

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 4 Sweden

Meeting # 13

Date: March 21st, 2024

Minutes prepared by Sarah Pålsson – March 21st, 2024

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Linda Millsvik	Not present
University of Gothenburg	John Molander	Present
Jönköping University	Eric Freid	Present
Linköping University	Therese Winder	Present
Linnaeus University	Stefan Haglund	Present
Luleå University of Technology	Robert Omberg	Not present
Lund University	Maria Lindblad	Present
Mid Sweden University	Ellen Horbach	Not present
Mälardalen University	Johanna Forsström	Present
	Niclas Johansson	Not present
	Hans Öberg	Present
Stockholm University	Tina Larsson	Present
Uppsala University	Lina Solander	Not present
	Matt Greig	Not present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Jenny Majidyar	Present
SACC Trainees	Sarah Pålsson	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 2nd half evaluation
3. SIREUS RESEARCH forum
4. Thematic Areas
 - a. Implemented on the website. Workshops – desired focus
5. Target American Universities
 - a. Individual plans – what area would be interesting?
6. Review of activities
 - a. Study in Sweden 2024
 - b. SI Interaction
 - c. SIREUS MEMBERS forum (NAFSA 2024)
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.
 - a. Christer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Christer announced that meetings will now be 45 minutes instead of the previously scheduled 1.5 hours.
 - b. Christer summarized the agenda for the meeting and the previous meeting's minutes were reviewed.
 - c. Christer updated the group about what's been going on with SIREUS since the last meeting. He mentioned the SIREUS Texas Innovation Tour, which took place over four days in February and was a success. University representatives got to visit six university affiliated locations. He also mentioned the ongoing SIREUS ENTREPRENURS forum in Denver, Colorado which many Swedish universities and university startups are participating at. So far, the forum is a great success.
2. Christer thanked the SIREUS evaluation group, in which Stefan, Maria and Tina are a part of, for their work. He then informed the group that there was recently a meeting in Stockholm, discussing the feedback from the working groups. The main question discussed was "what happens after February 1st next year?". There have been more meetings since, looking at the recommendations moving forward. On April 9th, there will be a new meeting with the evaluation group on how to proceed before the matter moves on to the steering committee where a decision will be made in May.

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3. So far SIREUS has conducted three SIREUS RESEARCH forums. Christer informed the group that the average number of attendees is now around 55 people, which is great as many of them are new to the SIREUS concept. He then extended a thank you to all who had passed on the invitations, plausibly causing this surge in attendees. As of now, the SIREUS team is discussing next steps for the forum. One webinar prospect is Åsa Wallin, who recently had a presentation about bilateral funding for cancer research at the House of Sweden in Washington D.C.
4. a. Christer reminded the group to utilize the thematic areas and to give SIREUS feedback on focus areas.
5. SIREUS currently has 11 American Affiliated Universities. A recent development is that Georgetown University signed with SIREUS to become an Affiliated University. University of Georgia is also interested in working with Sweden, and Christer expects them to sign soon.
6. a. Christer invited Therese to talk more about Study in Sweden 2024. Therese shares that she has been conducting meetings in small group where they have discussed possible dates for Study in Sweden 2024. A concern now is that it might clash with EAIE, which is during the weekdays. Because of this a weekend would be preferable for a mingle event at House of Sweden, like last time. She then suggested moving on to New York and hosting a Sweden Alumni event. Followed by moving on to the Bay area and Nordic Innovation House, depending on availability. Seattle and Minneapolis are also locations of interest. There are talks of hosting four events, two on each coast.

Christer then opened up the discussion. Jenny asked if there had been any evaluation of previous events. Maria added to the discussion and asked about the proposal to have events on both coasts. Christer thought it might be too much traveling and too high of a budget. He also answered Jenny that there had been several evaluations which he then briefed her about shortly.

b. The issues regarding marketing for events were raised and Christer concluded that SIREUS will continue working with marketing for specific events, but also incorporate the universities more in everyday marketing.

Jenny pitched in and shared an updated look of the event calendar at the House of Sweden, stating it is more difficult to book the venue on a weekend as House of Sweden is usually open to the public during the weekends.

Christer then moved on and suggested to form a planning group for Study in Sweden. A group of three volunteered and Christer said he would get back to them and schedule a meeting.

c. Lastly, Christer talked about NAFSA 2024, which takes place on May 29th in New Orleans. During this day SIREUS will host a SIREUS MEMBERS forum. SI is involved in the process. Christer

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is in contact with Cecilia Kjellgren at the Honorary Consulate in New Orleans who is helping with venues and catering. As of now the catering is too expensive, but Christer announced that we are working on it. It currently costs 8000 USD, and the aim is around 4000 USD. A Save the Date will be sent out soon. Member Universities get to fill up 20 slots for free, Affiliated Universities get 5 slots for free, and other universities will have to pay a fee to attend.

7. The next scheduled meeting is on May 2nd @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST). Christer presented the meeting calendar for the year.
 - a. May 2nd @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)
 - b. June 5th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)
 - c. August 29th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)
 - d. October 10th @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)
 - e. November 21st @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)

The meeting calendar can be found on the website (private area).

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

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