

## Working Group Minutes

Working Group 3 Innovation

Meeting # 16

Date: August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Minutes prepared by Annie Arcini Lundwall – August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Charlotte Emlind Vahul	Not present
University of Gothenburg	Jonas Rimbäck	Present
Jönköping University	<b>No representation</b>	Not present
Linköping University	Åsa Wallin	Not present
Linnaeus University	Johan Höglund	Not present
	Annett Wolf	Present
Luleå University of Technology	Marita Holst	Present
Lund University	Niclas Nilsson	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Sten Wigert	Present
Mälardalen University	Christer Nygren	Not present
	Radu Dobrin	Not present
Stockholm University	Maryam Hansson Edalat	Present
Uppsala University	Malin Graffner Nordberg	Present
<b>Partners</b>		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Present
	Jenny Majidyar	Not present
SACC Trainees	Annie Arcini Lundwall	Present
SACC USA	Christer Bergman	Present & Group Leader

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### 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 ENTREPRENEURS forum
5. SIREUS RESEARCH forum
6. Thematic Areas
7. 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.

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 also mentioned upcoming student recruitment events in the US.
2.

SIREUS 2.0, we will not have a membership network where the universities will pay a membership fee per year but keep SIREUS as a concept and then offer 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 to an affiliation network, 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.

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SIREUS have made some program sheet (“two-pagers”) for 4 different events, specifically Study in Sweden (fall of 2025), SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS 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).

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

3.

We have paused the affiliation companies’ program and the WG structure will be changed (WG1 will be dissolved). Maria and Christer have discussed about potential structures and activities for the future so that all stakeholders can continue in a network and exchange important information and ideas on an ongoing basis.

SIREUS have organized different events and programs during the past years. We have made (“two-pagers”) for the events. SIREUS MEMBERS forum was this year in New Orleans, and this fall we will have Study in Sweden 2024 – Washington DC, October 4<sup>th</sup>, New York, October 7<sup>th</sup> and San Francisco/Silicon Valley on October 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>.

Christer anticipates that we can keep the SIREUS initiative and network active also without membership but with affiliation. These (“two-pagers”) we have made are for the possibilities of selling these events in the future.

4.

The proposal is that this WG focus on SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum and SIREUS INNOVATION tour. The difference of SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum (Christer's' shows two-pagers) is now that it will not be included in a package, instead everyone that wants to join will pay. Maria informed that there are funds available, but the universities must apply for the funds. SACC will continue to inform Vinnova, KK stiftelsen and others about the program. The estimated price for the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum is 4,000 dollars. It's important for SIREUS to know how many of the universities are interested in participating as early as possible. 5-6 months prior to the event, the university has to commit and pay the registration fee in order for SIREUS to book venue, catering and other resources needed for the event.

Christer opens to questions and gives examples of what Malin said last time about the university's budget. Malin comments on this and says that she thinks she could talk for everyone that there is not a lot of money at the universities. Although she says that the events have been really good, but the specific department can't pay for it. Maria asks Malin if there is any bright future in the research department and Malin says that we can't know that until November when that government presents the new program. Maryam says that the operating cost makes it difficult for the universities. She also mentions that the Minister of Research stated the budget is quite constrained. Moreover, she talks about Ukraine and NATO and that there probably won't be any money to use. Malin also says that with higher salaries comes more costs. Christer then made a short summary of the conversation and proposed to bring up the conversation during the next WG meeting.

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Another program flyer has been made; SIREUS Innovation tour, earlier this year we had a visit to Texas. If we are to do it again, it would be helpful if the universities indicated what regional and/or thematic area that would be interesting to visit. Maria could support in indicating what is important in the US in research. In Texas we had affiliated universities that helped with premises and that we might not have in all cities, but we have regional SACC chambers that can help with the arrangements and maybe the affiliated universities with contacts. No date is set for that, that we can decide together.

5.

The SIREUS RESEARCH forum is free. Next one is on September 10<sup>th</sup> and the registration will be sent out soon. This time we work together GTI (Green Transition Initiative), a parallel organization to SIREUS, it's an initiative that the energy department, Vinnova, the Swedish Embassy and Business Sweden supports. Linda, the Executive Director, will be the moderator, and they will speak about sustainable housing. Maria says that it is good that we connect with GTI. They help with green transition and innovation partnership. One task for GTI in the future will be to connect the relevant impact innovations and Shift Sweden will be the program for GTI's responsibility.

Another research forum September 26<sup>th</sup> with Nicole Forsberg – more information will be communicated soon.

Another event is that GTI will have the Green Transition Summit on October 22<sup>th</sup>, in Washington DC (House of Sweden). SIREUS will participate and the day after we are arranging a round table discussion about green transition, the specific topic is not finalized yet.

When the SIREUS project has ended, Maria is interested in continuing with a forum to keep the dialogue with the Swedish Universities. The format is not set yet, but probably on a quarterly basis. Maria emphasized that it is very important to continue with bilateral academic cooperations. We recently found out that the University of Texas at Dallas and University of Gothenburg are working on a partnership.

6.

Christer says that he's proud of the process that led to SIREUS focusing on the thematic areas. We have gotten a lot of good feedback from different organizations regarding our website and the thematic areas. Workshops can be arranged in a specific area, please let us (SIREUS, the Swedish Embassy or SACC USA) about your ideas and focus then we will try to arrange something. Penn State University have reached out to us for a potential workshop during March 2025.

7.

Next meetings – October 8<sup>th</sup>. Questions to discuss are for example if there are possibilities with the different forums, (research/entrepreneurs).

Jonas asked if the universities would need to pay for the trips and logistics, and then pay the fee of 4,000 \$. Christer confirms that this is the same as previous years, the difference being that since there are no membership fees, the event needs to be paid for separately. SIREUS will send

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marketing materials for the forums to the group so that they can share with their colleagues at the universities.

Next meeting is scheduled to be held on October 8th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

- ~~August 27th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)~~
- October 8th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- November 19th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

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

No other topics were discussed, and Christer thanked the members and concluded the meeting.

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