

Meeting on 11th December 2025, 10.00-13.00
Aalborg Universitet, Sydhavnen
58th meeting of the Danish Board of SDC

Minutes

Present: Rasmus Antoft (Chair, AAU), Helle Waagepetersen (SDU), Andreas de Neergaard (KU), Georg Dam Steffensen (ITU), Jakob Fritz Hansen (DTU), Søren Hvidkjær (CBS), Kristine Kilså (AU, attended online), Morten Laugesen (SDC), Gert Jørgensen (SDC)

Rasmus Antoft informed the board that Morten Frederiksen has left RUC. Prorector Bjørn Thomassen has been appointed as RUC's new board member.

1. Approval of Agenda

The board approved the agenda with an additional 30 minutes allocated for the board for closed discussion.

2. Announcements from the SDC Director

Morten Laugesen informed the board about various issues of relevance for SDC:

Enrolment numbers 2025

The number of international students enrolled in 2025 was lower than in 2024 despite a record-high number of applicants. The board discussed the development and emphasized the urgent need for more flexible frameworks to increase the number of international students. Since the June board meeting, there has been very little progress in SDC's dialogue with UFM on this matter, so the board decided to inform the university rectors of the situation and request their assistance in raising the issue with UFM.

UDU- meeting

Universities Denmark has asked the SDC board to approach UFM to obtain clear guidelines for the universities' research collaboration within the framework of SDC.

PC/HEP Seminar, 3 February 2026

On 3 February, a seminar will be held for Danish HEPs and PCs in Copenhagen. Rasmus Antoft will participate and give a presentation.

Meeting of SDC's Industry Advisory Board (IAB)

In November 2025, UCAS President Zhou Qi chaired the first meeting of SDC's IAB. The meeting was very productive and resulted in several recommendations to the Directors,

who have prepared an action plan. The board took note of the information and complimented that IAB is now in function.

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3. Financial issues

Morten Laugesen briefed the board on Forecast 3, 2025. A slightly larger deficit than budgeted is expected, which will affect savings. The board took note of the briefing.

Morten Laugesen presented the main points of the proposed budget for 2026. Based on input from the academic environments, it is expected that the budget framework for 2026 will also be fully utilised. The budget includes a proposal to increase compensation for the roles of PC and HEP, as well as compensation for the development of new courses. The board approved the budget proposal, including the adjusted compensation principles.

4. PhD Analysis

Morten Laugesen presented the findings of the PhD analysis conducted by the Danish SDC office, which shows that the vast majority of Danish and international SDC PhD candidates find employment upon completion of their studies and that they find employment in Denmark, including at Danish universities. The board took note of the information, emphasized the many interesting findings in the analysis, and suggested that the SDC office conducts a bibliometric analysis among the SDC PhD graduates now employed at a Danish university to explore the extent of their possible 'China-network'.

5. Process for hiring a Danish SDC Director

Morten Laugesen's fixed-term appointment expires by the end of November 2026 and the position as Danish SDC Director must therefore be advertised openly. The board suggested a few minor adjustments before approving the presented process plan. A hiring committee consisting of Rasmus Antoft, Helle Waagepetersen and Georg Dam Steffensen was appointed.

6. Reporting 2025 and milestones 2026

Morten Laugesen briefed the board on the year's initiatives and results at SDC, highlighting events like SDC Ideathon and SDC Corporate Innovation Days, which—with more than 200 participants, many from the business community—was a great success. The events demonstrate SDC's potential in collaboration with Danish/European businesses operating in China.

Morten Laugesen informed the board that areas of focus in 2026 include strengthening PhD collaboration further to ensure that more Chinese SDC PhD students spend time in

Denmark as well as managing the return of several 2nd year master's students in Spring 2026.

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The Board took note of the reporting and the milestones.

7. Any other business

Søren Hvidkjær informed the board that his appointment as dean for research at CBS expires by the end of 2025 meaning that he will also leave the SDC board. Rasmus Antoft thanked Søren Hvidkjær for his contribution to the board.