

**Minutes from the Danish SDC Board meeting, July 4, 16.00 – 18.00
(Beijing time)**

MINUTES

Present in Beijing: Brian Bech Nielsen (AU), Nils O. Andersen (KU), Henrik Pedersen (SDU), Martin Bendsøe (DTU), Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen (SDC), Morten Laugesen (SDC)

Present in Copenhagen: Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU), Hanne Leth Andersen (RUC)

Absent with notice: Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS), Lene Lange (AAU)

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes from SDC board meeting, February 18, 2014

3. Briefing from the SDC Director

- 3.1 The State visit to China
- 3.2 SDC staff in Aarhus and Beijing
- 3.3 Student enrollment 2014
- 3.4 Flexibility for MSc programmes
- 3.5 Guidelines for PhD funding

4. Budget 2014

5. Any other business

The Danish SDC-secretariat

Date: 06 September 2014

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1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from SDC board meeting, February 18, 2014

The minutes were approved.

3. Briefing from the SDC Director

3.1 The State visit to China

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen and Martin Bendsøe informed the board members about the Danish Queen's visit to UCAS Yanqihu campus to break ground for the House of the Danish Industry Foundation in late April 2014. A large number of SDC students and teachers participated in the event and met with Minister for Higher Education Sofie Carsten Nielsen. The construction of the Eastern side of the campus, where the SDC building will be located, has already begun and it is expected to be ready for use within a couple of years.

The board took notice of the information and agreed that the SDC building will provide an excellent learning environment for future SDC students.

3.2 SDC Staff in Aarhus and Beijing

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board that the efforts to hire a person with extensive knowledge of China and a large network among Danish industries in China had unfortunately led to no result. The search for a candidate to be permanently based in China to serve as daily manager hence continues. Until a candidate has been identified, Morten Laugesen will continue to spend much time in China.

Two newly graduates from SDC, Steffen Helledie and Mette Hansen, have been employed by the Danish SDC office. While Steffen Helledie will mainly work with recruitment of future students on the Danish side, Mette Hansen will be based in Beijing.

A new communications officer, Lonnie Høgh, has also been employed.

3.3 Student enrollment 2014

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board about student enrollment for the 2014 class of SDC students.

53 students applying through the Danish universities have accepted the offer to study at SDC in Beijing. They are currently in the process of being registered at UCAS. All in all, the number is slightly higher than last year's intake of students but still not satisfactorily. Intake on the two social science programmes, Innovation Management and Public Management & Social Development, count for 2/3 of all students. Two Chinese nationals have applied through Danish universities but have been rejected by UCAS as Chinese nationals must take the national entry exam.

A Thai national student have applied and been accepted by UCAS.

3.4 Flexibility for MSc programmes

The board discussed how the number of Danish students applying for the SDC programmes can be improved in the near future and agreed this is a top-priority. Different potential models to increase flexibility for the programmes were then discussed, including opening up for shorter-term stays as well as models where part of a programme is taught in Denmark. It is a complex issue and many aspects must be thoroughly analyzed.

The board decided that for the moment we must improve flexibility in the programmes in order to attract more Danish students. The board asked the SDC secretariat to outline a number of potential models based on feedback from the programme coordinators and evaluate the consequences of these together with the Min-

istry for Higher Education. As different programmes may call for different models, we should be careful not to limit these beforehand.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen stressed that although several Chinese universities are now affiliated with SDC, CAS and UCAS must continue to be our main partners.

3.5 Guidelines for PhD funding

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen outlined the details of the PhD funding model in play under which a number of new PhD projects will be started up on the Danish side in the second half of 2014 and onwards. The SDC secretariat is currently working on a set of guidelines and a template for a SDC PhD contract which preferably should be used by both the Chinese and Danish side in the future. Both documents are expected to be completed before year's end.

The board took note of the information and found the PhD funding model very attractive in terms of financial support. The board also strongly supported the efforts to have future PhD students from both sides more closely integrated with educational activities at the center in Beijing.

Finally, the board supported that an evaluation of the suggested PhD funding model is conducted before next year. The evaluation should be based on feedback from the Principal Coordinators (PC) and Heads of Educational Programme (HEP).

4. Budget 2014

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board of the most recent predictions for 2014, which the board took note of. Martin Bendsøe stressed that expenses totaling approximately 2,7 mill. kroner actually relates to 2013 and this should of course be clearly stated.

Morten Laugesen informed the board that the budget procedure for 2015 will start in early Autumn 2014 in order for the board to approve next year's budget at the scheduled meeting in December.

5. Any other business

- Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board about the preliminary plans to invite the International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) to conduct an evaluation of the SDC. The plans have been briefly discussed with Chinese SDC Director Zhu Xiangbin, who will soon retire. The two SDC Directors will take contact to the four ISAB members during autumn to schedule a visit to SDC in Beijing in the Spring of 2015. The board supported this idea.
- Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board that several members of the Danish Rectors' Conference will visit Beijing in late November together with representatives from the Ministry og Higher Education.

- The board discussed the need for the brief meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education after the regular board meeting. It was agreed to recommend that regular meetings between the Chairman and representatives from the Ministry from hereon should replace these meetings.

Danish SDC Board Meeting Schedule 2014

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.