

**Minutes from the Danish SDC Board Meeting
 15 December 2015, 16.30 – 18.00**

Minutes

The meeting took place at Danish Universities in Copenhagen

Present: Brian Bech Nielsen (AU), Peter Kjær (RUC), Thomas Bjørnholm (KU – from 17.00), Jørgen Staunstrup, Martin Bendsøe (DTU), Inger Askehave (AAU), Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS), Martin Zachariassen (SDU), Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen (SDC), Morten Laugesen (SDC), Søren Walbum Høst (SDC)

- 1. Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Approval of the Minutes from the SDC Board Meeting, 22 September 2015**
- 3. Briefing from the SDC Director**
- 4. Forecast 2015**
- 5. Budget 2016**
- 6. Any Other Business**

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the SDC Board Meeting, 22 September 2015

The Minutes were approved

3. Briefing from the SDC Director

3.1 *The coming JMC meeting and visit to SDC in Beijing by the Minister for Higher Education.*

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen briefed the board about the Minister's coming visit to Beijing and the planned JMC-meeting. Most important items on the agenda for the JMC meeting are the construction of the House of the Danish Industry Foundation, the development of a new programme within Food & Health and the introduction of short term study periods at SDC. The newly appointed permanent secretary for the Ministry of Higher Education, Agnete Gersing will take part in the meeting as Danish Chair.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen also informed the board about his meeting in November with permanent secretary Agnete Gersing.

3.2 *Evaluation of the Danish Contribution to SDC*

An internal evaluation group consisting of representatives of the SDC research areas and educational programmes and the SDC secretariat was appointed earlier this year. The group oversees the drafting of individual reports for each research area and MSc programme. The reports will feed into the overall internal evaluation report to be submitted to the SDC board before the next meeting in March 2016.

Both Agneta Bladh and Jens Oddershede have accepted the invitation to become members of the Internationale Assessment Panel. The SDC secretariat still waits for reply from two other candidates. In light of this the SDC board approved that the SDC Director also invites Mr. Enric Banda.

Since the board meeting Mr. Jiang Weiming has accepted the invitation to become a member of the Assessment Panel.

The board decided to discuss the Assessment Report at the meetings in June and September.

3.3 *The House of the Danish Industry Foundation*

An agreement regarding the front of the building and the solar panels has been reached. UCAS predicts that the construction may be completed by October 2016 after which the building must be formally approved by the Chinese authorities, which may take up to three months.

The board expressed its concern regarding the repeated delays.

4. **Forecast 2015**

The Director briefed the board on the forecast for 2015.

The board took note of the information.

5. **Budget 2016**

The budget is within the scope of the preliminary budget outline decided by the board at the meeting in September.

Noteworthy is:

- Extra funding for each area to plan activities in the new building
- Strategic funds set aside to respond to findings and recommendations of the evaluation

The board asked the Director to prepare a plan to increase activities in the areas agreed at the board meeting in June 2015, and to the follow-up on the recommendations of the ongoing evaluation. The board confirmed the principle that SDC should maintain balance between education and research activities, and between flexible short term and long term commitments. The board agreed that a reasonable target for budgetary reserves would be 20 pct. of annual expenditures, and that accumulated resources could be spend to implement the strategic plan.

6. Any Other Business

Thomas Bjørnholm encouraged the SDC secretariat to develop an approach for receiving Chinese SDC PhDs and ensuring that they can receive a Danish diploma. Morten Laugesen confirmed that a policy for this is already underway and that the SDC secretariat is already in contact with relevant Danish graduate schools.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board of his and Morten Laugesen's recent visit to CAS Institute of Botany in Kunming, Yunnan, and CAS Institute of Geography and Limnology in Nanjing. Both institutes have excellent research facilities and are very interested in establishing strong ties with the SDC.

Thomas Bjørnholm informed the board that nano plans a seminar in Beijing in June 2016 to celebrate 10 years of collaboration between DK and CN in nano-science and he will forward more information to the Danish SDC-secretariat soon.

2016 Meetings of the Danish Board

- 1. March 2016: SDC board meeting (AU with videolink to CPH) 14.00-15.30
- 25-27 June 2016: SDC Graduation and board meeting in Beijing. Exact date and time for board meeting has not been decided yet.
- 27 September 2016: SDC board meeting (AU with videolink to CPH) 14.00-15.30
- 13 December 2016: SDC board meeting (Danske Universiteter, Fiolstræde) 16.30-18.00