

Minutes of Board meeting 2016-01 on 26 February 2016

Time of the meeting: Friday, 26 February 2016 from 13:15 to ~16:15

Place of the meeting: Universität Bern, Exakte Wissenschaften (ExWi), Sidlerstrasse 5, Hörraum B077

The Chair opens the meeting at 13:15 ([→ slides of the Chair](#))

1. Welcome and agenda ([→ document](#))

The Chair welcomes the Board members, Honorary Board members and the Observers at the Board. He welcomes, as new Board members, Prof. Massimiliano Grazzini (Uni. of Zurich, excused) and Dr Bohdan (Danek) Kotlinski (PSI). He also welcomes Xavier Reymond succeeding to Martin Steinacher as observer from SERI. The proposed agenda is approved, with the inclusion – as proposed by the Chair and after item 12 – of a short item by Florencia Canelli on “News on IUPAP commission C11 activities”.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. Apologies and Proxy votes

Board members with voting rights (as of 25 February 2016): 67

Present: Bay, Blondel, Canelli, Colangelo, Dissertori, Gehrmann, Golling, Grab, Kirch, Kotlinski, Laine, Mermod, Montaruli, Nakada (Chair), Reffert, Schneider, Schumann, Signer, Weber, Wu

Other participants: Maillard (Obs. SNSF), Reymond (Obs. SERI), Schopper (Obs. SPS), Türler (Admin.)

The Chair informs about the apologies received and about the proxy votes announced before the meeting¹.

Quorum: 23 votes (= 1/3 of the Board members; Art. 24.1 Statutes); Votes present: 20 + 9 proxies = 29

→ The quorum is reached.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2015-03 [23 October 2015]) ([→ document](#))

The Chair asks for comments concerning these minutes. As there are none, he invites the Board to approve them.

The Board unanimously approves the minutes (with thanks to the minute writer).
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DECISION ITEMS

4. Closure of the 2015 Accounts ([→ document](#))

4.1 Annual Report on CHIPP Activities 2015

The Chair reminds that CHIPP as member of SCNAT has to deliver an Annual Report to this organisation and that therefore the format of the CHIPP annual activity report is based on the SCNAT format. He asks for questions or comments. There are none.

4.2 Annual Accounts 2015 (*Profit and Loss Statement; Balance Sheet*)

The Chair presents briefly the main incomes and expenditures of the Profit and Loss Statement. The incomes amount to 98'104.11 CHF and the expenses to 101'313.12 CHF resulting in a loss of 3'209.01 CHF. This is reflected in the Balance Sheet by a corresponding decrease in asset from 63'475.15 CHF at the end of 2014 to 60'266.14 CHF at the end of 2015. This deficit is however less than in the approved budget of 2015 and is also lower than the one (6'343.70 CHF) of the previous year.

¹ Canelli (for *Kilminster*) [swapped], Dissertori (for *Wallny*), Golling (for *Beck*), Kirch (for *Hildebrandt*), Nakada (for *Rivkin*), Schumann (for *Baudis*), Signer (for *Ritt*), Weber (for *Ereditato*) [settled at start of meeting], Wu (for *Pohl*).

4.3 Auditor's Report

The Chair states that the audit took place on 10 February 2016 in Zurich by the two new auditors Ben Kilminster (UZH) and Michele Weber (Uni. Bern), in presence of Marc Türler (administrator) and Ms. Monika Röllin (accountant, UZH). He conveys the auditor's judgement that the statements fairly represent the financial position of CHIPP, have been prepared with care and comply with statutory requirements. Weber confirms that everything has been checked and is in order. The Chair asks the audience for questions. As there are none, he proceeds with the request to the Board to approve the Annual Report 2015 with thanks to the writer and to follow the positive recommendation of the auditors by approving the Annual Accounts 2015.

The Board unanimously

- approves the CHIPP Annual Report 2015 to be made publicly accessible on the CHIPP website;
- approves the Annual Accounts, the Balance Sheet, and the Profit and Loss Statement for 2015;
- formally discharges the CHIPP EB and the CHIPP Administration for the year 2015, expressing at the same time its thanks and appreciation for the careful accounting.

