

Meeting on 28th March 2023, 11.00-14.00
University of Copenhagen
50th meeting of the Danish Board of SDC

Minutes

Present: Henrik C. Wegener (Chairman, KU), Rasmus Antoft (AAU), Jakob Fritz Hansen (DTU), Georg Dam Steffensen (ITU), Martin Jes Iversen (CBS), Helle Waagepetersen (SDU - until 12.20), Morten Laugesen (SDC), Gert Jørgensen (SDC)
Absent with notice: Peter Kragelund (RUC)
Absent: Kristian Pedersen (AU)

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with a decision to start the meeting with item 4 due to Morten Laugesen's late arrival.

2. Status on the SDC-cooperation

Morten Laugesen briefed the board about his recent trip to China which marks the beginning of SDC's activities slowly returning to Beijing. A few Danish students have already arrived in China and soon the first Danish teachers will follow. The spring '23 semester will still be conducted with online teaching but from the autumn '23 semester all teaching activities will take place in the SDC Building in Huairou.

UCAS recently appointed Mr. Wu Desheng as new dean of Sino-Danish College. Wu has already visited Denmark to meet with Danish JMC chairman, Hans Müller Pedersen, and chairman of the Danish SDC board, Henrik C. Wegener as well as several of the Danish Principal Coordinators (PC) and Head of Educational Programme (HEP).

As indicated in the written material, SDC's many stakeholders in China were happy to learn that SDC faculty and students are now returning to China after three years of absence. Morten Laugesen finally commended the Danish SDC faculty for their valuable contribution to SDC during the past three years. Everybody is eager to restart collaboration with their Chinese partners.

3. Danish applications for the 2023 cohort

Morten Laugesen informed the board about the number of applicants for the 2023-cohort. 74 students (plus 2 students applying for semester studies) have been offered a seat and been asked to accept the offer before April. The board took note of the information and stressed that the number of applicants for SDC must increase significantly next year.

4. SDC educational portfolio

Gert Jørgensen briefed the board about the Danish SDC office's efforts to develop a flexible SDC educational portfolio to attract more Danish students. The ongoing dialogue with

the Ministry about SDC's legal framework and funding basis has revealed several alleged issues and obstacles adversely affecting the SDC office's possibilities to accommodate the decisions of the board.

The board expressed its deep concerns and asked the director to organize a meeting between the Danish JMC chairman and the chairman of the board as soon as possible so the JMC can make the necessary decisions about the future development of SDC at its planned meeting in late June.

5. 2023 JMC-meeting – items on the agenda

Morten Laugesen gave a brief introduction to JMC and how previous meetings have been conducted. Meetings are generally ceremonious in character, but this year's meeting is the first since 2019 and there will thus be a need to address the questions of how to restart collaboration and discuss the perspectives for future development.

6. SDC-board self-evaluation

The results of the board's annual self-evaluation were presented. The last year has seen several newly appointed board members which, combined with the board's strong focus on how to navigate SDC through the implications of Covid-19, has resulted in meetings with much focus on solutions in the short run. The board agreed that the number of annual meetings and their duration was appropriate and expressed satisfaction with the meeting material and minutes, which, should continuously reflect overall discussions and conclusions.

7. Annual account 2022 and Forecast 1

Morten Laugesen presented the annual accounts 2022 which were approved by the board.

The board discussed the updated Forecast 2023 and expressed its satisfaction that the Ministry has accommodated the board's request to put the Danish universities' financial contribution to SDC in 2023 on hold.

The board asked that an updated Forecast for 2023 and revised budgets for 2024-26 are presented at the coming board meeting in June. The budgets for 2024-26 must reflect a better balance between the various elements in the budget especially between administrative cost and expenditures for academic key activities. The SDC office was asked to provide detailed budget assumptions, which should reflect the ambitions for the future but also be realistic, at the next meeting.

8. Any other business

Morten Laugesen informed the board that he receives many inquiries from Chinese universities and institutions to visit Danish universities and informed the board that he will forward all inquiries to the Danish universities for processing. The board agreed to this.