

## MINUTES

### Minutes of Danish SDC board meeting, 5 April 2011, 13.00-15.00

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Present (videoconference at AU and ITU): Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen (AU, chair); Nils O. Andersen (KU); Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU); Lene Lange (AAU); Martin Bendsøe (DTU); Ib Poulsen (RUC); Henrik Pedersen (SDU).

Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS) was absent with notice.

Executive Director of SDC Hans Gregersen and special advisor Morten Laugesen represented the SDC-secretariat.

#### Agenda:

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes from SDC board meeting 17 December 2011
3. Brief status of SDC activities since last meeting
4. SDC account 2010
5. SDC budget 2011
6. SDC agreements on Master's programmes
7. SDC Master's programmes 2012 and onwards
8. Other issues

#### 1. **Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved

#### 2. **Approval of minutes from SDC board meeting 17 December 2011**

The minutes was approved

#### 3. **Brief status of SDC activities since last meeting**

Based on the list of activities distributed prior to the meeting, Hans Gregersen provided more details for the board members on some of the activities that the SDC secretariat have worked on:

- A new compensation model for 2011 has been produced. Among the new initiatives, the SDC-secretariat provides full salary funding for up to 50 new PhD students.
- Together with representatives from several Danish universities and from the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, the SDC-secretariat has drafted a set of agreements for the coming Master's programmes at SDC. The agreements are still being negotiated with GUCAS but it is expected that they will be signed by the relevant Danish and Chinese parties before the Joint Managerial Committee (JMC) meeting in Beijing on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
- The Danish SDC secretariat is expanding. Two new full time employees will start in May 2011. Moreover, the SDC secretariat will most likely partly fund a PhD student from the second half of 2011 to facilitate the contact with Danish companies of interest for the SDC.
- Birte Holst Jørgensen (DTU) has been appointed new Principal Coordinator for the Energy theme after Henrik Bindslev. The board welcomed Birte Holst Jørgensen and expressed its gratitude to Henrik Bindslev for his contribution to the SDC. Hans Gregersen mentioned that the two directors will produce a set of rules for appointing new Principal Coordinators.

The board expressed its satisfaction with the many activities and asked Hans Gregersen to produce similar lists of activities for coming board meetings.

Lene Lange asked about the procedures for how to include new research themes in the SDC. Hans Gregersen replied that since the JMC is the highest decision making body of the SDC, all new themes must be put forward by the two directors and formally be approved by the JMC. Several potential new research themes/subthemes are already included in the Director's Plans and Forecast for SDC activities 2011-13 to be presented at the JMC meeting in May. These potential new areas include a) Food Security and Safety; b) Learning Research and Innovative Learning; and c) Information and Communication Technology.

Hans Gregersen informed the board that he and his Chinese co-director agree that SDC should be dynamic in nature. Existing research themes may split up into several themes in the future and new sub-themes may be included into existing themes if both parties agree.

Ib Poulsen suggested that funding could be earmarked for PhD projects within potential new research themes in order to initiate activities. Martin Bendsøe stressed the importance of JMC coordinating new activities

and warned against the Danish side simply initiating uncoordinated activities with various CAS institutes.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen summarised the discussion and concluded that the Danish side should continue to consider which new themes we would like to include in the future.

#### 4. **SDC account 2010**

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board that SDC's account has been audited as an integrated part of Aarhus University's account by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Moreover, SDC's annual report and 2010 account are published as part of Aarhus University's Annual Report 2010.

Because SDC's account is part of Aarhus University's account, no separate auditing report for the SDC will be prepared by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board that he was meeting with representatives from PriceWaterhouseCoopers the following day and would ask them specifically if they had any comments to the SDC account. Hans Gregersen informed the board that the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation is satisfied with SDC's account being an integrated part of Aarhus University and does not request a separate auditing report. Based on this information, the board agreed that there was no need to request this and took note of the SDC account 2010.

Hans Gregersen explained that the 2010 account reflected that the Partnership Agreement was signed in April 2010 and until then no research activities took place. Secondly, it proved much more difficult than expected to identify relevant Chinese research partners and agree on joint research projects.

Martin Bendsøe asked to change the wording in the distributed memo from "Som regnskabet viser, har forskningsmiljøerne haft svært ved at igangsætte aktiviteter i den takt, der var forventet ved indgåelsen af aftalen..." til "Som regnskabet viser, har det været svært at opnå det aktivitetsniveau, der var forventet ved indgåelsen af aftalen..."

#### 5. **SDC budget 2011**

Hans Gregersen presented the budget for 2011 and stressed that the new compensation model have had great impact on the estimated level of activities. The budget for 2011 also reflects that Danish research environments have successfully identified Chinese research environments and agreed on joint projects that have already been launched or will be in the near future.

Hans Gregersen stressed that the SDC budget 2011 only reflects research activities that are supported under the compensation model. In addition, a sum of money has been earmarked to the development of future research themes.

The board took notice of the SDC budget 2011. It was agreed that the budget could be adjusted and more money earmarked for developing new themes and start research activities in case the JMC decided to accelerate the implementation of new themes.

Hans Gregersen finally presented the overall budget for SDC 2011-13. The board took notice of the document and asked that the model is slightly adjusted in order to present the coming budget year as well as estimates of the following three budget years in a flow-model.

The board generally expressed its satisfaction with the detailed budgets.

#### **6. SDC agreements on Master's programmes**

Hans Gregersen and Morten Laugesen informed the board on the background for the agreements concerning Master's programmes at SDC. The agreement drafts will be finalised with the Chinese partners before being distributed to the Danish universities for comments in late April.

The General Agreement must be signed by the rectors and vice-chancellors of the eight Danish universities, whereas the Bilateral Agreements must be signed by the rector from the primarily responsible Danish university.

The board took notice of the draft agreements.

#### **7. SDC Master's programmes 2012 and onwards**

Hans Gregersen informed the board on the four Master's programmes expected to be launched at SDC in 2012. Hopefully the list will include Master's programmes in energy, nanoscience and omics from 2013.

#### **8. Other issues**

Ib Poulsen informed the board that Roskilde University plans a Master's Programme in Life Long Learning and expressed a wish that it could be integrated into the SDC in the future.