



Minutes of the Board meeting 2010-02 on 24 August 2010

Place of the meeting: Gersau (Paradieshotel Rotschuo)
Date and time: 24 August 2010, 14.00-16.30 (approx.)

Present: Baudis, Bay, Beck, Dissertori, Ereditato, Grab, Hildebrandt (Proxy), Ingram (Proxy), Krusche, Lauss (Proxy), Pohl (Chair), Ribordy, Rubbia, Ruder (Administrator, no voting rights), Schneider, Weber
Proxy votes announced: Baudis, Krusche, Schneider (1 each), Bay, Dissertori (2 each), Ereditato (3).
→ Votes present: 25

Apologies received:

Members: Amsler, Blondel, Bourquin, Chiochia, Clark, Collangelo, Derendinger, Durrer, Gehrman, Horrisberger, Kirch, Minkowski, Nakada, Straumann, Rattazzi, Ritt, Rivkin, Shaposhnikov, Thielemann, Vuilleumier.

Observers: Steinacher, Moor

The Chair opens the meeting at 13.45h

1. Agenda

On request by Ereditato, some SNF information will be given under AOB.
With this addition, the agenda is approved.

2. Apologies and Proxy votes

The Chair informs about the apologies received and reads out the list of proxy votes as announced before the meeting¹.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2010-01; 28 January 2010)

The minutes are approved (1 abstention for not having read them) with thanks to the minute writer.

4. Report on CHIPP activities (elements not to be reported in the Plenary) ([see slides](#))

- Outreach (cooperation with SNF and PSI)

The Chair informs about a possible opening at the SNF. Ereditato suggests submitting rather quickly the request under preparation, as there is a first-come-first-served philosophy. This is agreed by Beck.

→ Beck: to submit the outreach request under preparation quickly to SNF (after having been circulated among the Board members).

- FORCE requests (2010, next period)

The Chair presents the list and mentions the few small cuts applied. He underlines the fact that the SNF recognizes now the mandatory character of the Computing and M&O requests, since they are scrutinized and evaluated by an international committee. He asks the Board to

¹ Baudis (for *Straumann*), Bay (for *Rattazzi*), Bay (for *Shaposhnikov*), Dissertori (for *Chiochia*), Dissertori (for *Gehrman*), Ereditato (for *Collangelo*), Ereditato (for *Blondel*), Ereditato (for *Vuilleumier*), Hildebrandt (attending for *Ritt*), Ingram (attending for *Horrisberger*), Krusche (for *Thielemann*), Lauss (attending for *Kirch*), Schneider (for *Nakada*).

not miss the end September deadline and to copy page 8 of each request to Ruder.

→ Board members: to submit their FORCE requests in time and copy p. 8 to Ruder

- CHIPP tables (update fall 2010)

The Chair informs that Baudis has taken over the data collection and table production from Ereditato and that the data collection process will start soon. He reminds the Board to apply the guidelines as agreed in January 2010. To increase the transparency, the last year's table will be sent out together with the request for data collection.

→ Baudis: to start data collection in the coming weeks and to circulate last year's table.

- SER Roadmap

The Chair informs about the final version being under production right now and being used as input for the next research funding bills to Parliament.

- Round Table 'Swiss representation in international bodies and projects'

The Chair informs about the progress and is convinced that the process will continue; he underlines that the Round Table is a 'consensus body' for exchanging information, but that no legal power for commitments has been transferred from the funding and governing agencies.

Ingram recalls that the MoUs usually contain a 'best efforts' clause as well as an indication that they are not legally binding; therefore, he does not see the problem for signing them and feels always embarrassed for Switzerland when this situation occurs.

- Centre for Advanced Studies in Particle Physics (SUK C15):

- extension into 2012: The Chair informs about the granted extension for 2012 (within the funding envelope) and mentions the difficulties caused by this decision for some of the institutes. This is specifically the case for Berne, where substantial solutions have to be found.

- planning schedule for the 2013-2016 period: The Chair informs about the plans beyond 2012, where this funding instrument will continue. He highlights that one of the selection criteria is a reasonably firm indication for a continued and sustained funding beyond 2016. On a question by Ingram he confirms the inclusion of PSI (as an ETH entity).

After a short exchange of views, the Board supports the submission of a new proposal for the continuation of the C15 project. Ereditato suggests envisaging a joint proposal (identical to the M&O request to SNF) and would like to see an extension of the topics covered to all three pillars (of the Roadmap). Schneider follows up by adding that he would like to see the topics extended also to Theory.

The Board agrees to the following next steps:

→ EB: to present a sketch for a proposal to the Board by end December;

→ Pohl: to enquire with Straumann about his possible availability as project leader.

5. CHIPP membership in SCNAT (Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences) – for decision

[\(see slides\)](#)

- Status Report

The Chair highlights the advantages of being a member of the SCNAT: be better and more involved in science policy matters including consultations and surveys, make its voice heard at the Delegiertenversammlung of SCNAT, do not give up the present autonomy of CHIPP, acquire legal personality [requested for joining], which will also be an asset in connection with EU project participation.

- Agreement to proceed

Confirming to Lauss that there are no draw-backs linked with the transformation to an Association and to Schneider that the Association will not have to pay taxes, the Chair puts the matter to a vote.

Decision: The Board unanimously approves the transformation of CHIPP to an Association (Verein).

