

Minutes of the Board meeting 2010-01 on 28 January 2010

Place of the meeting: University Zurich-Irchel, Physics Institute, Room 36 K 08, 14-16.30h

The Chair opens the meeting at 14.15h.

Present: 21 participants (including two observers [SER, SNF])

1. Agenda

The agenda is approved, with adding under AOB a report from the CHIPP PhD School Ascona and on the C-15 annual report 2009.

2. Apologies

The Board notes the following apologies: Dissertori, Rivkin, Amsler, Clark, Derendinger, Wyler, Shaposhnikov, and Ribordy.

3. Message from the new Chairman

The new Chair, Martin Pohl, gives an outlook of the primary objectives for 2010 (ProDoc implementation, CHIPP prize, improvement of the CHIPP tables, promotion of FOLIS, C-15 funding for 2012ff) and shows a list of the forthcoming Workshops and Schools (→ slide).

On a question by Rubbia offering his help in the FOLIS discussion, Pohl states that the Board will be asked specifically for help if needed. In this same context, Rubbia wonders whether things would be simpler and less complicated if CHIPP would become a legal entity. Pohl mentions that this step would be made anyhow in case CHIPP becomes a member of the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences (scnat); in addition, the question of exemption of the value added tax would be solved. Bourquin is of the opinion that CHIPP would be very welcome in the scnat.

4. Minutes of the last meeting (2009-02; 24/25 August 2009)

One addendum has been received from Ribordy regarding his statement relating to the Roadmap discussion (agenda item 8, p.3 of the minutes, new text): “(A possible addendum) should introduce a section on multi-messenger physics and on the particle/fundamental physics potential with IceCube.”

With this addendum, the Board approves the minutes and expresses its thanks to the minute-writer.

5. Report on CHIPP activities (2nd half 2009)

(→ slides)

- FORCE M&O Request 2010

Straumann informs about the timely submission of the M&O request to SNF and the sum requested (1'070 CHF); he also gives the details about the individual M&O costs per experiment. Nakada's question about the overheads from the M&O amounts going to the Universities is answered by Burkhard, clarifying that the overhead rule does not apply for FORCE funds. Bay expresses his expectation, that the rather complicated issue of overheads will become simpler for CHIPP once it has become a legal entity.

- SER Roadmap

Straumann informs about the follow-up of the SER Roadmap after the Appenberg Board, where he has received valuable input from Board members. According to his information, the SER will use this input for the next version of the Roadmap. This is confirmed by Steinacher, who said that the SER Roadmap has gained momentum (to maintain the synchrony with the 2012 research bill) and the next version can be expected around mid-March 2010.

- CHIPP tables

Pohl recalls the 'rules' regarding the type of funding which should be included and presents the corresponding guidelines (funds required for the project on top of SNF funds, FORCE, FOLIS and Sinergia funds; regular SNF funds are not to be included).

Pohl clarifies on a question by Ereditato that manpower is not to be included in the CHIPP tables, but that the applicants should inform Pohl / the EB about their request. This is best done by copying the summary table of page 8 of the SNF form.

On behalf of SER, Steinacher thanks for the excellent working relations between SER and CHIPP for the last three years (Chairmanship Straumann), not only regarding the CHIPP tables but in general, and expects this to continue under Pohl. He informs the Board that SER has highly appreciated the early and advanced information about FOLIS and that the FOLIS budget line is still in the outline proposal for the SER 2012 budget.

- LA FORCE

Pohl presents the list of the 2010 FORCE requests received by the SNF [note: the missing project from Ereditato has been added to the list after the meeting]. He notes that very often applications concern more than one experiment and therefore asks the SNF to take account of this in the summary table produced for the LA FORCE. He continues by presenting the LA FORCE guidelines to SNF regarding the 2010 FORCE funding priorities.

Pohl confirms to Minkovsky that CLIC would fall under the accelerator priority, and underlines – on a question by Bourquin – that not all CERN recognized experiments are included under the priority 4. Ereditato is of the opinion that priority 4 should also take account of the possible CERN opening to other scientific fields and of the discussions taking place in the context of the strategy group. Steinacher confirmed that the SER letter to SNF stating the priorities will be made available [done after the meeting; the letter can be found on the CHIPP web page].

- Round table on Swiss representation in international bodies and projects

Pohl gives an overview of the discussions that have taken place in the EB and with SER and SNF and presents the next steps, notably the Round Table to be held in spring bringing together CHIPP, SER, SNF, SUK and scnat.

After an exchange of views, following Rubbia's question whether or not the ETH-Rat should also be invited (as in the LA FORCE), the Board concludes that both ETHs are represented in the SUK and that therefore – for the time being – the ETH-Rat should not be invited.

Straumann underlines that the Round Table is not about funding and funds but about legal and organisational matters; this is confirmed by Pohl mentioning that the Round Table will just discuss how to organise the matter and will probably meet once per year.

In his concluding remark, Pohl notes the agreement of the Board to start the process.

6. Report on CERN Council and other committees (2nd half 2009)

- CERN (Council and SPC) [Straumann; → slides]

Straumann reports on the scientific matters and informs about the enlargement process.