→ Admin.: to make the report accessible and to provide the accounts to SCNAT

5. Revision of CHIPP Prize procedures ([→ document](#))

The Chair introduces the topic by reminding that a revision of the CHIPP Prize procedures has already been submitted at the last Board meeting. While the proposed changes have been approved, a discussion followed on article 2 about the non-completion of the thesis. A majority (13 against 8) of the present Board members was in favour of allowing nominations of candidates having already defended their thesis during the last 12 months. However, as this did not reach a 2/3 majority as requested by the Statutes in such cases, the EB suggested to get confirmation (or not) of this important change at this Board meeting. The EB suggested voting for either of two proposals (A and B) for article 2. A short discussion followed on the exact phrasing of the two proposals. The Chair updates the wording directly in his slides, which are finally agreed to be:

- Proposal A: All PhD students, who at the time of the deadline for applications were affiliated to CHIPP and did not yet pass their final PhD thesis defence may apply for the prize.
- Proposal B: All PhD students or former PhD students, who 12 months before the application deadline were affiliated to CHIPP and did not yet pass their final PhD thesis defence may apply for the prize.

The Board decision resulted in 9 votes for proposal A and 15 votes for proposal B.

The Board with 15 votes against 9 approves proposal B for article 2 of the revised procedures of the CHIPP Prize.

→ Admin.: to make the revised procedures available

Adrian Signer closes the item by mentioning that Ralph Eichler (ETHZ) accepted to be part of the CHIPP Selection Committee, succeeding to Peter Truöl (UZH).

6. Outreach activities 2016 on the SCNAT website ([→ document](#))

Invited by the Chair to present this agenda item, Marc Türler reminds about the past outreach programme from "Verflixtes Higgs" (2012–2013) to the SNSF-Agora project "Interactions" (2013–2015) and the participation to the SCNAT bicentennial in 2015. With the end of the SNSF-Agora project, SCNAT expressed interest to port the multi-lingual "particlephysics.ch" website – where all outreach activities are reported – to a new SCNAT thematic portal on particle physics. The Board reacted positively to this proposal that is complemented by additional funding for new activities and articles on the website. While the porting to the new SCNAT site is on-going, the EB wishes to get Board approval for the foreseen outreach activities in 2016. The proposal by the scientific journalist Benedikt Vogel – who was already involved in the past CHIPP outreach activities – has been distributed before the meeting. Asked by Christoph Grab, Türler clarifies that SCNAT is willing to support this activity on the long term, on a yearly basis. Marc Schumann would like to have articles not only on CERN and the LHC, but also on activities in the other CHIPP pillars. The Chair reminds that Hans Peter Beck is the responsible for the content and the quality of the information. Olivier Schneider also finds it important to have all three pillars well represented and reminds that the funding from CHIPP is already included in the approved budget of 2016. Alain Blondel suggests maybe changing the responsible person every two years to make sure there is some diversity of topics and views. After these comments and suggestions, the Chair proposes that Beck reports on the activities at the Plenary meeting of August and proceeds with the vote.

The Board unanimously approves the proposal of the 2016 outreach activities on the SCNAT web portal and its financing.

→ Beck: to give a report on outreach activities at the Plenary meeting

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. RECFA country visit 2016: topics and speakers

The Chair reminds about the forthcoming country visit of Switzerland by the Restricted European Committee for Future Accelerators (RECFA) on April 1st, 2016 in the central building of the ETHZ. He adds that the presentations are open to all CHIPP members and shall present all CHIPP-related activities. After deliberation, RECFA shall communicate its conclusions at the end of the meeting. He then presents the preliminary programme prepared by Lenny Rivkin and the EB members, which includes both “ex-officio” talks by CHIPP representatives for outreach and computing, and scientific talks. The programme opens with a talk by the State Secretary Mauro Dell’Ambrogio. Olivier Schneider confirms that he has been invited last summer to attend the whole event, but without specifying the time and length of a talk. Xavier Reymond confirms the attendance of Dell’Ambrogio and will provide inputs for the preparation of the talk. The Chair asks for inputs (orally or per e-mail) in case something special is to be addressed. He recalls that last time, the importance of PSI for Switzerland was emphasised. Klaus Kirch offers to send the related documents from the last visit. The Chair then goes on presenting the programme and, for each topic, the proposed speakers, who should cover the whole Swiss activities. This is a big challenge, as mentioned by Alain Blondel. The idea was not to have the most senior professors, but rather middle-career researchers. He notes that the single names for neutrino and astroparticle physics have been discussed and agreed within the respective pillars. On the next slide, he shows a proposal that would match geographic/institutional and also gender balance. The Board manifested general agreement on the underlined names. Only Blondel wishes to get confirmation about having only one person from the University of Geneva talking on astroparticle physics, but agrees that changing this would imply other changes to maintain the overall balance. The Chair thanks everybody for approving the speakers. The last open issue is on the PhD student talk. On the idea to invite the CHIPP Prize winner of last year, Adrian Signer notes that she is no more a PhD student by now. Thomas Gehrmann adds that the Prize is for the PhD work, while here we need somebody with a good eloquence to speak about what it means to be a PhD student in Switzerland. He mentions that the speaker in previous years made an online questionnaire four weeks before the meeting to get the inputs and comments from the other PhD students in the country. Marc Schumann suggests to maybe have one selected per institute and then the one to speak is chosen randomly. After one or two other interventions, the Chair suggests anybody from the Board to send him a candidate by the end of next week and then he will choose one of the PhD students.

