Swiss Institute of Particle Physics

an Association according to Swiss law

Minutes of Board meeting 2016-03 on 14 October 2016

Time of the meeting: Friday, 14 October 2016 from 13:15 to ~16:30
Place of the meeting: Room 'Eiger', Haus der Akademien (SCNAT), Laupenstrasse 7, Bern

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. The proposed agenda is approved without changes. Tristan Maillard informs that he is stepping down from SNSF to work at EPFL. He wishes to avoid any conflict of interest in any matter from now on. The Chair thanks him for his interest in the CHIPP activities and his cooperation over the years and wishes him good luck for his new challenges.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. Apologies and Proxy votes

Board members with voting rights (as of 13 October 2016): 67
Present: Bay, Biland, Blondel, Canelli, Dissertori, Ereditato, Golling, Hajdas, Hildebrandt, Iacobucci, Kilminster, Mermod, Montaruli, Nakada (Chair), Ritt, Rivkin, Schneider, Serra, Sfyrla, Signer, Weber
Other participants: Maillard (Obs. SNSF), Reymond (Obs. SERI), Türler (Admin.)
The Chair informs about the apologies received and about the proxy votes announced before the meeting[1].
Quorum: 23 votes (= 1/3 of the Board members; Art. 24.1 Statutes); Votes present: 21 + 7 proxies = 28
→ The quorum is reached.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2016-02 [22 August 2016]) (→ 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).

DECISION ITEMS

4. IPPOG MoU signature (→ document)

The Chair presents the issue by reminding the history of the International Particle Physics Outreach Group (IPPOG). Switzerland is one of the 27 countries contributing currently to IPPOG, which is now wishing to become a collaboration in its own right. CHIPP is asked to sign the new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which would imply a yearly membership fee of 3'000 EUR based on the Swiss GDP. A request to the MAP platform of SCNAT was accepted and we shall receive 3'000 CHF for the membership fee. Adrian Signer notes the difference in currency between the IPPOG membership and the SCNAT support. Olivier Schneider asks whether the SCNAT support is just for one year or on a longer term. The Chair clarifies that this is to be asked again every year, at least for the time being. In absence of Hans Peter Beck, Marc Türler reminds that the main activity of IPPOG is the organisation of the International Master Classes for high-school students. He also notes that some other countries have already signed the MoU or engaged to do so.

[1] Proxies: Canelli (for *Straumann*), Dissertori (for *Wallny*), Hildebrandt (for *Kirch*), Ritt (for *Grab*), Serra (for *Isidori*), Signer (for *Kotlinski*), Weber (for *Beck*). Apologies: Baudis (on video), Bourquin (Hon.), Grazzini, Kunszt (Hon.), Pozzorini, Shopper (Obs. SPS), Wu.

The Board in open vote and unanimously approves the signature of the IPPOG Memorandum of Understanding by CHIPP, representing Switzerland.

5. CHIPP activities 2017: planning and budget (→ document)

The Chair introduces the topic mentioning that, as in previous years, the budget follows the list of planned activities for the coming year. In addition to the obvious changes in supported schools and conferences, there is now the inclusion of the IPPOG membership fee (3 kCHF, see item 4 above) and a provision of 1.5 kCHF for travel costs related to the CHIPP Prize. Indeed, with the change of procedures of the CHIPP Prize (see Board 2016-01, item 5), a nominee can now be up to one year after PhD completion and thus could have to travel for the interview of the short-listed candidates possibly from outside Europe. Giuseppe Iacobucci asks whether it is possible to skip the interviews. Adrian Signer explains that it is often not easy to compare candidates in very different fields (e.g. theory vs. experiments) and the interview of the 2-3 best candidates is therefore important. Olivier Schneider thinks that using videoconference for the interviews would be fine. This opinion is shared by Stefan Ritt, who thinks the money should not be spent for the interviews, but only for the travel of the winner to receive the Prize and give the talk at the annual Plenary meeting. The Chair concludes that there is a need to foresee some money on this and continues with the presentation of the planned activities of 2017 in the following themes: science, communication & outreach, funding, and association. The presented budget has expenses of 138.5 kCHF mostly covered by the income of 125 kCHF (membership fees, SCNAT support and the support for the EPPCN from SERI & CERN). This yields a negative balance of –13.5 kCHF, which can still be supported by the estimated asset at the start of the year of ~51 kCHF. The Chair therefore proposes to keep both the membership fees of 110 CHF/capita and the institutional fees of 5'600 CHF (Basel: 2'000 CHF) unchanged as compared to 2016. Marc Türler is asked to comment on the foreseen deficit. He states that the budget is rather conservative and hopes that, as in previous years, the deficit will be much less in the end.

The Board unanimously
- approves the CHIPP activities for 2017,
- approves the CHIPP budget 2017 as resulting from the activities, and
- approves the membership fee 2017 of 110 CHF per individual member plus the institutional fee at 5'600 CHF/institute, except for Basel (2'000 CHF).

6. Re-election of a Swiss scientific delegate at the APPEC General Assembly (→ document)

The Chair reminds that Switzerland is member of the AstroParticle Physics European Consortium (APPEC) since January 2013. There are two Swiss representatives at the APPEC General Assembly (GA): The head of SNSF Division 2, currently Tristan Maillard and a scientist from the astroparticle physics community. The latter is Teresa Montaruli and she is now willing to serve for a 3rd term in 2017–2018. The Chair asks whether there is a limit of the number of terms, which is apparently not the case according to Montaruli and Maillard. Montaruli is then asked to leave the room, while the Chair asks for comments. Maillard states that Montaruli is very active and that it is a pleasure to work with her in APPEC. The Chair notes that since Maillard shall be replaced in 2017, it is good to keep some continuity with Montaruli for the next two years. It is suggested to have a change the next time for diversity. As there are no further comments, the Chair proceeds with the vote. No secret vote is asked.

