

Minutes from the meeting of the Danish board of SDC 23 June 2017

Minutes

The meeting was conducted as video meeting between Aarhus, Copenhagen and Beijing.

Present in Beijing: Inger Askehave (AAU), Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen (SDC), Morten Laugesen (SDC), Søren Walbum Høst (SDC)

Present in Aarhus: Brian Bech Nielsen (AU)

Present in Copenhagen: Per Hedegård (KU), Peter Kjær (RUC), Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU)

Absent with notice: Martin Bendsøe (DTU), Martin Zachariasen (SDU), Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS)

Minutes from the meeting of the Danish board of SDC 23 June 2017

- 1 **Approval of the agenda for the 29th meeting of the Danish board of SDC**
- 2 **Approval of minutes from the 28th meeting of the Danish board of SDC on 16 March 2017**
- 3 **Briefing from the Director**
- 4 **SDC Director's visits to Danish universities**
- 5 **Opening ceremony of the SDC building**
- 6 **Forecast 1, 2017**
- 7 **Any other business**

1 **Approval of the agenda for the 29th meeting of the Danish board of SDC**

The board approved the agenda

2 **Approval of minutes from the 28th meeting of the Danish board of SDC on 16 March 2017**

The board approved the minutes with the following comments:

In relation to the ongoing mapping of Danish institutions expected to contribute to a possible new SDC research area within particle and astro physics, the board pointed out that relevant environments exist at DTU and SDU.

3 **Briefing from the Director**

- a. Status on the transfer of the Omics programme
SDC has forwarded an inquiry to the Ministry of Higher Education and Science to clarify how to transfer the SDC Omics programme from SDU to DTU.



Prequalification should not be necessary since both institutions have been accredited. SDC is awaiting the response from the ministry.

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b. Accreditation of the SDC programme in food and health

The food and health programme has been approved in the Chinese system. Awaiting the approval in Denmark. The approval was delayed due to a conditional institutional accreditation of AU.

Considering the abovementioned issue, the board wants it clarified whether an application for full accreditation can be submitted after the deadline.

The Chairman will take it up with the accreditation institution.

c. JMC Meeting of 10 May

Seen from the perspective of the Danish side, the goal of the meeting was to ensure that the construction of the SDC building is on schedule with a view to the opening ceremony on 25 September.

It was a fruitful meeting and the board concludes that the importance of the permanent secretary being Danish Chairman and meeting with the UCAS/CAS leadership cannot be underestimated.

d. UCAS' request to enroll Chinese students still on their Bachelor

UCAS is competing with other top universities to attract top BA students. UCAS wants SDC to be part of its efforts to attract the best students and give them the opportunity to become SDC PhDs. The board is positive to the idea of making empty seats on the SDC programmes available to some of these elite students.

Taking point of departure in the efforts to attract Chinese elite students to SDC, the board contemplated scenarios for SDC's development (i.e. is SDC to be a center for elite education?) and invited the director to present his thoughts on the subject at a future meeting.

4 SDC Director's visits to Danish universities

The director and deputy director have concluded their visits to the Danish universities.

One of the outcomes of the visits has been a number of suggestions for new areas of collaboration. Details can be found in the memo, which is part of the meeting material.

The board took note of the memo.

One of the issues discussed with the university leaderships has been the possible establishment of a new research area within particle- and astrophysics.

The board approved that the Director continues to investigate whether establishing a new research area is feasible.



It was noted that the social science MSc programmes has seen a decline in the number of applicants and the board urged the universities and SDC to be attentive to the development in recruitment also for the social science programmes.

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5 Opening ceremony of the SDC building

The SDC director encouraged the university leadership to show up in force and express their dedication to the partnership.

6 Forecast 1, 2017

Some items necessary to make the building operational, such as curtains, chairs for the auditorium etc., are not been described in the building project. The director asks the board's approval of a budget of max DKK 2,00 mill to purchase items crucial to the functioning of the building.

The board authorized the director to make the necessary purchases.

The board took note of the forecast.

7 Any other business

Additional briefing:

A new regulation makes a course in cultural understanding and language compulsory for international students in China. The regulation does not stipulate specific demands regarding implementation – this entrusted to the individual Chinese institutions. UCAS is looking to find a pragmatic solution.