→ Admin.: to send a message to the Board to collect candidates for the PhD student talk

8. Brainstorming on the main issues for funding research infrastructures

To set the framework, Xavier Reymond reports that the Federal Council transmitted yesterday to the Grand Council the proposal for the 2017–2020 funding, including numbers. It was computed based on an analysis of the inputs to the roadmap. The initial FLARE funding for this four-year period was reduced from 38.4 MCHF to 32 MCHF. The ETH Domain received also less than requested. Cutting requests is part of the usual reality and the actual numbers are up to now only a proposal submitted to Parliament. Starting from now, the Parliament shall refine this by interacting with people. Asked by the Chair on the CTA funding, Reymond explains that the Federal Council has a general wish to provide Swiss researchers with an access to unique international research infrastructures. There are four of them identified to date: the Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) (laser source), the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA), the Square Kilometer Array (SKA), and the Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility (LBNF). In addition, the access to the European Spallation Source (ESS) in Sweden was secured earlier. CTA is still a project in preparation, but the decision of building CTA will come soon. In the message to Parliament, 8 MCHF are foreseen for CTA that are outside of FLARE. He notes that this is only for building hardware. Operational costs would be separate. Tristan Maillard thanks SERI for securing this money outside of FLARE. A positive decision on this funding of CTA will have implications for FLARE and he hopes that this decision will come soon, allowing the SNSF to re-discuss the FLARE repartition. Reymond clarifies further that the details are not yet decided, but basically the 8 MCHF would be for instrument delivery and a Swiss contribution to the CTA collaboration. The share between the two depends a bit on the interest of the Swiss groups to rather deliver hardware as in-kind for the construction, or rather to use CTA and thus provide more cash to the collaboration. Asked by the Chair on

this process, Reymond explains that this is done in the frame of the Round Table International (RTI) with the Steering Board for CTA chaired by Ueli Straumann and including all the representatives of the Swiss involvement in CTA. This closed the discussion on CTA. Asked by the Chair about the impact of the FLARE funding reduction, Olivier Schneider recalls that the 32 MCHF correspond to the “realistic” scenario 1 discussed in September 2015. The “optimistic” scenario 2 hoped for the full amount of 38.4 MCHF given in the first SERI document of 24 June 2015. The Chair notes that the foreseen LHC Phase II upgrade will not fit in scenario 1, especially if the funding of the ETH Domain is also reduced. Günther Dissertori notes that there is no information yet on any cuts to the ETH-Domain concerning the strategic items, which are relevant for us. Asked by Thomas Gehrman to be more specific on “it does not fit”, the Chair explains that some Swiss groups want to apply for wider contributions that what can be funded, but it is not excluded that all of Phase II is internationally too ambitious. Dissertori notes that the Technical Design Reviews (TDR) are to be written in 2017 and that this will be the moment one shall really put numbers and commitments. Michele Weber confirms that by the end of the year we need to know how much money is available. The Chair then moves to neutrinos and notes that the funding is fine according to the White Paper approved in November, but that DUNE and Hyper-K are not really included. He foresees a problem when these long baseline experiments will materialize. Maillard warns that, besides the ETH Domain, the funding of cantonal universities might also be reduced in the future and this might impact the big projects, such as ATLAS, CMS and CTA. Florencia Canelli notes that there are on-going talks with the direction of UZH for the last 6 months, in particular on CMS, but there is nothing concrete yet. Alain Blondel adds that the UniGE is interested in the FCC and that Giuseppe Iacobucci is trying to get involvement for the energy upgrade. Michele Weber notes that in Bern the dialogue with the direction of the university was difficult last year, but is starting to improve. The Chair concludes the item after Teresa Montaruli expressed the need to join forces to get the best for all projects.

