affiliation, like the Affiliation of American Universities. The final structure will be decided at the Steering Committee meeting in September. Christer continued and informed the group that since there will not be a members' network, SIREUS is planning to offer four program/events that has been popular during the SIREUS project. The program/events are 1. The SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum, in Denver during March 2. May, SIREUS MEMBERS forum, that was held in New Orleans during the NAFSA conference (2025 the conference will be in San Diego). 3. SIREUS INNOVATION tour was held last February together with six universities in Texas and 4. Study in Sweden 2025 event.

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3. During the last WG1 meeting it was decided that WG 1 will be dissolved, since there are no new initiatives being planned together with that WG.

Christer explains that SIREUS would like to continue with WG 2, not as a regular WG, but connected to the MEMBERS Forum events and similar activities. A WG/planning group could then be created around the specific event.

4. Christer presented the preliminary program document for SIREUS MEMBER Forum 2025. This is planned in conjunction with NAFSA 20925 in San Diego. SIREUS will send out information regarding the event approximately six months before. He explains that to be part of the event, the Universities must sign up at least six months before. It is brought up during the meeting that the last event held in New Orleans was appreciated and gave room for spontaneous meetings and conversations with partner universities. Other members agree and share their positive experience with the MEMBERS forum.

5. SIREUS RESEARCH forum is explained by Christer. He tells the group about the next webinar will be held on September 10<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with GTI, Green Transition Initiative (sister organization to SIREUS). Executive Director Linda Andren will be the moderator and invited three excellent professors in sustainable buildings.

The fifth SIREUS RESEARCH forum is planned together with Nicole Forsberg. The preliminary date is September 26<sup>th</sup>. Christer says he and Maria Brogren at the embassy are discussing whether the forums will be arranged by SIREUS in the future or by the embassy. Maria Brogren adds that some form of digital forum regarding research and Universities in USA will be of interest to host. The aim of the forums would be to contribute with insights that are of value for the Universities.

6. Oktober 22<sup>nd</sup> GTI are hosting a Green Transition Summit where SIREUS also are invited. The day after, on the October 23<sup>rd</sup> SIREUS will be hosting a round table discussion. Maria Brogren will be the moderator during this event.

A meeting between the University of Texas at Dallas and GU will take place in Gothenburg, soon regarding a potential collaboration.

Penn State University and Chalmers University is planning to hold a Workshop in March next year. Christer says that a few workshops are in the loop even after SIREUS transition as an organization. The aim is to still be able to improve collaboration between American and Swedish Universities.

7. A discussion among some of the University representatives comes up. A discussion regarding insurance for Swedish exchange students in America. Maria Brogren asks for the issue to be written down to forward it to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Education department. It is concluded that

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three of the University representatives will formulate a letter regarding the problem that Maria Brogren can put forward.

Christer wraps everything up and concludes shortly what has been brought up during the meeting. Christer thanks everyone for participating.

Next meeting is scheduled to be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST). Christer presented the meeting calendar for the rest of 2024.

~~August 29<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)~~

October 10<sup>th</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

November 21<sup>st</sup> @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

The Swedish American Chambers of Commerce of the USA, Inc.,  
House of Sweden, 2900 K Street NW, Suite 401, Washington DC, 20007  
[info@sireus.org](mailto:info@sireus.org), [www.sireus.org](http://www.sireus.org)

