

Mistra Urban Futures

Draft Minutes Board Meeting No. 36

14 November, 2019
Phone from 16.00-18.00 pm CET

Participants:

Fredrik Hörstedt (Chair)
Olivia Bina
Benjamin Bradlow
Thomas Elmqvist (for items 1-5)
Lyla Metha
John Robinson

Ex officio:

Stephen G Agong', KLIP
Mikael Cullberg, Länsstyrelsen, Consortium Council
Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström, Sida
Åsa Moberg, Mistra
Jan Pettersson, GMV (and Acting GOLIP Director)
David Simon, Director
Barry Ness, SKLIP

Invited participants:

Viveka Blomgren, Secretariat
Henrietta Palmer
Jan Riise

Apologies

Elma Durakovic
Carolinie Wanjiku Kihato
Beth Perry
Warren Smit

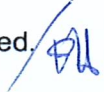
1. Opening of the Board meeting
Fredrik Hörstedt

The Chair opened the full meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. Approval of the agenda and potential conflicts of interest
Fredrik Hörstedt

The Chair noted that an additional document relating to Item 7 had been sent out to the board including a preliminary update on the financial situation, which may result in a deficit for 2019 of around 1 MSEK. This will lead to a request for an updated report and a plan for the production of final reports – which will make Item 8 redundant.

The agenda was approved.

No potential conflicts of interest were declared. 

3. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising

Fredrik Hörstedt, David Simon

The minutes from previous meeting #35 were discussed, with comments:

Item 3 – Mistra agreement translated and circulated, QME framework paused,

Item 6 – Our concerns are described and noted, complemented with additional material:

Mistra agreement, GOLIP, GSF, Sida application, financial report update.

Suggested to clarify “approach” in the sentence “GSF: The leadership at the two universities appreciate the approach...”. Clarification is needed on this” in “If we want all partners on board for this, unspent Mistra funds would need to be used...”. The website was brought up. In the previous minutes the Chair of Consortium Council offered to maintain MUF webpage in the sentence, “The Mistra Urban Futures website will be kept and maintained for the future”.

Decision: To approve the minutes by circulation following the revisions identified above.

4. Sida Application

Jan Pettersson and Jan Riise

An application for a 12-month consolidation phase was submitted to Sida on 31 October 2019 by the GMV Director. Sida has done a first round of reviews, and will come back with requests for some clarifications concerning certain points, costs and activities, possibly early in the week commencing 18 November. Chalmers is the co-ordinator of this process. A question was also asked who of the earlier GOLIP, CTLIP, KLIP, Shimla and Buenos Aires staff will remain in 2020.

The application was discussed and a few points were emphasised, such as the role of David Simon (currently allocated only a small role), the importance of acknowledging Mistra Urban Futures’ legacy, and the necessity of synthesising and refining work being done by those within today’s Mistra Urban Futures.


Some Board members pointed out the theoretical and methodological contributions. The application is very practical in focus and these fundamental points are missing. The requirements will need extra care regarding ownership and collaboration, as well as authorships and legacy. Gender and intersectionality need stronger emphasis, since they are bread and butter of the Centre.

Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström pointed out that although Sida funds work in and on the Global South, SMLIP and GOLIP should be part of the consolidation activities where relevant, since they have been important actors within the Centre.

Decision: To note the questions/reservations for consideration as the application develops.

5. GSF Plan

Jan Pettersson

The funding for GSF is from 2020; hence limited work has been done in 2019, including the forming of the Strategic Advisory Board outlined earlier this year. A group of people within GMV and GOLIP will be part of this, although GSF will be a independent group. About 50 people currently work at GMV in very close proximity. 

The Board asked about the legacy of MUF in this Centre and continuity of personnel because such detail was not included in the short document that had been provided prior to the board meeting. The Chair urged the GMV Director to emphasise key elements such as the legacy of Mistra Urban Futures, co-production and personal continuity in the planning. A Board is necessary. Partners are needed. The GMV Director informed that Chalmers and GU have consulted many researchers to influence the content.

