an Association according to Swiss law

## Membership fee: an alternative calculation method

January 2012/JPR

The Chair has received a request from A. Ereditato on behalf of the Albert Einstein Centre to add an additional decision item regarding the calculation of the membership fee on the agenda. At this point in time (i.e. less than 10 days ahead of the meeting) this requires a decision of the Board, taken with a twothirds majority when adopting the agenda (Art. 25.2 of the CHIPP statutes)

The Board (applying Article 25.2) is requested to approve the addition of this decision item as new item 7 (as a consequence, the items $7-13$ are shifted)

Required majority: two-thirds

## Introduction

At its last meeting, the CHIPP Board did agree to base the calculation of the membership fee on the number of full Board Members. In this way, the membership fee amounts to approx. 2'500 CHF per Board Member, to be invoiced collectively to each institute (or institution). At present, the process for identifying the addressees for the invoices is ongoing.

Very recently, a new consideration has been brought up, which consisted in saying that a membership fee of 2'500 CHF - in case it is known to the public - might harm the image of particle physics by giving the impression that this community is obviously very rich and can allow itself to spend such 'outrageous' amounts just for membership in an association. As an alternative, a modest membership fee of approx. 100 CHF, applied to all CHIPP members, was suggested, complemented by a substantial support contribution from each institute (several kCHF) to make up for the loss in the association's income budget.

## Analysis

At present, the CHIPP statutes allow for membership fee (Art. 35), for donations and for grants. It is not obvious, if public institutions (like university institutes) are allowed to make donations, and the term 'grant' is usually used for a payment associated with a project or a position. The membership fee - which is bindingly decided by the Board - is defined as an individual fee, an institutional fee, or a combination of the two (By-Laws §6.1). Therefore, in principle the idea of an 'institute's support contribution' would be legally possible, but will have to be set and approved by the Board. One must probably expect lengthy discussions to set the level of such a contribution, because it seems unrealistic to assume a flat rate for all institutes, they being too much different in size. Most probably, a decision about such a contribution could be taken at the September meeting at the earliest.

The Leysin method, the alternative of a CHIPP Member based contribution as well as a possible mixed solution (individual fee PLUS institutional fee) are compared in the attached tables. The first one is still based on the assumption of a gradual increase as decided in Leysin (2012:50\%, 2013: 75\%, 2014: $100 \%$ ), whereas the second and the third ones are not planning for an increase of the individual fee. However, the institutional contributions in the third method increase the same way as planned in Leysin.

## Proposal 1

It is proposed to set the individual membership fee for 2012 at 110 CHF per CHIPP Member. However, for administrative and organisational reasons it must be assumed that the contributions are invoiced collectively to each institution.

The Board (applying Article 27, litt. k) is requested to approve the individual membership fee for 2012 as set out above.

Required majority: simple

## Proposal 2

It is proposed to fix the institutional fee at $10 \mathrm{kCHF} /$ year per institution (i.e. per each university, ETHZ, EPFL and PSI). The fees for Fribourg and Basel are reduced to 1 , resp. 2.5 kCHF . The level set for these institutional contributions will be reached in a gradual way as follows:

- for 2012:50\%
- for 2013: 75\%
- from 2014 onwards: 100\%

There will be one invoice per institution.

The Board (applying Article 27, litt. k) is requested

- to approve the institutional fee in principle, and
- to agree to the levels of $10 \mathrm{kCHF}, 2.5 \mathrm{kCHF}$ and 1 kCHF , resp.

Required majority: simple


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