9. Format of the Plenary 2017

The Chair reminds that every second year since 2014 the CHIPP Plenary is embedded in the SPS Annual meeting, while we keep a separate meeting on the other years. He announces that in 2017 the SPS foresees to have its annual meeting together with the Austrian Physical Society at CERN. It would thus be strange not to be involved. The EB discussed this issue, but wanted to know the Board opinion. Andreas Schopper adds that there are discussions to have also the UniGE becoming part of the organisation. He informs that the CERN management agreed to provide the big auditorium for morning plenaries with up to 600 people. In the afternoons, parallel sessions could be held at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), since there is an agreement between CERN and the CICG. It would be the week of August 21st, and the overall schedule would be similar to the one of Fribourg in 2014 with the CHIPP Board meeting on the Monday morning and the Formal Plenary in the afternoon, while the SPS annual meeting would start on Tuesday. Schopper notes that a pre-booking has been concluded and that there is now the need to reserve the rooms based on the Board feedback. Olivier Schneider finds it important to gather the CHIPP community every two years for a more focused meeting, but he sees the compelling news that this will be at CERN and thus an exception can be made in 2017. As there are not much other reactions, the Chair concludes that it is agreed to have the CHIPP Annual Plenary of 2017 in conjunction with the SPS Annual Meeting at CERN.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. SWHEPPS 2016

Günther Dissertori presents the status of the Strategy Workshop on High-Energy Particle Physics in Switzerland (SWHEPPS) which has been moved back by one day to the 7–9 June 2016. This was done to avoid a collision with the Altarelli memorial workshop at CERN on June 10th. He reminds that the targeted audience is not the full CHIPP community, because of the focus on the Pillar 1 discussion. He refers to the slides for the list of involved people. Convenors have an important role in identifying the speakers, possibly an external invited speaker, and will then also act as editors of the White Paper on Pillar 1, which shall be a follow-up of the workshop. He thanks them for accepting this important role. On the programme, Alain Blondel notes that there is no physics on accelerators, but only on detectors. He suggests adding something on accelerator physics, in particular opening new horizons with the FCC. Klaus Kirch notes that BSM Physics I is experimental and suggests BSM Physics II to focus on the theory.

→ Dissertori: to convey the remarks to the session conveners

11. Zuoz Summer School 2016

Adrian Signer gives a brief reminder on the Zuoz Summer School to be held on 14–20 August 2016. He mentions the early registration deadline on May 1st and thanks Geneva and EPFL for registering already a lot of students. He notes that there is a good balance between theoretical and experimental talks, which is also present in the scientific orientation of the participants.

→ Admin.: to send a reminder to all CHIPP members

12. CHIPP PhD Winter School 2017

Florencia Canelli reports on the organisation of the CHIPP PhD Winter School 2017. She reminds that Vincenzo Chiochia organised the three previous schools: in Engelberg in 2012, and then in Grindelwald in 2013 and 2015. She got financial and other information on past schools from the secretary at the UZH. She notes that the two last meetings were more balanced among the three pillars of CHIPP, while earlier PhD schools were more focused on Pillar 1. This should be kept in her view. She mentions the problem of cancelling the school in case of not enough registrations in view of the overall cost being of the order of 30 kCHF. The registration fees of the last year at 1100 CHF per student were rather high. This should be reduced a bit, if possible. The 2017 school could be held between January 9th and February 18th to be before the beginning of the semester. The location is getting sorted out with the aim to have a rather central geographic location in Switzerland. She mentions the idea to organise research evenings consisting of an informal presentation of a research topic. She finishes by inviting the Board to send her suggestions for lecturers. Asked by Teresa Montaruli on the duration of the lectures, she clarifies that the usual programme consists of 5 lecturers giving a total of 6 hours each. Günther Dissertori warns about the need to find the lecturers well before June and suggests building a small working group to search them as it is done for Zuoz. The Chair agrees and suggests that Canelli receives help to share the work, in particular from Montaruli, who volunteered earlier to help with the organisation. This is agreed and it is also noted that additional support will come from the UZH secretary.

→ Canelli: to go on with the organisation and the identification of lecturers

12b. News on IUPAP commission C11 activities

Florencia Canelli, as a member of commission C11 on Particles and Fields of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), mentions the Lepton-Photon conference of 2015 held in Slovenia, which suffered a bit from the EPS-HEP 2015 conference in Vienna a few weeks before. The 28th Lepton-Photon symposium will be in Sysu, China in August 2017, attracting possibly more people. She mentions the possibility to get financial support from IUPAP for conferences organised in 2017. The allocated amount is of zero, 5k, or 10k, depending on the ranking of the proposals. The review of the candidates for the Young Scientist Prize 2016 is on-going. She then mentions the issue on the ranking of institutes/universities and in particular the rule that papers with more than 1000 (sometimes 700) collaborators from big experiments cannot be entered anymore to contribute to the ranking. The Chair mentions that this is indeed a concern and that the CERN SPC already discussed this issue. The EPS-HEPP Board got also involved and universities are ready to discuss the matter. He thinks however that this can have an influence for the smaller institutes/universities, but not so much for the bigger ones. Günther Dissertori confirms that many people are writing letters on this ranking issue.

