

Minutes from Danish SDC board meeting, 13 December 2011, 17.00-18.30 at Danske Universiteter, Fiolstræde 44.

Participants: Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen (AU, Chair), Ib Poulsen (RUC), Henrik Pedersen (SDU), Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS), Nils O. Andersen (KU), Martin Bendsøe (DTU), Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU), Lene Lange (SKYPE from Bruxelles)

Morten Laugesen

Sekretariatschef, ph.d.

Dato: 03. april 2012

Side 1/4

Executive Director Hans Gregersen and special advisor Morten Laugesen represented the Danish SDC-secretariat.

Agenda:

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes from Danish SDC board meeting, 21 September 2011
3. Brief status of SDC activities since last board meeting
4. SDC accounts for 3rd quarter 2011
5. SDC budget for 2012
6. Other issues

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from Danish SDC board meeting, 21 September 2011

The minutes were approved.

3. Brief status of SDC activities since last board meeting

Hans Gregersen informed the board that he had spent the previous month in China planning the launch of the four Master's programs starting in September 2012. It is a difficult task because of different traditions and ways of doing things in Denmark and China.

Lene Lange mentioned that despite the many obstacles and initial transaction costs of the project it is important to hold one's head high and keep in mind that Danish researchers generally experience a high degree of commitment from their Chinese colleagues.



House of the Danish Industry Foundation

Hans Gregersen gave a brief account on the status of the House of the Danish Industry Foundation. The schedule as it was approved by the JMC at its meeting in September 2011 is not proceeding according to plan as GUCAS this autumn informed the Danish side that the size and design of the basement did not meet government regulations and consequently had to be changed. In order to find a solution, representatives from the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education visited Beijing in early December to meet with GUCAS and Beijing Municipal Bureau of Civil Air Defense. Unfortunately the construction of the building has been postponed another ten weeks and it is now expected to be ready only shortly before the second batch of students will start their studies in September 2013.

Double degrees for PhD students

GUCAS has informed the Danish SDC secretariat that Chinese citizens enrolled as PhD students in foreign universities cannot receive a double degree according to Chinese national regulations. The Danish SDC secretariat has requested relevant documentation from GUCAS that supports this statement but has so far not received useful material.

Until this issue is fully clarified, the Danish SDC secretariat will contact all Chinese citizens enrolled as PhD students in Danish universities and inform them that they will likely not receive a Chinese degree upon completion of their project.

Tuition fee for Master's students

Hans Gregersen informed that the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education has contacted Su Gang, Vice President in charge of financial affairs at GUCAS, and presented him with a suggestion on how to define the group of Master's students that will have tuition fee waived. GUCAS has not responded to the enquiry yet.

Accreditation of the Master's programs on the Chinese side

The Chinese SDC-Director has informed Hans Gregersen that GUCAS has handed in the Master's programs application to the local authorities in Beijing, which has requested additional information and documentation from GUCAS. It is uncertain when the local authorities will approve the application and forward it to the Ministry of Education for decisive approval.

SDC roadshow to promote coming Master's programs

Hans Gregersen informed the board that the SDC-secretariat together with representatives from the universities had arranged a road-show to six of the eight universities to promote the four SDC Master's programs starting in September 2012. Altogether approximately 60 interested students showed up at the 10 arrangements with the vast majority of students interested in the two Master's pro-



grams from Social Science (Innovation Management and Public Management & Social Development).

Morten Laugesen informed that the SDC-secretariat together with the universities will now carefully evaluate the road-show and look into why a limited number of students showed up to the presentations of the Master's programs in Neuroscience & Neuroimaging and Water & Environment.

In order to recruit the sufficient number of students to each of the four SDC Master's programs, the universities must actively promote all Master's programs to relevant students.

The board took notice of the account and asked to receive information about future activities.

Development of future Master's programs in nano, omics and energy

Hans Gregersen reported from the recent meeting with the Danish Principal Coordinators, where planning of the coming Master's programs was an important issue. Much information is still needed from the Chinese side in order to plan the coming semesters in detail.

New Master's programs are currently being developed for nano and omics with expected start in September 2013. Hans Gregersen informed the board that he has repeatedly stressed to the energy theme that they are also expected to develop a Master's program to start in 2013 so that all of the five research themes will offer Master's programs by 2013. Master's programs are an important part of the overall strategy for the SDC that aims to link educational activities for Master students and PhD students with research activities relevant for Danish companies in China.

Hans Gregersen informed the board that so far all initiatives to develop Master's programs have come from the Danish side.

Jørgen Staunstrup commented that from the very beginning of the SDC it has been a clear precondition that all research areas develop Master's programs to supplement their research activities.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen concluded the discussion and stated that all research themes included in the SDC are committed to develop Master's programs at some point that is optimal for the unfolding of the educational package of SDC. SDC is a full cooperation with strong visions for the future collaboration between Denmark and China and hence not just a simple funding opportunity for ordinary research activities. If one is only interested in research collaboration there are plenty of other research councils to apply for funding.

4. SDC accounts for 3rd quarter 2011

Accounts for the third quarter of 2011 were presented to the board.



The estimated total costs for 2011 are less than the original forecast made in early 2011. All research areas have carried out fewer activities in China than expected at the years beginning.

The board took note of the information provided and asked Hans Gregersen to prepare the annual accounts for 2011 for the coming board meeting.

5. SDC budget for 2012

Hans Gregersen presented the first draft of a budget for 2012 based on the reports from the research areas. The SDC-secretariat will now process the reports and draw up a final budget for 2012.

Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard noted that costs for running the Danish SDC-secretariat are expected to increase in real figures in 2012 whereas the Danish universities have been instructed to reduce administrative costs and enquired about specific plans for establishing a secretariat in Beijing and how future division of work between the secretariats in Beijing and Aarhus. Hans Gregersen replied that some administrative functions will be handled by the Chinese secretariat in the future, but there will continuously be a need for a secretariat in Denmark to coordinate the Danish activities.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen pointed out that costs for administration will inevitably constitute a large proportion of the total costs during the initial years of comprehensive projects such as SDC.

In 2012, expected costs for administration are only slightly higher than what is the norm at Danish universities and thus the important thing is to exercise duty of care for the time being.

6. Other issues

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen asked the board members not to distribute material meant to be circulated within the board to non-board members. It is important that the board can discuss relevant matters in a closed forum without information being leaked.

Hans Gregersen informed the board that he has been in contact with the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education on a regular basis to discuss tax issues related to long-term stationing of Danish researchers in China. Basically very little development has happened during the last year. The main obstacle now for reestablishing the practice with individual employment contracts for researchers (a prerequisite for tax exemption) is the demand by unions to expand agreements from being confined to Denmark to Worldwide.

The board asked Hans Gregersen to present some calculations of the costs related to various staff categories spending time in China.