

Minutes from Danish SDC board meeting, 13 March 2012, 14.00-16.00 at Aarhus University

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

Morten Laugesen

Sekretariatschef, ph.d.

Dato: 11. april 2012

Side 1/4

Ib Poulsen (RUC) was absent with notice.

SDC-Director Hans Gregersen and Morten Laugesen represented the SDC-secretariat.

Agenda:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes from SDC board meeting, 13 December 2011
3. SDC accounts 2011 and budget 2012
4. Challenges
 - a. Marketing and recruitment of students
 - b. Lecturers' affiliation with SDC
 - c. SDC and collaboration with Danish companies
5. Coming SDC-themes
6. Other issues

1. Approval of agenda

The board decided to approve the agenda with an added item 4.d. Other challenges.

2. Approval of minutes from Danish SDC board meeting, 13 December 2011

Jørgen Staunstrup had prior to the meeting informed the Chairman that he found a few phrases in the minutes from the previous meeting inappropriate and hence could not approve the minutes.

The board discussed the form and content of minutes from future board meetings. Hans Gregersen stressed that it is important that he can report straightfor-



wardly about the collaboration with the Chinese partner and the progress and challenges of the project and that the board can openly discuss any issues at the meetings.

The board decided that all minutes from Danish SDC board meetings in the future should be in English and made accessible via the Danish SDC-secretariat's website.

The board asked Hans Gregersen to modify the minutes from the latest board meeting and redistribute them to the board members as soon as possible.

3. SDC accounts 2011 and budget 2012

Hans Gregersen presented the accounts for 2011 and a revised budget for 2012 based on the latest information from the Danish research environments received by the Danish SDC secretariat.

A budget for the 'Directors box' 2013 will be made as soon as possible as it must be approved by the JMC at the meeting in June 2012 in Copenhagen.

The activity level on the Danish side in 2011 increased significantly compared to 2010. It is expected to increase further in 2012 as a large quantity of PhD projects have been initiated from the Danish side. In addition, a large number of Danish researchers will spend time in China this autumn to teach the coming four Master's programmes.

Costs for running the Danish SDC-secretariat in 2011 increased compared to 2010 due to more staffing and high marketing expenses for the SDC Master's programmes.

The board approved the accounts and the revised budget and asked Hans Gregersen to provide information about the financial contributions as well as the amount deposited at Aarhus University and the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education respectively.

4. Challenges

a. Marketing and recruitment of students

Hans Gregersen informed the board of the many marketing activities the Danish SDC-secretariat had been involved in since the four Master's programmes were approved by the Danish Accreditation Institute in late autumn 2011.

The Danish SDC-secretariat will evaluate the process and the collaboration with the Danish universities after the application deadline of 1 April, 2012.

The board asked Hans Gregersen to produce a memo with information about application and enrollment procedures for students, who apply through the Danish university.



b. Lecturers' affiliation with SDC

Hans Gregersen informed the board of the need to include non-university staff as lecturers on some of the Master's programmes, e.g. Neuroscience and neuroimaging, where some lecturers must be recruited among staff employed by the Danish regions working at the university hospitals. As the agreement between the Danish universities state that Danish personnel at SDC in China must be employed at a Danish university, there is a need to depart from the rules. The board approved that the SDC-secretariat prepare a set of guidelines to solve this problem.

c. SDC and collaboration with Danish companies

Hans Gregersen informed the board about the collaboration with Danish companies. Representatives from various Danish companies have served as members of advisory boards for the coming four Master's programmes.

During the last three-four months, Hans Gregersen have met with many representatives from Danish companies based in Beijing to discuss how companies can offer internships and design student projects for the coming Master's students.

According to the Partnership Agreement with GUCAS, each side must nominate five members to the Industry Advisory Board of the SDC. The five Danish nominees have been named already. The JMC will formally appoint the members. No candidates have been nominated by the Chinese side so far.

Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard stressed the importance of the Chinese side nominating representatives from well-established companies with international outlook, preferably companies figuring on the Fortune 500 list.

d. Other challenges

Hans Gregersen informed the board that representatives from the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education are planning a visit to GUCAS in May to agree on the conditions for tuition fee. Tuition fee for the Master's Programmes has been settled to RMB 45.000 annually.

The board once again discussed the pending case of tax exemption for Danish researchers staying six months or longer in China. The board expressed its frustration over the slow processing but decided to await the promised clarification from the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education before deciding on a model to make it more attractive for Danish researchers to take long-term stays in China.

5. Coming SDC-themes

Jørgen Staunstrup informed the board of the current efforts to develop a stronger collaboration between Danish and Chinese research environments in the field of



Information Technology. A meeting is scheduled in Beijing in mid-April where representatives from several Danish universities will meet with Chinese colleagues from various CAS institutes to discuss possible ways to extend existing collaboration. Both parties agree on a no-rush strategy.

Hans Gregersen briefly informed about the work on implementing Food safety and food security as a subtheme in life science and that it may be proposed at the next JMC meeting to proceed with the plans.

6. Other issues

a. New Danish Principal Coordinators appointed

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board of the recent appointment of new Principal Coordinators on the Danish side. It is important that these positions circulate between the participating universities to generate a sense of ownership to the project.

The board took notice of the information and expressed its gratitude to the outgoing PCs for their strong commitment.

As of 1 March 2012, the five Danish Principal Coordinators are:

- Sustainable Energy: Birte Holst Jørgensen (DTU)
- Water & Environment: Peter Engelund Holm (KU)
- Nano: Flemming Besenbacher (AU)
- Social Science: Lars Bo Kaspersen (KU, agreed with CBS)
- Life Science: Peter Roepstorff (SDU)

b. Danish support to start the four Master's programmes

Hans Gregersen informed the board that a meeting took place in early March between permanent secretary Uffe Toudal Pedersen from the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education, three of the four Danish JMC-members; Jens Oddershede, Ralf Hemmingsen and Martin Bendsøe and chairman of the Danish SDC-board Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen. At the meeting, it was decided that the Danish side would meet a request from the Chinese side and guarantee the starting of the four programmes, including providing the necessary resources from the Danish side to teach the relevant courses. The board fully supported this decision.

Minutes by Morten Laugesen