



## MINUTES

### **Minutes of Danish SDC board meeting, 17 December 2010, 9.30-11.30 at Aarhus University**

Morten Laugesen

Specialkonsulent, ph.d.

Dato: 23. december 2010

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Present:

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen (AU, Chairman), Nils O. Andersen (KU), Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS), Lene Lange (AAU), Martin Bendsøe (DTU), Ib Poulsen (RUC), Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU), Henrik Petersen (SDU, from 10.30).

Executive Director of SDC Hans Gregersen and Morten Laugesen represented the Danish SDC secretariat.

1. Approval of meeting agenda.
2. Approval of minutes from SDC board meeting 26 October 2010.
3. Brief update from meeting in Beijing 13-15 December 2010 between representatives from the Danish SDC secretariat, Danish Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation and GUCAS.
4. Financial issues:
  - 4.1 SDC budget and account-to-date 2010.
  - 4.2 SDC budget 2011.
5. SDC Master Plan.
6. Others.

**1. Approval of meeting agenda**

The meeting agenda was approved

**2. Approval of the minutes from SDC board meeting 26 October 2010**

The minutes was approved

**3. Brief update from meeting in Beijing 13-15 December 2010 between representatives from the Danish SDC secretariat, Danish Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation and GUCAS.**

Hans Gregersen reported from the meetings with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing. Several issues were discussed during the two-days meeting, in-



cluding development of Master's programmes; documentation needed from the Danish side related to the accreditation process; outline of agreement between GUCAS and the Danish universities on Master's programmes, and planning of the coming JMC-meeting in May 2011. CEO Mads Lebech from the Danish Industry Foundation joined the delegation on the third day to discuss issues related to the construction of the House of the Danish Industry Foundation.

Lene Lange commented that some confusion apparently exists with regards to the status of pipeline themes and asked the SDC secretariat to produce a set of transparent guidelines. It is important that relevant information is circulated among all Danish universities.

The board asked Hans Gregersen to produce a list of the themes that were initially proposed from the Danish side, indicating those that have become SDC-themes, as well as a list of pipeline themes in order of priority. The list should include a short description of the research content.

Hans Gregersen informed that this issue was briefly discussed at the last board meeting and that a set of guidelines had been presented to the board. The guidelines have been produced to help the researchers materialize their ideas before presenting the pipeline theme for the Danish board and JMC. Hans Gregersen further informed that he is frequently contacted by Danish researchers who suggest new themes to be included in the SDC in the future. The board asked to be informed of any future enquiries and the board members will take responsibility for circulating information back to their own institutions. Jørgen Staunstrup urged to include information in the guidelines about whether the proposer of a new theme has the support from the university.

Hans Gregersen informed that all new SDC themes must be approved by the JMC and that he assumed the theme Food security and food safety (proposed by University of Copenhagen as the leading university) may develop to a stage where it can be presented to JMC in May.

#### 4. **Financial issues:**

##### 4.1 **SDC budget and account-to-date 2010.**

Hans Gregersen presented the figures of the 2010 SDC account-to-date, with an estimated surplus of approximately 14 mio. DKK. The figures indicate that research activities started in the second half of 2010 due to the signing of the Partnership agreement in April 2010 and that research activities have developed at a slower pace than expected when the Danish budget was decided in 2009.



Hans Gregersen informed that modifications have already been made to the compensation structure to accommodate the pattern of Danish researchers staying in China on shorter terms than originally expected.

In the light of the present monetary surplus in the Danish SDC-structure, Martin Bendsøe questioned the reasonableness of the Danish universities first contributing with half of the funding to the SDC and then providing all kinds of expertise to the development of SDC free of charge and asked if this can be expected from the universities in the future.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen replied that the Danish universities already collaborate on a large number of fields without paying the individual universities for their specific activities. If each university is to receive payment for its SDC related activities it would constitute a breach on existing practices for collaboration between the universities. All Danish universities invest many resources into developing SDC and in the end the score is probably settled more or less equal. Moreover, there was a common understanding between the Danish rectors when signing the SDC-agreement that the Danish universities should collaborate closely with and provide expertise to the SDC-secretariat.

#### **4.2 SDC budget 2011.**

Hans Gregersen presented the budget for 2011 based on feedback from the Danish research environments. Hans Gregersen characterised the level of expected activities as unsatisfying and informed the board that he will contact the Principal Coordinators and urge them to increase the level of activities for 2011. A revised budget for 2011 will be presented at the next board meeting.

Hans Gregersen explained the principles behind compensating the universities for developing SDC Master's programmes and write applications for the Danish Accreditation Council. A sum of money will be given to the leading university responsible for writing the application and part of this money can be transferred to other Danish universities that participate in the process. Moreover, pioneering universities can apply the SDC-secretariat for extra funding to cover additional costs related to being the first to write applications. The board supported these principles.

After the presentation of the 2010 account and the 2011 budget, the board discussed the financial resources that are accumulated at the Danish SDC-secretariat and at the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (VTU). The Danish universities pay their entire contribution up-front, while VTU pays its contribution based on the annual activity budgets.



The board asked Hans Gregersen to examine the possibility of the universities suspending their contribution to SDC in 2012 and instead prolong the current agreement between the universities and VTU on SDC with one additional year. Hans Gregersen informed that SDC will be discussed at a meeting in the Danish Rectors' Conference on January 4th and that SDC would gather information for the decision-making during spring 2011.

Lene Lange suggested that compensation from the SDC to the Danish universities for sending out PhD students is increased in order to boost activities. The board asked Hans Gregersen to contact the Principal Coordinators and collect information from the research environments before adjusting the SDC-compensation structure for 2011.

#### 5. **SDC Master Plan**

Hans Gregersen presented the latest draft of the Master Plan and informed that the Master Plan will be distributed to Principal Coordinators and representatives from VTU for comments in early 2011. He stressed that SDC in the future should have only one Master Plan (co-written by the Chinese and Danish directors) but that it at this stage is important to reach consensus about the objectives, goals, and visions for SDC among the Danish partners.

The board members had the following comments and suggestions:

- The Master Plan must outline the "SDC product". What is the overall reason for establishing the SDC?
- The Master Plan does not yet properly describe the relationship between SDC and Chinese companies. There must be a strategy for how to attract Chinese companies listed on the Fortune 500 list.
- The Master Plan does not describe how SDC is anchored at the Danish universities
- There is a serious challenge in attracting Danish students for a full Master's programme in China. The Master Plan must present a strategy for how to do this.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen suggested that the board members along with other relevant Danish stakeholders have a one-day seminar at Sandbjerg Gods to discuss the Master Plan. Hans Gregersen and Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen will discuss this further.