

**Meeting on: 11-12-2019, 13:00 – 16:00**  
**Roskilde University**  
**36<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Danish Board of SDC**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Philip John Binning (DTU, Chairman), Lars Bo Nielsen (AU), Rasmus Antoft (AAU), Nils O. Andersen (KU), Peter Kjær (RUC), Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS), Georg Dam Steffensen (ITU), Morten Laugesen (SDC), Søren Walbum Høst (SDC)

**Apologies:** Bjarne Graabech Sørensen (SDU)

1. **Approval of Agenda**
2. **Constitution of the Board**
3. **Action Plan 2020**
4. **Evaluation of the Danish Director of SDC**
5. **Emergency Communication Plan**
6. **Feedback from the Meeting of the Rectors' Conference**
7. **Annual Wheel of the Danish Board of SDC 2020**
8. **The SDC Building**
9. **Economy – Forecast 2, 2019**
10. **Economy – Budget for SDC 2020**
11. **Rules of Procedure**
12. **Approval of Meeting Schedule 2021**
13. **Announcements from the Director**
14. **AOB**

## **1. Approval of Agenda**

The board approved the agenda for the thirty-sixth meeting of the Danish Board of SDC.

## **2. Constitution of the Board**

Chairman Philip Binning welcomed Rasmus Antoft, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Aalborg University, as new member of the board.

The board elected Lars Bo Nielsen as vice-chairman.

### 3. Action Plan 2020

The strategy of SDC is realized through the implementation of action plans for each of the five years of the strategy period.

The board approved the action plan for 2020 with the following comments:

- The board stressed that student recruitment must have top priority
- The board sees big potential in future collaboration with Huairou Science City
- The board encourages the director to define KPIs. Clear goals should be set for the initiatives in the action plan.
- The board expressed some concern that the action plan is too ambitious and advised the director to consider whether the focus for 2020 can be narrowed down

### 4. Evaluation of the Danish Director of SDC

The board decided that a recurring and systematic evaluation of the director would be a good way to provide feedback and support to the director. The evaluation is scheduled for the meeting in December as it should be linked closely with the strategy and action plans.

### 5. Emergency Communication Plan

Motivated by a recent case, the Danish SDC office has drafted an emergency communication plan, which states who communicates on behalf of SDC, and which stakeholders need to be informed. The board suggested that the public relations managers at the universities be included on the stakeholder list. UCAS/SDC in Beijing is working on a contingency plan for SDC students and staff on Yanqihu-campus.

The board agreed that the meeting with FE in April 2020 could provide useful input to the communication plan.

The board decided to include a closes item on the agenda for future board meetings allowing the board to discuss sensitive cases.

### 6. Feedback from the Meeting of the Rectors' Conference

Philip Binning and Morten Laugesen informed the board of their meeting with the Danish Rectors' Conference in August, where the discussion mainly focused on two issues: recruitment to the MSc programmes and the SDC building.

The rectors stressed the importance of recruitment to the MSc programmes. It is crucial to increase the recruitment to ensure the continued relevance of SDC. All measures must be taken into consideration including review of the MSc programme portfolio and new educational models.

The Rectors' Conference has spoken very clearly on the issue of recruitment, which is also a main concern of the board and the director. The board members will consider SDC's MSc programme portfolio, prior to the meeting in June when this issue is on the agenda. Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard and Peter Kjær suggested to look into the opportunity of including humanities into SDC.

The rectors expressed disappointment that the SDC Building is still beset by a series of problems but expressed confidence in and acceptance of the way the Danish board and the Danish Director has handled the situation.

## **7. Annual Wheel of the Danish Board of SDC 2020**

Morten Laugesen informed that the annual wheel of the board for 2020 will be adjusted based on the decisions at the meeting and reminded the board members that the meeting in June in Beijing has been rescheduled to 19 June.

## **8. The SDC Building**

The SDC Building is generally functioning well despite flaws and deficiencies and the building has proven a real game changer for SDC's MSc programs and SDC's ability to create a venue for collaboration between Danish and Chinese researchers and not least between SDC and external key stakeholders. The local Chinese building management team has implemented successful workarounds to alleviate some of the problems caused by faults and deficiencies.

The board noted that the Danish universities are subject to an investment framework, which could also limit SDC's room to manoeuvre.

## **9. Economy – Forecast 2, 2019**

The board took note of the forecast but pointed to the fact that apparently some expenses are in current prices while others are in constant prices. The board asked this to be clarified for the coming meeting and possibly adjusted.

## **10. Economy – Budget for SDC 2020**

Morten Laugesen presented the budget for 2020 and explained the background for some of the entries, including the budget for the SDC Building.

The director also asked the board to reverse a previous decision to reduce the funding for extraordinary activities, which is used by the research areas to fund workshops, conferences and PhD schools and is a very popular and value generating scheme for SDC and its stakeholders. The board agreed to reverse the decision and asked the director to implement measures to avoid accumulation of funding at the universities.

The board approved the budget.

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## 11. Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure has undergone minor changes.

The board suggested the use of track changes for future adjustments thus making it easier to follow.

## 12. Approval of Meeting Schedule 2021

The board approved the meeting schedule for 2021 but asked the June meeting to re-scheduled for 25. June. The dates are:

13. April 2021, 13.00-16.00, Aarhus University

25. June 2021, 16.00-19.00 (CN local time), SDC Building Beijing

13. December 2021, 13.00-16.00, University of Copenhagen

## 13. Announcements from the Director

- A pedagogical unit under the leadership of RUC will be established at SDC. The unit will focus on the cultural meeting and the study environment at SDC. It is key that the unit creates value for SDC
- Corporate Innovation Days in early December arranged by the Innovation Management programme was very successful with interesting talks and presentations. The ambition level will be further increased next year.
- The director has had bilateral meetings with all Danish HEPs. There are challenges, but overall the Danish HEPs have expressed satisfaction with the quality of the MSc programmes and the collaboration with the Chinese partners
- A meeting between the board and FE has been arranged. The board suggest that the director asks FE for security clearance to be able to have the dialogue on sensitive issues with FE if necessary.

## 14. AOB

None

### 2020 meeting dates of the Danish Board of SDC

3. April 2020, 10.00-13.00, Copenhagen Business School (followed by a meeting with FE 13.15-14.15)

19. June 2020, 16.00-19.00, SDC Building, Beijing

15. December 2020, 10.00-13.00, Aalborg Universitet

### 2021 meeting dates of the Danish Board of SDC

13. April 2021, 13.00-16.00, Aarhus University

25. June 2021, 16.00-19.00 (CN local time), SDC Building Beijing

13. December 2021, 13.00-16.00, University of Copenhagen