Gehrmann inquires about a statement of the CERN DG regarding CLIC. Straumann says that there was none but that there is also no decision to be taken in a near future. Pauss adds that there are close contacts between CERN and the ILC, that a linear collider will come only after the LHC exploitation phase and that therefore also a decision between CLIC and ILC will have to be taken only in a few years.

- ECFA [Nakada]

Nakada reports about the R-ECFA visits in CH, NO and RUS, and underlines the excellent impression made on the R-ECFA by the Swiss research landscape and the interest of the State Secretary for Education and Research. He continues by informing about a new ECFA

Committee dealing with 'orphan projects' (projects not being seated at a lab) and the renewed discussion about neutrino physics and the steps towards a better interaction between the neutrino community, the European Commission and Particle Physics. In this context, Rubbia was curious about CERN's position on neutrino physics including a possible on-site neutrino activity? Straumann mentions the discussion that had taken place in the CERN SPC, resulting in the majority opinion that the scarce CERN resources should be concentrated on LHC (and not further diluted with additional physics activities).

- ApPEC [Bourquin]

Bourquin recalls the main work of ApPEC in the past (roadmap on astroparticle physics, definition of common goals in R&D) before speaking about the present work: preparation of second round and the topics to be discussed, the update of the roadmap (which must be ready in time for the European Strategy update), and the definition of the ApPEC resources and structures. ApPEC also discusses possible new members and considers becoming a member of the ESF. A new Working Group has been set up to discuss the astroparticle physics report including the identification of areas where additional coordination is necessary (e.g. single detectors like CTA, LISA, ...). Bourquin has agreed to chair the ApPEC a.i.

Baudis inquires about the input from other groups in the world (Bourquin: will be integrated).

Pohl reminds the Board that Rubbia and Baudis are the CHIPP representatives in the ApPEC Scientific Advisory Committee (they are not aware of this) and suggests that the CHIPP representative should be a member of the EB (Bourquin will discuss the issue with Pohl).

- NuPECC [Krusche, → slides]

Krusche informs about the NuPECC effort regarding a new long range plan to be published end 2010 (status, worldwide context, recommendations, action plan, roadmap [2011 to be submitted to ESFR]), which is done in collaboration with ESF.

He has no information at hand to answer a question of Pauss regarding the Global Science Forum's activities and follow-up of its nuclear physics report.

7. Election of an EB member (proposals distributed ahead of the meeting)

Pohl informs the Board (as he had already done by email) that the two candidates standing for election are Kirch ETHZ/PSI and Vuilleumier (BE).

In his statement, Vuilleumier praises the positive impact of CHIPP, developing a coherent programme and generating a good image in the general public and the scientific community. He is willing to bring along his long-standing expertise and experience and would invest efforts to restore the relationship between the CHIPP and SNF. Important topics for him are further: the roadmap, the SUK cooperation, and FOLIS. In addition, his presence would underline the fact that Swiss particle physics embraces more than just the arc lémanique and the Zurich area. For age reasons, he would serve for one term only.

Rubbia introduces Kirch as new ETHZ extraordinary professor; the joint ETHZ/PSI professorship aims at strengthening specifically the exploitation of synergies between PSI and ETHZ. In his statement, Kirch presents shortly his background (low energy frontier) and underlines the necessity to re-connect PSI to the rest of CHIPP community. He is already now very active in implementing this philosophy, which includes also joint workshops, mutual participation in scientific advisory bodies, etc. He will make available his links to the Swiss Physical Society SPG and his competences in outreach. He is willing to serve and is open also for other tasks according to the need of the EB and CHIPP.

Before voting, the Board notes the comment of Pohl (not all institutes can be represented in the EB [6 institutes, 4 EB members]), and of Straumann (importance of a good collaborative spirit among the EB members) as well as of Pohl's statement that he as CHIPP Chair sees no problem with any of the candidates.

In the first round of voting (secret ballot) Klaus Kirch is elected as new EB member for a first term of two years. Kirch accepts the vote and is ready to take up his new duties immediately (*applause*).

8. SUK Swiss-wide educational programme for physics

Pohl presents the 3e cycle educational programme of western Switzerland (→ slides) and suggests that also the eastern part of Switzerland should engage in a similar structure and activity. In his view, this would integrate the ProDoc programme into the SUK activities, since the SNF has put an end to the ProDoc programme¹. Pohl is of the opinion that it is necessary to talk with the SUK for taking over not only the educational but also the research modules of the ProDoc programme. Pohl will visit the institutes concerned to discuss the matter and to coordinate potential joint activities.

In order to make things clear, Pohl confirms to Schneider that he is suggesting a Swiss-wide doctoral programme under the auspices of the SUK (since there is no CUSO² in the eastern part of Switzerland). He is convinced that a corresponding proposal should come from CHIPP (to SUK). He also stresses that this programme should solely aim at coordinating the educational offer. The way that participating institutions use this offer remains their exclusive prerogative.

