



Minutes of Danish SDC board meeting, October 26, 2010 between 16.00-18.30 at Hotel Copenhagen Strand

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Date: 29 October 2010

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Present:

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen (AU-chairman) (left the meeting at 17.05), Nils O. Andersen (KU), Henrik Petersen (SDU-acting chairman from 17.05), Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS), Lene Lange (AAU), Martin Bendsøe (DTU), Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU).

Executive Director of SDC Hans Gregersen and Morten Laugesen represented the Danish SDC secretariat.

Ib Poulsen (RU) was absent.

1. Approval of meeting agenda
2. Approval of rules of procedure and minutes of the previous board meeting
3. Current status of SDC
4. Finances including budget for 2010 and compensation
5. Master programmes
6. Cooperation with industry
7. Comments on the Master Plan draft
8. Next Meeting
9. Other

1. Approval of meeting agenda

The agenda was approved

2. Approval of rules of procedure and minutes of the previous board meeting

The minutes of the previous board meeting was approved. The rules of procedure for the Danish SDC board were approved and it was decided to



translate the document into English. In case of incongruence between the Danish and the English version, the Danish version will serve as the version in force.

3. Current status of SDC

Based on the list of activities distributed prior to the meeting, Hans Gregersen provided more details for the board members about some of the SDC related activities since the previous meeting:

- a. The architectural competition for the design of the House of the Danish Industry Foundation on GUCAS' Yanqihu campus and the following construction process has been postponed one month due to unforeseen expenses related to the architectural competition brief. The Danish Parliament's Finance Committee has been asked by the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation to endorse a document in which the Ministry asks for an additional DKK 5,6 mio. from "Internationaliseringspuljen" to cover the unforeseen expenses. It is expected that the Finance Committee will endorse the document by late October.
The board asked Hans Gregersen to provide them with more information on the matter.
- b. Hans Gregersen informed that the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation has expressed a desire to become fully-fledged member of the Danish SDC board, alternatively participate in the board meetings with observatory status. The board discussed the different alternatives and favoured to invite a representative from the Ministry to meet with the board whenever the board deems it necessary.
- c. Hans Gregersen informed that the five Danish representatives for the Joint Managerial Committee (JMC) were introduced to the Chairman of the university council at GUCAS, Deng Yong, when he visited Denmark together with the Chinese Principal Director of SDC, Zhu Xiangbin, in mid August. The Chinese side has not yet announced the five Chinese candidates but has promised to provide the names of the candidates to the Danish side as soon as possible.
The first JMC meeting is scheduled for May 2011 in Beijing.
- d. Hans Gregersen presented several drafted guidelines and documents that GUCAS has been asked to comment on, including documents and guidelines on how to include new research themes; cooperate with Chinese institutions and research environments outside the CAS/GUCAS system; establish SDC PhD programmes, etc.



The board took note of the documents and asked that any Danish proposal for new SDC research themes is presented to the board before being submitted to the JMC.

The board took note of Hans Gregersen's account and expressed a wish to receive an updated list of SDC related activities prior to every future board meeting. If possible, the list could include all SDC related bilateral activities for each Danish university as this may provide all the Danish universities with opportunities to be mutually inspired by each other.

In order to make communication between the SDC secretariat and the Danish universities more efficient, the board decided that each Danish university should appoint an 'SDC contact person'. These contact persons will serve as direct links between the SDC secretariat and the higher administrative levels of the eight universities. Each university will provide the SDC secretariat with the name of their SDC contact person as soon as possible.

4. Finances including budget for 2010 and compensation

Hans Gregersen presented an overview of the level of activities this year and a budget for 2010. At present, it is impossible to provide a detailed budget for 2011 and 2012 as many of the research activities have just been started. Some of the Danish research environments are still in a process of identifying relevant Chinese research partners and thus have difficulties predicting their level of activities for the coming year.

Hans Gregersen informed the board that the SDC Master Plan, which is currently under development, will provide a more detailed SDC budget. The Master Plan is expected to be finished by the end of 2010.

The board took note of Hans Gregersen's account and asked him to provide a more detailed budget for the coming years at the next board meeting as well as a document describing the financial framework for the SDC.

Hans Gregersen informed that the SDC secretariat has adopted a less restrictive practice for compensating Danish research environments' activities in China than it is outlined in the compensation structure. E.g. by providing financial support to Danish researchers participating in SDC related symposia and workshops as well as financial support to Danish researchers going to China on short-term stays to identify relevant partners. The board supported this less restrictive practice and urged Hans Gregersen to support all relevant activities within the budget framework.

Martin Bendsøe questioned why the Danish universities besides their monetary contribution to SDC should also provide man hours (e.g. by



administrative staff) to further development of SDC as in-kind contribution. Martin Bendsøe argued that the SDC secretariat either ought to buy miscellaneous services from the universities on an hourly basis or expand the size of the SDC secretariat considerably in order to cover all the necessary tasks. Hans Gregersen replied that the existing practice with in-kind contributions so far had guaranteed a close and efficient cooperation between the SDC secretariat, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and the universities at all levels.

5. Master programmes

Hans Gregersen informed that the Danish research environments have been asked to focus on developing SDC master programmes with their Chinese counterparts. The starting point for this process is different from one research theme to another but hopefully master programmes can be launched in September 2012 within the Water and Sustainable Environment theme as well as Social sciences.

Hans Gregersen also informed that several working groups with representatives from Danish universities, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation as well as the SDC secretariat have been established to focus on the challenges related to the forthcoming accreditation of SDC master programmes. A written set of guidelines will be produced and subsequently distributed to the people involved in the accreditation process. Moreover, the SDC secretariat is also engaged in a dialogue with ACE Denmark.

The board members expressed a desire for more transparency related to the development of master programmes as they found it difficult to obtain information on the matter. The SDC secretariat will ask the Danish research environments to provide a status of the process regularly.

6. Cooperation with industry

Hans Gregersen informed the board about several meetings with representatives from the Danish industries in both Denmark and China since the previous board meeting. A new meeting between the SDC secretariat, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, the Danish Industry Foundation and representatives from several Danish industries is planned in mid November. Furthermore, the SDC secretariat has collected information on Danish companies present in China and is currently compiling lists of relevant industries to provide to the Danish research environment. The SDC Master Plan will outline a detailed action plan for how to involve Danish industries as partners in developing the research and educational activities of the SDC.



The board found it of utmost importance not only to engage in a dialogue with the Danish companies' representatives in China but also to involve and inform high-level representatives from the companies' headquarters in Denmark. Moreover, it is also very important for the future of the SDC that large Chinese companies (preferably those listed in the Fortune 500 list) are affiliated with the SDC and represented in the Industry Advisory Board.

The board urged the SDC secretariat to involve Danish industries even more in the future process of developing SDC. Danish industries can play an important role in promoting SDC, not only in Denmark but also in China.

7. Comments on the Master Plan draft

Hans Gregersen presented the SDC Master Plan draft and asked the board for comments. Hans Gregersen stressed the importance of the Master Plan as a document that outlines the goals, visions and means of the SDC and thus will provide all stakeholders with a common understanding of the SDC. The SDC Master Plan will be completed before the end of the year and distributed to the board members for approval.

8. Next meeting

The board should preferably meet again in January 2011. The SDC secretariat will send out possible dates for the next meeting as soon as possible.

9. Other

No issues were discussed

Minutes by Morten Laugesen
Aarhus, October 29, 2010