

**Minutes from the Danish SDC Board meeting, September 23, 2014,
 15:00 – 17:00**

Minutes

Present in Aarhus, AU: Brian Bech Nielsen (AU), Inger Askehave (AAU), Morten Laugesen (SDC), Søren Walbum Høst (SDC)

Present in Copenhagen, ITU: Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS), Henrik Pedersen (SDU), Peter Kjær (RUC) Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU), Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen (SDC)

Absent with notice: : Martin Bendsøe (DTU), Thomas Bjørnholm (KU)

- 1. Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Approval of minutes from SDC board meeting, July 4, 2014**
- 3. Briefing from the SDC Director**
 - 3.1 Programme start-up in Beijing 2014
 - 3.2 Summary of the meeting between the SDC secretariat and the Ministry of Higher Education and Science
 - 3.3 Budgeting for 2015
- 4. SDC Budget 2014**
- 5. Any Other Business**

Date: 25 September 2014

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Welcome

Brian Bech Nielsen, opened the meeting by welcoming three newly appointed members of the board:

Pro-rector Inger Askehave, AAU

Pro-rector Peter Kjær, RUC

Pro-rector Thomas Bjørnholm, KU

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from SDC board meeting, July 4, 2014

The minutes were approved

In the future, the SDC secretariat will send draft minutes to the board members within two weeks after meetings.

3. Briefing from the SDC Director

3.1 Programme start-up in Beijing 2014

The student intake from the Danish side in 2014 is almost identical to previous years' intake with 48 students ready to begin their studies at SDC in Beijing after a few students decided to leave during the first couple of weeks. All in all, the introduction weeks went well and it is clear that the partners behind SDC have learned a lot from past experiences.

The Minister of Education from Greenland, Mr. Nick Nielsen, visited SDC on Monday 8th September to discuss possible future collaboration and meet with students and teachers from the W&E programme and PMSD programme. The board welcomed the information and supported collaboration in relevant fields. At the moment, students from Greenland may also apply for SDC-programmes through Danish universities.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board of UCAS' decision to allocate funding for both PhD students and Master's students travelling to Denmark as part of their study at SDC. Although many aspects still need clarification on the Chinese side, the board welcomed the decision.

3.2 Summary of the meeting between the SDC secretariat and the Ministry of Education

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board about the meeting on September 22 with representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education and Science.

The Ministry confirmed the strong support for the SDC project.

Construction of the SDC Building, The House of the Danish Industry Foundation, has begun at Yanqihu campus. The SDC secretariat is looking into the ICT-issue and necessary electrical installations and may seek further advice from the Danish universities on these technical issues.

The question of more flexibility in the MSc-programmes was discussed with the Ministry, who supports initiatives to increase the number of Danish SDC students. The SDC secretariat will outline a possible model in order for the Ministry to analyze potential consequences with regards to national legislation.

3.3 Budgeting for 2015

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen outlined the budgeting process for 2015, which is planned to begin in early October. The board approved the plan and asked the director to continue with the budgeting process.

3.4 The House of the Danish Industry Foundation

Construction of the building has begun on UCAS' Yanqihu campus north of Beijing.

3.5 Evaluation of the SDC cooperation

On the initiative of Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard, the board discussed how and when an evaluation of the SDC project should be conducted. An evaluation is advisable but should preferably take place at a time when the project has developed further and entered an operating stage instead of the present start-up phase. The board concluded that an evaluation of the SDC should take place later when SDC is fully established and after the educational activities have been moved to the House of the Danish Industry Foundation. Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard asked the minutes to state that he is in favor of conducting an evaluation as soon as possible and not postpone this until after the SDC Building has been completed.

Brian Bech Nielsen invited the board members to suggest possible criteria for evaluating the SDC to the SDC secretariat

3.6 Industry Advisory Board

Permanent Secretary and Danish JMC Chairman Uffe Toudal Pedersen has invited UCAS President and Chinese Chairman of JMC Ding Zhongli for a meeting in November in Beijing. The board suggested that IAB is placed on the agenda and invited Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard to advise the SDC Director on possible new candidates.

4. SDC Budget 2014

The director presented the revised budget and preliminary accounts for 2014 and the board took note of the information.

5. Any Other Business

As in 2014, a board meeting will take place in China in 2015 with video link to DK. June 26 is suggested as meeting date. A ceremony with the participation of the board will be arranged for the graduating SDC students, possibly on June 27. Furthermore a visit to the building site will be arranged.

Inger Askehave informed the board that she plans to visit SDC in Beijing to meet with students, lecturers and staff members in October.

Next meeting:

Tuesday, 16 December, 16.30-18.30.

The meeting takes place at Danish Universities, Fiolstræde, Copenhagen.