

Meeting on: 28-06-2019, 16:00 – 19:00
SDC Building, Beijing
35th Meeting of the Danish Board of SDC

Minutes

Present: Philip John Binning (DTU, Chairman), Nils O. Andersen (KU), Lars Bo Nielsen (AU), Bjarne Graabech Sørensen (SDU), Peter Kjær (RUC), Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS), Georg Dam Steffensen (ITU), Morten Laugesen (SDC), Søren Walbum Høst (SDC), Kristian Vork Jensen (SDC).

Present via Skype: Inger Askehave (AAU)

Observers: Hans Müller Pedersen (UFM), Nikolaj Malchow-Møller (CBS), Gitte Agerhus (UFM), Mathilde Heegaard Bausager (UFM), Louise Nolle (DTU)

1. **Approval of agenda**
2. **Approval of a strategy for the Danish side of SDC**
3. **Student intake 2019 – evaluation of the student intake on SDC’s Master’s programs and the recruitment efforts of the universities and the SDC secretariat**
4. **Evaluation of SDC’s Master’s program portfolio**
5. **Status on SDC’s collaboration with industry**
6. **SDC’s employment survey**
7. **Economy – Forecast 1, 2019**
8. **Economy – Approval of budget framework for SDC 2020 and approval of the principles for compensation of the Danish universities**
9. **The SDC Building – Risk assessment**
10. **Announcements from the director**

1. **Approval of agenda**

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

2. **Approval of a strategy for the Danish side of SDC**

The board commended the strategy for being short and to the point and setting the right direction for SDC. To finalize the strategy the board asked the director to consider the following adjustments:

- Re the title of the strategy and the vision: Define what type of institution e.g. educational institution

- Re the scope of the strategy: It must be evident to the readers that it is a strategy for the Danish side of SDC
- Re the strategy packages: The number of strategy packages has been reduced. The board asked for a number of the packages to be reformulated.
- Re package #7: Chinese authorities rather than local Chinese authorities
- Re e-learning: The board asks the director to consider e-learning as an element of the strategy

The SDC office will now commence the process of transforming the elements of the strategy into concrete action plans. The detailed action plan for 2020 will be approved by the SDC Board at the next meeting on 11 December.

3. Student intake 2019 – evaluation of the student intake on SDC’s Master’s programs and the recruitment efforts of the universities and the SDC secretariat

Morten Laugesen presented the figures and informed the board about the recruitment activities by the Danish SDC office.

The number of applicants from EU/EEA countries has increased significantly even though no recruitment activities are directed towards these students. The board will follow the development closely.

The board agreed that all eight Danish universities must actively support the efforts to recruit students to all the SDC programs, including providing help and support to events at the different universities and provide relevant information about all programs on their respective websites.

Finally, the board asked the SDC office to provide information spanning several years in order to be able to identify possible trends and developments.

4. Evaluation of SDC’s Master’s program portfolio

The board discussed possible ways to evaluate the portfolio of MSc programs at SDC in Beijing and stressed the importance of the quality assurance system. The Danish universities all have existing systems for evaluation.

Morten Laugesen explained that a comprehensive quality assurance system has been drafted and will be implemented as soon as the partners have approved it. In this system, the Head of Educational Programmes (HEPs) and their annual reports play an important role in terms of assessing the quality of the individual programs. The Director and the Board are responsible for setting the educational strategy and policy, and for ensuring that quality assurance procedures are in place.

5. Status on SDC's collaboration with industry

The board commended the large number of companies involved in collaboration with SDC but asked for future lists to be divided into different categories (e.g. internship, project, guest lecture) to further qualify the nature of collaboration.

Big Chinese companies (e.g. Fortune 500 companies) are absent from the list and the board asked the director to consider ways for SDC to establish contact with these companies.

The Danish Industry Foundation has expressed interest in entering into a dialogue on how to strengthen collaboration between SDC and industry.

The board agreed that resources should be invested in strengthening actual collaboration with industrial partners.

6. SDC's employment survey

Morten Laugesen presented the conclusions from the SDC Graduate Employment Survey conducted in late 2018. The results of the survey are very positive showing a high percentage of SDC graduates employed 12 months after graduation. Due to the relative small number of respondents, it is difficult to draw conclusions in terms of students' nationalities, MSc programs, cohort, etc.

The board took note of the survey and asked that the conclusions are sent to the HEPs.

7. Economy – Forecast 1, 2019

In accordance with the decision at the last board meeting, the budget for 2019 has been modified to reflect possible costs related to upgrading the indoor climate system in the SDC Building. The board took note of Forecast 1.

8. Economy – Approval of budget framework for SDC 2020 and approval of the principles for compensation of the Danish universities

The board approved the overall budget framework for 2020. A detailed budget for 2020 will be presented to the board for approval at the meeting in December.

The board also approved the presented model for reimbursement to the Danish universities, including the suggested new model for PhD funding, but asked that a preamble is added explaining the nature and background of the model.

The board agreed that there is no need to compensate the universities for any travel expenses for members of the board as well as the JMC.

9. The SDC Building – Risk assessment

Morten Laugesen and Philip Binning informed the board about the issues concerning the SDC building and the actions taken to address them together with the Ministry for Higher Education and Science.

The board members took note of the information and expressed their support to and confidence in the director and the chairman to handle the issues satisfactorily and asked to be kept informed.

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10. Announcements from the Director

- Gert Ejaas Jørgensen has been appointed Head of the Danish SDC office
- A Sino-Danish alumni network has been kicked off by SDC, Innovation Centre Denmark and the Danish Chamber of Commerce in China.
- Innovation House in Copenhagen has announced a new initiative in China: Sino-Danish Center for Innovation and Design. SDC will follow the initiative closely