

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 4 Sweden

Meeting # 14

Date: May 2nd, 2024

Minutes prepared by Sarah Pålsson – May 2nd, 2024

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Linda Millsvik	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 Linda Alfredsson	Not present Present
Lund University	Maria Lindblad	Present
Mid Sweden University	Ellen Horbach	Present
Mälardalen University	Johanna Forsström Niclas Johansson Hans Öberg	Present Not present Not present
Stockholm University	Tina Larsson	Present
Uppsala University	Lina Solander Matt Greig	Not present Not present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Jenny Majidyar	Present
Swedish Institute	Hannah Maxwell	Present (part of meeting)
SACC Trainees	Sarah Pålsson Sara Lindenius	Present 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. He then introduced Sara Lindenius, SIREUS's Event and Coordination Intern, who joined the meeting to discuss Study in Sweden. Christer reminded everyone 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. He then informed everyone that Hannah Maxwell from SI would join the meeting at the end to discuss Study in Sweden and general update from SI.
 - c. Christer updated the group about what's been going on with SIREUS since the last meeting. He mentioned that a planning group for Study in Sweden has been formed and is actively working on planning the event. Other than that, the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum took place in Colorado and was a great success. The evaluation process of SIREUS is also continuing and the current SIREUS interns have recruited new interns for the fall season.
2. The SIREUS evaluation group, in which Stefan, Maria and Tina are a part of, has held four meetings so far. On April 16th a recommendation was issued from the group to the Steering Committee. On May 8th, a second update meeting is scheduled with the Steering Committee. On May 28th the Steering Committee is scheduled to decide SIREUS's future. On June 4th this will be made official by the Stakeholders Group. It is almost decided that the SIREUS project will not

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continue in its current shape. This is due to a scarcity of resources from the universities and that the scope of SIREUS is been too broad. Christer talked about potentially creating one group that focuses on talent mobility, and another that focuses on innovation and entrepreneurship. This means that future memberships would be more cost-effective and specific. In order to get government funding, the SIREUS project needs to be open to all universities and not to a selected few member. This is something SIREUS is working on for the upcoming SIREUS MEMBERS forum. SIREUS is getting funding from SI and therefore we are offering non-members the chance to come to the event if they pay.

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. SIREUS is also in talks with Green Transition Initiative (GTI) and planning on having them as speakers. Another prospect is discussing bilateral funding in connection with Vinnova, Vetenskapsrådet, and NSF.
4. a. Christer said that he had no specific updates regarding thematic areas. Vinnova is interested in collaborating with SIREUS in this area. He then reminded the group to utilize the thematic areas and to give SIREUS feedback on focus areas.
5. Christer did not address this topic.
6. a. Christer presented the plan for Study in Sweden. The plan is to host two events at the House of Sweden in Washington D.C. on October 4th, followed by two events in New York on October 7th and on October 8th. The tour moves over to the west coast with events on October 11th and October 12th in the San Fransisco area. Christer said he could not get ahold of Nordic Innovation House but will keep trying. The reason for the gap in the schedule between New York and San Fransisco is due to an environmental event in New York on October 9th that some universities intent to attend. The plan is to have finalized the bookings of venues and start looking at flights and hotels by the next meeting on June 5th. Christer informed attendees that he is planning on inviting Blekinge Institute of Technology, and this has been approved. Later, Hannah Maxwell from SI joined the meeting and was briefed on Study in Sweden by Christer. Hannah also briefed everyone on SI's new funding portal, and that SI has a toolbox with materials that can be used for events available for Study in Sweden.

b. Christer revisited the marketing issues raised for events, concluding that SIREUS will continue its focus on event-specific marketing while also incorporating universities more into everyday marketing efforts. An example of this is the ongoing marketing campaign that Sarah Pålsson, Marketing and Communications Intern is responsible for the marketing in connection with

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NAFSA 2024, our Member Universities, and their Summer School initiatives.

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. SIREUS has secured a venue, BK historic House and Gardens, and a singer, band, catering, and waiters have been secured as well. Christer thanked Cecilia Kjellgren at the Honorary Consulate in New Orleans who has been a huge help finding venues and catering. Local universities will get a few seats, non-members will get seats through SI if they pay for it.

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