

Minutes from the Danish SDC board meeting , December 17, 16.30 - 18.30

Present: Brian Bech Nielsen (AU, Chair), Ib Poulsen (RUC), Henrik Pedersen (SDU), Martin Bendsøe (DTU), Nils O. Andersen (KU), Lene Lange (AAU), Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU), Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS), Morten Laugesen (SDC), Søren Høst (SDC)

- 1. Approval of the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from SDC Board Meeting, October 3, 2013**
- 3. SDC Director – Status of the Hiring Process**
- 4. The House of the Danish Industry Foundation**
- 5. The SDC Seminar**
- 6. Budget and accounts for 2013**
- 7. Budget for 2014**
- 8. Any Other Business**

The Danish SDC-secretariat

Date: 10 January 2014

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1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from SDC Board Meeting, October 3, 2013

Minutes from the board meeting October 3 2013 were approved.

3. SDC Director – Status of the Hiring Process

Brian Bech Nielsen informed the board on the status of the hiring process with regards to the position as director of the SDC. A qualified candidate has been identified and has accepted the terms for the position as constituted director of the SDC on a one year contract.

4. The House of the Danish Industry Foundation

Brian Bech Nielsen informed the board about the status of the House of the Danish Industry Foundation. A final decision is expected very soon.

The board requested an overview of plans for the design of the House of the Danish Industry Foundation.

5. The SDC Seminar

In the course of the seminar challenges were identified that call for the attention of the SDC board.

5.1 Development of platforms for research and education

Platforms are to facilitate joint research projects, involvement of CAS in the educational activities, access to lab facilities for researchers, PhDs and students.

The board agrees that the establishment of such platforms could be a viable way to strengthen Sino-Danish collaboration.

Financial aspects of establishing research platforms must be uncovered and considered. The Chinese partners have access to funding and the principle of balanced contribution that runs through all of the SDC collaboration should also be upheld in relation to the development of platforms for research and education.

5.2 Lab facilities at the Yanqihu Campus

Standard lab facilities will be available at the UCAS campus, but SDC programmes like Omics, Nano and CBE have a need for specialized experimental lab facilities that cannot be accommodated in a standard lab.

The board asked the SDC secretariat to provide information about the lab facilities that will be made available at the Yanqihu Campus.

5.3 Higher degree of flexibility

The board is positive towards the general recommendation voiced by participants at the recent Danish seminar that the overall framework of the SDC is made more flexible.

The board asked the SDC secretariat to review the recommendations and assess the possible effects of their implementation.

5.4 Involvement of external partners

External partners play a crucial role especially in relation to the research and educational activities of the social science area and possibly in relation to water and environment.

The board agrees that a new director should work to further the involvement of selected external partners.

Prior to the director's involvement, the task must be clearly defined and relevant institutions and individuals must be identified.

5.5 Exchange students at SDC

The board asked the SDC secretariat to clarify the framework conditions for opening SDC up to exchange students. A clarification should include an assessment pros and cons, financial consequences etc.

5.6 SDC PhDs

The board agrees that PhD projects play a crucial role in creating linkages between Danish and Chinese research and educational environments. Most of the current SDC PhDs finish their projects by the end of 2014. New PhD projects should be initiated in their place. However, the board agrees that steps should be taken to ensure that SDC gain full benefit from the PhD in terms of furthering Sino-Danish collaboration on research and education. Thus it is suggested more requirements must be fulfilled to re-

ceive funding for PhD projects. Requirements could include involvement in Sino-Danish research projects etc.

The board asked the SDC Secretariat to present different scenarios for future PhD initiation even if it means spending part of the accumulated funds.

5.7 Chinese SDC students to Denmark

FIVU has requested a memo on the issue. The memo is under way.

5.8 Chinese researchers to Denmark

The board agrees that inviting Chinese SDC researchers to Denmark would be beneficial to the collaboration, but the Danish funding cannot be used for this purpose.

5.9 Administrative support at SDC

Danish researchers and teachers ask for more administrative support from SDC. The board fully supports strengthening the administration at SDC in Beijing and in Aarhus if needed.

6. Budget and accounts for 2013

Budget and accounts were approved.

The board expressed regret that the compensation structure for educational activities on Danish ground originally proposed had not been approved. Instead a more complicated structure has been implemented increasing administrative workload and delaying the implementation process.

7. Budget for 2014

Morten Laugesen presented a preliminary budget for the SDC activities 2014 based on the information from the research environments received before the meeting. The SDC Secretariat expects total expenses in 2014 to amount to DKK 55.5 million. A final budget will be presented in the beginning of 2014.

The board requested that budget for the following years i.e. 2015-2016 is drafted.

8. Any Other Business

Visit of the SDC Board to Beijing

The board members agree to look into the possibility of arranging a joint trip for the board to SDC in Beijing.

The SDC secretariat will assist in identifying a time frame for the visit.

Meeting calendar 2014 :

1. Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 14.00-16.00. The meeting takes place in Aarhus. Video link will be available.

2. Meeting: Tuesday, June 3, 16.30-18.30. The meeting takes place at Danish Universities, Fiolstræde.

3. Meeting: Tuesday, September 23, 14.00-16.00. The meeting takes place in Aarhus. Video link will be available.

4. Meeting: Tuesday, December 16, 16.30-18.30. The meeting takes place at Danish Universities, Fiolstræde.

Minutes by Søren Walbum Høst