13. News from the APPEC General Assembly (→ [slides](#))

Teresa Montaruli presents slides on the APPEC activities. She mentions the new website of APPEC and that a first draft of the updated roadmap exists. The target time to deliver it is in September and it should be written for a layman for a simple understanding of the issues. It was drafted out by the Science Advisory Committee (SAC), which includes Laura Baudis (UZH) since 2013. Some SAC members have to be replaced soon and the EB proposed Misha Shaposhnikov (EPFL), who agreed to be nominated. She then presents the coming meetings of the year and in particular the APPEC Town Meeting to be held in Paris on 6–7 April 2016. It is there that the input to the Roadmap shall be given and discussed. She then gives some statistics from the APPEC Census table and mentions that filling them for Switzerland was finally rendered much easier thanks to the numbers taken from the CHIPP Tables. She presents the funding foreseen for CTA as part of the 2017–2020 federal budget as discussed earlier (see item 8). She notes that CTA and FLARE represent only a very small amount of the overall envelope of 26 GCHF. Xavier Reymond reacts that this includes all of the education, science, etc. in Switzerland for four years. He thinks that the share of particle physics is not small compared to the ratios in other countries like Germany, for instance, but the accurate comparison was not yet done. Montaruli ends by presenting ATTRACT as one of the proposals of

Horizon 2020 that was discussed quite a lot at the APPEC General Assembly. It is a proposal for a pan-European initiative to accelerate developments of high-performance detector and imaging technologies. The Chair then asks Alain Blondel about his presentation on parameter measurements on neutrino mixing as input to the roadmap. Blondel explains that such a talk has not been given since 2013. He finds it important to review the interconnection between astroparticle and neutrinos and to explain what is the discovery potential of the various experiments. JUNO (Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Experiment, in China) for instance could soon measure the proton decay. Montaruli adds that the European community is pushing for understanding the synergies between IceCube and ORCA (Oscillation Research with Cosmics in the Abyss) for KM3NeT in the Mediterranean Sea. There is also interest on the combined use and relative strength of accelerator versus cosmic neutrino detectors.

14. CHIPP EB in 2017: call for candidates

The Chair reminds on the current composition of the CHIPP Executive Board (EB). Both Teresa Montaruli and Adrian Signer are finishing their mandate at the end of the year. Montaruli expressed the wish to step down at the end of her 2nd term, whereas Signer is ready to serve for a 2nd term as EB member. The Board will soon receive a call for nominations towards the election at the Board meeting of August of two EB members for the period 2017–2018.

15. ECFA representatives in 2017: call for candidates

The Chair presents the four Swiss members of the European Committee for Future Accelerators (ECFA). Sigve Haug is ending his 1st term at the end of the year and is not standing for re-election because his current position is not secured beyond 2016. CHIPP members will soon receive a call for nominations towards elections in June at the Plenary upon recommendation by the Board.

16. New professorships at CHIPP institutes: report from each institute

As usual, the Chair invites Board members to report about any new professorship positions in CHIPP institutes. In Bern, Marc Schumann mentions the arrival of Florian Piegsa as a new SNSF professor on cold neutrons. Alain Blondel notes that the procedures did not start yet for succession positions in Geneva. Klaus Kirch mentions for the PSI that the new group leader is now Bohdan Kotlinski and that the advertisement of the position for the succession of Roland Horisberger shall come out in a couple of months.

17. Next CHIPP Plenary and Board meetings

The Chair reminds about the CHIPP Annual Plenary held jointly with the SPS Annual Meeting on 23–25 August 2016 in Lugano. The Board meeting will be the day before in the afternoon of Monday, 22 August, while the Formal Plenary meeting will be on Tuesday morning. This will be followed by the PhD/Postdoc Days as part of the SPS TASK session.

18. A.O.B.

Marc Türlér thanks Marc Schumann for precious help with the organisation of this meeting at the University of Bern.

The Chair closes the meeting at 16:25.

5 August 2016

written by: Marc Türlér
approved by: Tatsuya Nakada