

Minutes from the Danish SDC board meeting, 22 September 2015, 14:00 – Minutes 15:15

Videolink meeting between AU and KU

Present at AU: Brian Bech Nielsen (AU), Inger Askehave (AAU), Lauritz B. Holm Nielsen (SDC), Morten Laugesen (SDC), Søren Walbum Høst (SDC)

Present at KU: Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU), Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS), Thomas Bjørnholm (KU), Peter Kjær (RUC)

Absent with notice: Martin Zachariasen (SDU), Martin Bendsøe (DTU)

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of the Minutes from the SDC board meeting, 26 June 2015

3. Briefing from the SDC Director

3.1 Tuition fee for SDC students

3.2 Chinese PhD students in Denmark

3.3 Start-up 2015 in Beijing

4. Evaluation of the SDC collaboration

5. Financial Forecast 2015

6. Any other business

Date: 30 September 2015

Page 1/4

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the SDC board meeting, 26 June 2015

The minutes were approved.

3. Briefing from the SDC Director

3.1 Tuition fee for SDC students

Morten Laugesen informed the board about the principles for paying tuition with reference to the enclosed memo and informed that UCAS until recently has not collected tuition fee from SDC students.

In Spring 2015, students enrolled in September 2014 were presented with an invoice and asked by UCAS to pay tuition at a time when some of them no longer had the opportunity to apply for government stipends. As a consequence, the Danish SDC-

secretariat asked UCAS to waive tuition for these students. The board supported this decision.

DTU had prior to the meeting suggested that the Danish SDC-secretariat look into whether or not there is a legal basis for covering tuition fee for EU/EØS students that fall outside the agreement on waiving tuition between the Danish and Chinese side. The board supported this suggestion.

3.2 Chinese PhD students in Denmark

On the basis of the enclosed memo the board was briefed on issues related to Chinese PhD students in Denmark.

The board supported the principle that Danish and Chinese SDC PhD students should not be asked to pay tuition fee or registration fee when they enroll in a graduate school in China and Denmark respectively as part of their training abroad.

All SDC PhD students must have the opportunity to obtain a double degree – one from the Danish side and one from the Chinese side. The SDC PhD students must fulfil the requirements of the Danish graduate school at which they are enrolled to obtain the Danish PhD degree and the requirements of CAS/UCAS to obtain the Chinese PhD degree.

So far, one Danish PhD student has obtained a degree from UCAS/CAS, while no Chinese PhD students have obtained a Danish degree. However, there is a strong desire on both the Danish and Chinese side to offer double degrees to SDC PhD students. As a result of the recent meeting between the two SDC Directors in Beijing, the Danish SDC secretariat is now in the process of identifying if and how Chinese SDC students who have already completed their stay in Denmark may obtain a Danish double degree. The board expressed its support to this.

3.3 Start-up 2015 in Beijing

The start-up 2015 including the intro-seminar went well. A total of 54 students enrolled from the Danish side began their studies at SDC in Beijing in September, up by 14 pct. compared to the numbers 2014.

4. Evaluation of the SDC collaboration

An internal evaluation group has been appointed by the SDC Director to prepare an evaluation report. The internal evaluation group consists of HEPs and PCs and is chaired by Birte Holst Jørgensen, PC of Sustainable Energy. The group convenes for its kick-off meeting on September 28. An evaluation report is expected to be submitted to the board prior to the board meeting on March 1, 2016.

The board discussed candidates for the external evaluation group expected to convene in spring 2016 after the internal evaluation group has completed its report. The board attached importance to the following criteria for selecting candidates:

- Both natural science and social science should be represented
- Both women and men should be represented
- Industry should be represented
- Sino-international experience in university cooperation should be represented
- Experience in executing internationalization strategies in academia should be represented
- Knowledge of Danish education policy and Danish academia should be represented

The board discussed whether all the proposed members would be viewed as impartial and concluded that this was the case; but that Jens Oddershede should not be appointed as chairman of the committee.

The board decided to nominate the following candidates for the external evaluation group:

- Yang Fujia, former Chancellor of University of Nottingham and professor at Fudan University, Shanghai
- Jens Oddershede, former President of Danish Rectors' Conference and Rector of University of Southern Denmark
- Jiang Weimin, President of DSM China
- Agneta Bladh, former Rector of Kalmar University, Sweden

The evaluation panel will submit its final report to the board in June 2016.

The board finally discussed the list of issues that should not await the findings of the external evaluation panel as they have already been identified. The internal evaluation group, however, is expected to provide the board with valuable data and additional information on these issues. A few issues have been added to the existing list after a meeting between the SDC Director and Danish HEPs/PCs in Beijing in early September, these were approved by the board.

The list of issues prioritized by the board is as follows.

- Continued development of mechanisms for involving excellent academic partners supplementing the competences of CAS and UCAS
- Governance structure as defined in the Partnership Agreement
- Recruitment for the Master's programmes
- Involvement of industrial partners, including the role and function of the Industry advisory board (IAB)
- Distribution of PhD funding
- Integration between the 5 research areas with a view to strengthening cooperation across disciplines and the exchange of experience

- The DK-CN balance of teaching contribution on the Master's programmes.

5. Financial Forecast 2015

The SDC Director briefed the board about the 2016 budget. It is suggested that the five research areas are allocated more funding in 2016 for extraordinary activities in the SDC-building, including conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops. The board supported the idea and asked the SDC-secretariat to inform the PCs.

Prior to the meeting, DTU suggested that the SDC-secretariat comes up with a strategy for how to generate activities from the accumulated funds. The board discussed this and decided that such a strategy should not be drafted until the results and proposals of the evaluation is known as the evaluation could point to areas where funds must be invested to improve the collaboration.

6. Any other business

The SDC Director briefly outlined the status of the development of a possible future MSc-programme in Food&Health. Meetings have been held between the SDC Directors and there is also a strong support for the idea on the Chinese side. It is expected that Danish and Chinese researchers will meet in Beijing later this year to jointly develop the structure of a MSc-programme and decide on a process plan.

2015 meetings of the Danish SDC Board

15. December 2015 SDC board meeting (Danske Universiteter, Fiolstræde) 16.30-18.00

2016 meetings of the Danish SDC Board

1. March 2016: SDC board meeting (AU with videolink to CPH) 14.00-15.30

25-27 June 2016: SDC Graduation and board meeting in Beijing

27 September 2016: SDC board meeting (AU with videolink to CPH) 14.00-15.30

13 December 2016: SDC board meeting (Danske Universiteter, Fiolstræde) 16.30-18.00