It was noted that GSF is not a pure continuation of MUF but that it is also bottom-up with regard to activities ongoing at University of Gothenburg and Chalmers. It is administratively separate from the new GOLIP, to be called the Centre for Sustainable Urban Futures (CSUF), and the Board emphasised the importance of strong collaboration between GSF and the CSUF. Further, the Board again called for a co-production approach to be a clear basis of GSF. Chalmers / GMV will take that into consideration.

Decision: The report and feedback were noted.

6. GOLIP Plan and preparations for 2020 and beyond

8 partners have now agreed on a new phase 2020–2023 (4 years). The name is changed to Centre for Sustainable Urban Futures, which – like GSF – will be a group within GMV. The relationship between the two groups was discussed, differences being e.g. the urban vs the global sustainability focus.

The Mistra Urban Futures' website will be retained for another 4 years. The CSUF will be have a legacy with the Centre and form a separate urban unit within GMV alongside the Sida consolidation programme if awarded. GSF may also develop an urban element. Resources are limited and expenditure needs to be carefully considered.

Decision: These plans were noted.

7. Resources for 2020 MUF consolidation

David Simon and Board members

Work has continued to reduce the financial uncertainties regarding the 2019 financial results with the purpose of identifying any extent of underspend from the Mistra funds that can be carried over to 2020. For the reasons explained, particularly the long absence through illness of the Acting GOLIP Director, this relates to a large extent to the ongoing uncertainty about GOLIP expenditure against budget in 2019. The Chair of the Consortium Council expressed the Council's view that the entire GOLIP budget should be reserved for GOLIP, even in the event of an underspend. The Director reaffirmed that – notwithstanding the above difficulties – the Secretariat has been following the Board's instructions merely to identify actual or potential underspends from all parts of the Centre for purposes of the potential unfunded extension from Mistra during the first half of 2020. How these funds could be used was a separate question, outlined in the Mistra Extension Agreement (document MUF 36: 6).

Board members expressed grave concern at the magnitude of the apparent shift from a substantial anticipated underspend to zero, and hence the overall Centre budget to a possible deficit, in just a few weeks since the Sheffield meeting.

Decision: The Director of GMV and, following her return from sick leave, the Acting Director of GOLIP must liaise with the Head of Administration and Financial Officer in order to produce an updated specific expected outcome of GOLIP costs for 2019. This will constitute one part of the overall financial prognosis that the Centre Director will present to the Board through the Secretariat within the next two weeks. An additional virtual Board meeting will then need to be convened to assess the overall state of finances and to make

definite the amount of the possible overspend and how to handle it in oncoming operations. Another question is whether it is possible to trigger the unfunded Mistra extension.

8. Completion of 2019-20, Annual and Final reports 2019

David Simon and Jan Riise

Following the discussion under item 7, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Beth's contract and SMLIP, and SKLIP end by 31st December. If there were an unfunded Mistra extension, some funds would be needed to cover some contributions from them. If no funds are reduced discussion is needed.

Decision:

To adjourn the decision until the next meeting (see item 9 below).

9. Next meeting

Due to the financial situation discussed under items 7 and 8 above, an additional Board meeting will be arranged during the first week of December. A tentative date among present Board members is Monday 2 December, but other dates may be considered. The meeting is estimated to last up to 1.5 hours.

Decision: A request for participation in the extra Board meeting will be circulated.

10. Thank you to everyone

David Simon

Item deferred to the extra meeting.

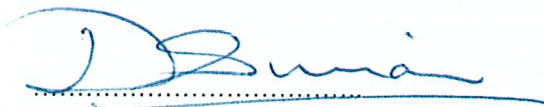
11. Any other business

Fredrik Hörstedt

No other business was listed and the Chair thanked all participants for contributions to the meeting.

Signed

David Simon
Director



Fredrik Hörstedt
Chair of the Board