After this positive decision, the Chair puts the accession to SCNAT to a vote:

Decision: The Board unanimously decides to apply for SCNAT membership.

Following these two positive decision, the Chair invites Ruder to present the steps and documents needed for the transformation.

- Transformation into an Association (Verein)

Ruder summarizes the legal rules in Switzerland for founding an Association. Three basic elements are necessary:

- 1 a common goal and a group of people willing to jointly pursue the goal
- 2 statutes
- 3 election of a Board / Executive Board

Points 1 and 3 already available in the present CHIPP organisation, the statutes remain the only missing element.

The Board proceeds to a detailed reading of the draft statutes (distributed ahead of the meeting) by going through them article by article, requesting clarifications here and there, introducing small amendments and transfers from the statutes to the internal by-laws. Two major issues need further work:

- 1 the question of the 'seat' of the Association, to be evaluated against the legal processes in the individual cantons (including the tax situation): to be done by the Administrator
- 2 the search for a better wording regarding the definition of the academic members of the Association ('elected professors' vs. 'ordentliche Professoren, Förderprofessuren, Titularprofessoren, Assistenzprofessoren, ...'): to be done by the Chair.

The final version of the statutes, integrating all the amendments discussed, will be distributed to the Board members as soon as available.

→ Pohl: to find a better wording for the definition including not only the elected (ordinary) professors.

→ Ruder: to produce a revised version

→ Ruder: to investigate about the advantages of one seat over the others.

Decision: The Board unanimously approves the statutes in principle and will confirm its positive vote by written procedure² on the basis of the final text.

6. Memorandum on the implementation of the Swiss Road Map for Particle Physics (for information) ([see slides](#))

- Status Report and new schedule

Ereditato reports about the unfortunately rather slow progress by the Editing Group. The Chair offers his help to motivate the members or to consider alternatives.

→ Pohl: to contact the members and to sound them out.

7. Educational programmes for physics (follow up) ([see slides](#))

- SUK/CUSO programme

The Chair highlights the changes introduced in doctoral programmes by the new federal law on support to Universities: there is no doctoral school and the doctoral programme is defined individually by each university. In Western Switzerland, the model introduced under the responsibility of P. Wittwer, U.GE (see www.physique.cuso.ch) contains the CRUS doctoral programme (replacing the 3ème cycle in 2010/2011) + transferable skills + students networking (= PhD days). He hopes that such a loose model might also be attractive for the Eastern part of Switzerland

² if not challenged by one of the Board members present; in that case, an extraordinary meeting will take place.

- ProDoc programme

The Chair reports about the good progress of the ProDoc programme after a slow start and reminds the Board that the programme will end in 2012 (with still calls coming in 2010 and 2011). He continues by mentioning that an additional web portal (within the CHIPP web pages) for doctoral programmes has been created (www.chipp.ch/chipp-doctoral-programme.html), where also the information about the next year's CHIPP winter school in Leukerbad 2011 can be found.

8. Status of new professorships at CHIPP Institutes

The usual tour de table shows the present situation at Swiss universities as follows:

- GE: three open positions: a new one in Astroparticle physics (some 60 applications) with interviews of the short listed candidates starting next week [GE has decided to join forces between Astrophysics and Particle physics by creating a 'Centre of Astroparticle Physics']; the succession of Bourquin in high-energy physics / ATLAS (some 100 applications) with interviews scheduled for November; one in theoretical Astroparticle Physics (probably an ad personam position).
- ZH: the university has agreed to set up a search committee for the succession of Amsler (high-energy physics); in addition, an advertisement regarding the succession of Wyler (theory) might be published soon.
- BE: The institute has started the procedure for the succession of Vuilleumier (retiring in two years), but since this position had been transferred from NE and funded by the faculty, it seems rather unlikely that he is replaced.
- ETHZ: the successor for Pauss (high-energy physics / CMS) has been selected and will be confirmed in the days to come by the ETH Board; the person will start at ETHZ in fall.
- EPFL: nothing to report.
- BS: the process for replacing Trautmann is ongoing; an offer has been made to a candidate.

9. Impressions from the Plenary meeting (programme, meeting place, ...)

The Board was pleased with the broad programme and appreciated the length of the talks (short talks of 20-30 min). The almost total absence of theory was noted with regret; also the fact that only some 10% of all CHIPP members (according to the membership list) have attended the Plenary. The Board expressed its hopes that this will improve next year.

A majority of the Board is very pleased with the meetings being held outside university institutes at rather remote places and wishes to continue like that; a minority suggested alternating between outside and institute meetings.

This year's meeting place was judged as a very nice location in a superb environment, run by friendly staff and supported by good infrastructure.

10. Next Board meeting

Decision: The Board decides to hold the next meeting on 26 January 2011

11. A.O.B.

Ereditato briefly shows that particle physics had a higher success rate than physics in general, which in turn was better positioned than the average of Division 2; regarding the cut rate, situation is just the other way round, with particle physics suffering less than physics in general and the average of Division 2. This favourable situation can be explained by the fact that particle physics experiments and participations have already been scrutinized and evaluated in great detail by international committees and have therefore a higher average quality. Ereditato further highlights some of the unnecessary mistakes often made by the applicants.

The Chair closes the meeting at 17.05h

26 August 2010

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