

Meeting on: 05-04-2019, 10:00 – 13.00
IT University of Copenhagen
34th meeting of the Danish Board of SDC

Minutes

Present: Philip John Binning (DTU, Chairman), Peter Kjær (RUC), Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU), Bjarne Graabech Sørensen (SDU), Nils O. Andersen (IKU), Morten Laugesen (SDC), Søren Walbum Høst (SDC)

Apologies: Inger Askehave (AAU), Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS), Lars Bo Nielsen (AU)

1. **Approval of the agenda**
2. **Strategy for the Danish side of SDC**
3. **Approval of the annual report for 2018**
4. **Industry Advisory Board**
5. **Learning theme**
6. **The SDC building – risk assessment**
7. **SDC economy – Annual accounts 2018**
8. **SDC economy – Budget 2019**
9. **Self-evaluation of the Danish board of SDC**
10. **Agenda for the JMC meeting**
11. **Announcements from the Director**

1. Approval of the agenda

The board approved the agenda for the 34th meeting of the Danish board of SDC.

2. Strategy for the Danish side of SDC

The director presented the scope and form of as well as the considerations behind the strategy:

- The strategy should be based on the recommendations of the international evaluation, the SWOT and the stakeholder analysis.
- The strategy must be realistic and ambitious in scope focusing on areas the Danish side can influence.
- The strategy is organised around three overall focus areas, which serve as the foundation for eight strategy packages, which will be further developed into specific action plans spanning the coming five years.

The Board's consideration of the strategy

The board approved the overall strategy outline with a few comments:

- Clearly state that this is a strategy for the Danish part of SDC
- The mission focuses on the interaction with industry. Collaboration with industry (both Danish and Chinese) must be part of a strategy for SDC, but SDC also has a responsibility to interact with society in general and the mission must reflect this.
- The vision for the strategy is appropriate in scope and form. However, concern that the vision may be too ambitious was also voiced. Furthermore, the point was raised that the vision is not uniquely SDC and it was suggested to make a specific reference to China and Denmark
- The focus areas are well chosen. The board pointed out that the focus area "Engagement og Ejerskab" is action oriented while the wording of the two following focus areas is more in the nature of value statements. The board asked that action oriented wording is adopted throughout.
- Overall, the eight strategy packages fit well with the focus areas, but several items are redundant and the number should be reduced. Furthermore the board suggested:
 - The intercultural aspect of SDC, especially in relation to the educational activities, should be emphasized.
 - Part of ensuring sustainable recruitment to the Master's programmes should be to ensure that the content of the programmes is attractive to Danish students.
 - Part of strengthening the profile of SDC also means that we must be better at explaining our *raison d'être*.
 - Package 3 should include an intent to expand our funding base

- Package 5 points to strengthening collaboration between Danish research environments. This is a side effect of SDC's activities but it is not part of SDC's mission and should not be a goal in itself
- Package 7 should include implementation of E-learning as an item

3. Approval of the Annual Report for 2018

The Board expressed its satisfaction with the report, which is worthy of broad distribution to SDC's stakeholders. The annual report was approved with the following comments:

- It must be stressed that it is an annual report from the Danish side of SDC and thus the perspective is also Danish. A joint Sino-Danish annual report will be approved by the JMC.
- Clarify the search parameters the publication list has been based on, i.e. SDC must be explicitly mentioned as an affiliation.
- Even though the annual report has a Danish perspective we should consider including profiles on the Chinese leadership

The SDC will provide a digest of the report in .ppt format

4. Industry Advisory Board

The Board approved the list of candidates. SDC waits for a supporting letter from the Minister of Higher Education and Science and will invite the candidates to join the IAB hereafter.

5. Learning theme

Peter Kjær presented the memo drafted by colleagues from RUC on a possible learning theme for the SDC. The board discussed the information and agreed that life-long learning has interesting potentials. However, the board also agreed that a possible learning theme must be anchored within the CAS/UCAS system and include numerous Danish universities as partners. The board furthermore suggested a different approach, e.g. to establish learning as a supportive pedagogical/training unit for existing programmes and their activities and invited Peter Kjær and his RUC colleagues to explore possible ways forward.

6. The SDC building – risk assessment

The board expressed its confidence in the director to handle the many issues. The board will continue to follow the situation closely.

The board agreed that SDC needs a long-term mandate to be able to allocate funds to our physical infrastructure. All Universities make significant investments in their physical infrastructure and SDC must also be able to make such investments. A permanent solution must be found together with the Danish Ministry for Higher Education and Science.

7. SDC economy – Annual accounts 2018

The board approved the annual accounts for 2018.

8. SDC economy – Budget 2019

The director informed the board of the meetings with COWI and the Danish Ministry for Higher Education and Science to address the issues related to the HVAC-system in the SDC Building. As a consequence of the situation, the Danish SDC office must revise the budgets for 2019 and coming years in order to be able to allocate necessary funding for repairs and alterations of the HVAC-system.

The board approved the suggested revisions to be included in the budget framework for 2020 and presented at the coming board meeting in June. However, the SDC Board is disappointed that the funding available to support PhDs will decrease and that we will no longer be able to offer positions for Post-doctoral research associates.

9. Self-evaluation of the Danish board of SDC

The board agreed that the format of the evaluation is appropriate and can be applied again next year.

The most important takeaway from the evaluation, which is generally positive, is that some board members ask for stronger collaboration between the Danish partner universities. The collaboration between all eight Danish universities is a key element in the vision for SDC and the strategy. The board has an important task in addressing this issue.

10. Agenda for the JMC meeting

The board took note of the agenda. The board would like to include strategy as a part of the agenda and invited the director to consider how this can be achieved.

11. Announcements from the Director

- In 2018 the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs appointed an “Expert Panel on Global Growth Centres – China”. The report of the panel was released in March 2019 and contains recommendations for how Danish economic and business interests in China can best be pursued and protected. A strengthening of SDC is recommended by the panel.
- Student meeting for a better SDC. Danish and international SDC students feel isolated at the new campus in Huairou and express frustration with their daily life. SDC is actively addressing the issue with a view to create a more stimulating environment around SDC.