

**Minutes from the Danish SDC Board meeting, December 16, 2014,
16:30 – 18:30**

Minutes

Present: Brian Bech Nielsen (AU, Chairman), Peter Kjær (RUC), Henrik Pedersen (SDU), Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU), Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS), Martin Bendsøe (DTU), Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen (SDC), Morten Laugesen (SDC), Søren Walbum Høst (SDC)
Absent with Notice: Inger Askehave (AAU), Thomas Bjørnholm (KU)

- 1. Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Approval of minutes from SDC board meeting, September 23 2014**
- 3. Briefing from the SDC Director and the Chairman**
 - a. Delegation visit to Beijing, november 2014
 - b. Food & Health programme
 - c. Flexibility for MSc programmes
 - d. Student complaint
 - e. New Danish Principal Coordinator for Social Science
 - f. Correspondance with CBS' Rector
- 4. SDC Budget 2015**
- 5. Any Other Business**

Date: 17 December 2014

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1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- 3.g Chairman's meeting with Permanent Secretary Uffe Toudal Pedersen
- Martin Bendsøe requested that the issue of PhD recruitment be added to the agenda.

2. Approval of minutes from SDC board meeting, September 23 2014

The minutes were approved with the following additions:

- With regard to item 3.5, Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard asked for the minutes to clearly state that the issue of an evaluation had been brought up on his initiative and that he did not support the decision to postpone an evaluation until after the SDC Building has been completed.
- Prior to the meeting, Inger Askehave pointed out that the board had been invited to suggest possible criteria for an evaluation, but that no deadline had been set. The board decided that deadline for submitting suggestions will be June 1, 2015

and that the question of evaluation is put on the agenda as a separate item for the board meeting on June 26, 2015.

3. Briefing from the SDC Director and the Chairman

a. Delegation visit to Beijing, november 2014

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen briefed the board on the recent visit in Beijing by a Danish delegation consisting of representatives of the Ministry for Higher Education, including Permanent Secretary Uffe Toudal Pedersen, CEO of the Danish Industry Foundation Mads Lebech and representatives from Danish educational institutions.

The delegation visited the construction site of the House of the Danish Industry Foundation, where construction of the building is in progress. A few technical issues regarding the construction of the building are still pending. UCAS suggests to conduct the opening ceremony for the building on 10 December, 2015. The members of the board were asked to reserve the date tentatively.

At a meeting between the delegation and President of UCAS Ding Zhongli, President Ding expressed his full support for the SDC cooperation. Furthermore issues regarding the SDC Master's programmes and joint PhD activities were discussed.

b. Food and Health programme

Food and Health along with IT and Education are emerging as possible future areas for cooperation within SDC. The board agreed that Food and Health holds potential as a future SDC area and invited the Director to collect input from the Danish Universities with the aim of uncovering various perspectives and interests in the area. Following the dialogue with relevant companies and research environments in Denmark contact should be made to CAS in order to find common ground for establishing cooperation within the area.

Jørgen Staunstrup informed the board that ITU is currently strengthening their relations with relevant CAS institutes with the long-term goal of establishing formal cooperation on IT within the framework of SDC.

Peter Kjær informed the board that he is meeting with RUC researchers within the field of education in January 2015. Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen suggested that RUC adopts a similar strategy to that of ITU.

c. Flexibility for MSc programmes.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board about his meeting earlier this day with Permanent Secretary Uffe Toudal Pedersen, where the issue of flexibility was once again discussed. The Ministry is positive to introducing flexibility in a cautious fashion. The board invited the Director to further pursue the introduction of

flexibility into the Master's programmes, with a special focus on the Master's programmes that need to increase the number of applying students from the Danish side.

d. Student complaint

The board was informed about the development of an ongoing student complaint, which has also been discussed at an earlier board meeting. The board took note of the information.

e. Appointment of new Danish Principal Coordinator (PC) for Social Science
Professor Lars Bo Kaspersen will resign as PC for the Social Sciences at the end of this year. Two new candidates have been identified by recommendation from the Danish universities. Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen has met with both candidates and recommends associate professor Stine Haakonsson from Copenhagen Business School to replace Lars Bo Kaspersen. The board decided to follow the recommendation from the Director. The board subsequently discussed future general procedures for the appointment of PCs and asked the Director to draft such for the board to discuss and approve at a future meeting.

f. Correspondance with CBS' Rector

The Chairman has received a letter from Rector of CBS, Per Holten Andersen in which he points to a number of issues for an evaluation to address. The board took note of the information and asked the Director to address the issues raised by Per Holten Andersen in a reply letter.

g. Chairman's meeting with Permanent Secretary Uffe Toudal Pedersen

The Chairman informed the board about his meeting with Permanent Secretary Uffe Toudal Pedersen. Several issues were addressed including the issue of recruitment to the SDC Master's programmes; the academic profile of some Master's programmes; and the need to further strengthen the involvement of the industry in SDC's activities. The board took note of the information and discussed possible ways to strengthen recruitment efforts.

Finally, Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board about recruitment of PhD students on both the Chinese and Danish side. In 2014, 14 Chinese SDC PhD students have been identified all of which have been appointed a Danish co-supervisor. The board discussed how to ensure recruitment of PhD students that best support the development of activities within the SDC and invited the Director to draft a set of guidelines for future PhD stipend advertisements.

The board finally discussed the issue of PhD double degrees. Danish and International PhD students can be awarded a Chinese PhD degree if they fully abide by the rules defined by UCAS' Academic Degree Committee. Likewise, Chinese PhD students can be awarded a Danish PhD degree if they abide by the rules defined

by the relevant Graduate School at the hosting Danish university. The board decided not to work for an agreement on PhD double degrees with UCAS but leave it to the individual Danish universities to define the requirements the Chinese PhD students must follow to apply for a Danish PhD degree.

4. SDC Budget 2015

The Director presented the budget for 2015 and the preliminary accounts for 2014. The budget is prepared in accordance with guidelines previously decided upon by the board. Some minor adjustments will be made before the budget is sent out to the PCs. The final accounts for 2014 will be presented at the next board meeting in February 2015.

The board approved the budget for 2015 and took note of the preliminary accounts for 2014.

5. Any Other Business

Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard mentioned that Denmark and China celebrate the 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties on 11 May, 2015 and invited the Director to elaborate on SDC's contribution to mark the date.

Minutes by Søren Walbum Høst

SDC board meeting dates and other important dates in 2015:

- 17. February 2015: SDC board meeting (AU with videolink to CPH) 14.00-15.30
- 26. June 2015: SDC board meeting (Beijing with videolink to CPH) time tbd.
- 27. June 2015: SDC Graduation Ceremony in Beijing
- 22. September 2015: SDC board meeting (AU with videolink to CPH) 14.00-15.30
- 10. December 2015 (possibly): Inauguration of SDC building in Beijing (tbc)
- 15. December 2015 SDC board meeting (CPH) 16.30-18.00