9. CERN Communication Network: new Swiss Node

Beck recalls the outreach networks and committees (→ slides) and informs the Board that the Swiss node of the European Particle Physics Communication Network (Gerber, ETHZ) has resigned from this task. He continues by mentioning his collaboration with Straumann and Pohl to work on a solution, which would bring the national node to the communication group of the University of Berne. A corresponding decision is expected soon from the Berne rector.

Passing on to other activities, he mentions the master classes (www.physicsmasterclasses.org) which had a good success in 2009 and will again be organised in Zurich in 2010. He counts on Geneva [information collected after the meeting: will participate with 20 participants] and Lausanne to join in 2010, because they had indicated their interest. He also plans to hold a full day physics teaching for interested teachers from the Pedagogical High Schools in 2010, and notes with regret the weak participation of Swiss teachers in the CERN teachers programme (a one week national programme in national languages). Apparently, the main obstacle is the fact that the teachers have to organize a substitute during their absence. Gehrman suggests that the physics institutes offer students for this job. Straumann will invite someone from CERN for his next teachers meeting. Finally, Beck informs about the plans for a coherent webpage, possibly together with a layman supporter (→ www.lhc-facts.ch). In this context, Grab expresses his regret and disappointment that the existing LHC webpage (www.swiss-lhc.ch) from Gerber had not been up-dated for the LHC re-start. The Board agrees that Beck should always distribute the CHIPP fact sheet in his media contacts.

10. Publication of the Swiss Science and Technology Council SSTC: “The scientific coordination at national level of especially expensive fields” (SWTR Schrift 4/2009)

Pohl presents a short analysis of the SSTC publication including the associated recommendations (SWTR Schrift 2/2009), highlighting the very positive statements about particle physics and CHIPP (→ slides, summary; full publications in German and French → www.swtr.ch).

11. Roadmap on Particle Physics

- Status Report from the Editing Group [Ereditato]

Ereditato reports about the progress made by the Editing Group. A first draft of the chapters 1 to 3 (Swiss situation, Executive summary, Physics update) will be available by mid February. The remaining four sections (activities in Switzerland update, future plans update, spin-off, education and outreach) will follow thereafter. The total text, called “Memorandum on the implementation of the Swiss Road Map for Particle Physics”, will contain some 25 pages and should have the same graphical appearance as the Road Map. Concluding his report, Ereditato

¹ Gehrman is disappointed that theoretical physics has not been included in the final ProDoc request after it had been taken up in the draft). Pohl states that he has not been aware of this situation which must have occurred before he had taken the overall coordination for ProDoc. He invites theory to join the follow-up programme replacing ProDoc.

² Conférence universitaire de Suisse occidentale.

calls for support from the Board whenever the Editing Group addresses a specific request to a Board member.

12. Professorships at CHIPP Institutes

- Status of new professorships

UGE: two openings are advertised with a deadline of end-February (one full professor in collider physics [succession Bourquin]; one new professor in astroparticle physics). Up to now, some 100 applications have been received. A new position in theoretical cosmology/astroparticle physics is not yet officially advertised; but this should happen soon.

ETHZ: the joint PSI/ETHZ professorship has been filled with Kirch (see agenda item 7). For the other open position – the professorship in collider physics [succession Paus] – the selection committee has held interviews, and the position is expected to be filled by October 2010. In addition, ETHZ is discussing the desirability and the possibility of an associate professor in astroparticle physics (6 years, tenure track position); all resources are not yet there, but there are positive signs. Pohl asks about the necessity of a CHIPP letter of support (Rubbia will keep the Chairman informed).

UBE: the advertised opening [succession Hasenfratz] was closed last fall, but no decision has been taken yet; also in this case, some 100 applications have been received).

UBS: there is one open position in theoretical physics with approx. 70 applications received; negotiations are ongoing.

- Requests for SNF professorship

It seems that it is the wrong moment to tackle this agenda item, because the last call is closed and the next deadline is set in May. Pohl concludes that this should therefore be discussed in summer.

- Ambizione

Pohl informs the Board about the SNF instrument Ambizione (→ [summary](#)) promoting junior researchers in all disciplines for three years with salary and project funds (average: 200 kCHF/year). For details → <http://www.snf.ch/E/funding/individuals/ambizione/Pages/default.aspx>

13. Next Board meeting

Pohl recalls that the next Board meeting will take place in connection with the Plenary meeting on 23/24 August 2010 in Gersau (on the shore of Lake Lucerne).

14. A.O.B.

- C-15 annual report 2009: Ruder gives a short progress report regarding the C-15 annual report 2009 and asks for support, which will most probably have to be given at short notice.
- CHIPP school: Ereditato reports (on behalf of Dissertori) about the CHIPP PhD School 2010 in Ascona, which has been very successfully concluded on 24 January; the School was well attended with 10% foreign students. He thanks Wilde and Ruder for their continued support in the preparation of the School.
- Colangelo announces the Berne School on flavour physics in June.

The Chair closes the meeting at 17.45h.

4 February 2010

written by: Jean-Pierre Ruder
approved by: Martin Pohl