In absence of the candidate, the Board in open vote and with unanimity re-elects Teresa Montaruli as Swiss scientific delegate to the APPEC General Assembly for a 3rd term from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

Montaruli is called back and enters the room with applause. She thanks the Board and mentions she has been nominated to possibly become secretary of APPEC. The vote will be on the 2nd of November.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. FLARE priorities (→ document) (→ slides)

The Chair introduces the topic by reminding that FLARE PIs will be invited to present there proposal to the FLARE panel meeting of 19–20 January 2017. Both CHIPP and CHAPS shall present the priorities for the particle and astronomy communities, respectively. He also reminds that accelerator R&D and CTA have received a dedicated funding from SERI. CHIPP is very grateful to SERI for this special support, because otherwise our FLARE prioritisation work would have been much more difficult. He then asks Tristan Maillard whether the members of the panel are known. Maillard answers that there are both national and foreign members, who we will know at the meeting, but he still mentions a few names. He then also clarifies the format of the meeting, which will start with the presentations from CHIPP and CHAPS on the priorities in a public session. This will be followed by private sessions of 30 minutes per project. Every PI has 10 minutes to present the proposal, followed by 10 minutes of questions and answers and finally 10 minutes of deliberation by the panel members. The FLARE requests can be between 1 and 4 years. The Chair suggests going through the list of projects one-by-one with short presentations of typically only 5 minutes. This is done, followed by a coffee break, before reconvening for a discussion. Maillard clarifies that the priorities to be presented by the CHIPP Chair shall not include amounts of money for different projects. It is however good that CHIPP does this exercise based on the CHIPP Tables to understand the needs and to trigger self-moderation. Asked about the magnitude of the requests to be expected from astronomers, he answers that it is difficult to give a hint. Xavier Reymond does not exclude an SKA request, but maybe this will come only after 2019. Maillard also reminds that it is mandatory to have a normal SNSF funding for a project to get FLARE funding. The Chair then presents the other slides he prepared on the priorities, in particular in the neutrino pillar. Giuseppe Iacobucci thinks that the Japanese neutrino programme could be considered as an SNSF funded programme that shall be continued beyond Alain Blondel's retirement. Maillard agrees that SNSF can be flexible depending on the past experience of the new incoming person, i.e. if the line of science remains the same. This makes sense according to Blondel, who notes however that Hyper-K is not yet requesting funding. The Chair then shows a letter by James Siegrist (DOE, USA) addressed to SERI about growing partnership between the US high-energy physics and Switzerland. He notes that there are two Swiss groups in DUNE (ETHZ and Uni. BE) with hardware commitments, which could strongly benefit from a dedicated SERI credit line as done for CTA. Reymond notes, however, that this will not be possible before 2021 because such a credit line can only be opened every four years. It is however good for CHIPP to be supportive and to start early working on this to come up with a solid proposal for funding in 2021. Reymond adds that unlike the US, Japan did not yet approach SERI to start discussions on the future neutrino programme. As a matter of equity SERI would also be ready to enter into discussion and therefore reserves for the time being 1/3 of the possible funding to the Japanese programme. Blondel acknowledges this openness keeping a provision for possible Hyper-K funding, while interring into discussion with the US for securing funding for his colleagues in Bern and Zurich working hard since many years on liquid Argon detectors. The Chair concludes by confirming that CHIPP is supportive of these developments and takes for granted that we all basically agree on the priorities on neutrinos. Concerning the astroparticle pillar, there is not much to discuss: DARWIN will ramp up after XENON nT and there is likely not too much overlap to expect. Concerning Pillar 1, the LHC experiments have the highest priority. Answering Antonio Ereditato, he clarifies that he does not want to go into prioritisation of the LHC experiments, they are all equally important, but we can still discuss some aspects within Pillar 1. Maillard would like to point out that computing has not highest priority for SNSF and this was a conscious decision by Council. This concerns all the computing parts and not only Tier-2. Especially, as he discussed already with Christoph Grab, R&D on computing is not a high priority. Michele Weber reminds, however, that computing is essential for the data exploitation. Maillard understands this and adds that it is the same in other fields (e.g. Jungfraujoch science). The idea is not to drop funding for computing, but the highest priority is elsewhere. The question about the technical manpower for computing came up. Maillard mentions an informal agreement on this aspect between SNSF and ETHZ to be also discussed with CHIPP. The Chair then asks about possible comments on smaller experiments. Ben Kilminster thinks it is good to be able to have some money allocated for target of opportunity science on diverse small experiments. The Chair agrees, but wonders if this could be funded by normal SNSF funding. This is not so simple, according to Maillard, because given the rather substantial FLARE pot the case for funding infrastructures with normal SNSF grants is hard to justify. This long discussion ends on a remark by Stefan Ritt on where to draw a line between beam-lines and experiments. While beam-lines are obviously needed to run experiments, the Chair thinks that this is to be funded by PSI. Wojtek Hajdas notes, however, that getting external funding would give a very positive signal at PSI as there

is an internal competition of many projects. The Chair concludes that we need to be careful not to push too many things in the limited FLARE pot. He thanks all PIs for their presentations and asks them to not increase their requests compared to what has been presented today; going down even by a few per cents would be welcome.

8. Summary of SWHEPPS workshop (→ document) (→ slides)

In absence of Rainer Wallny, Günther Dissertori presents quickly his slides on the SWHEPPS workshop summary. The summary paper has been circulated to the Board yesterday, on 13 October 2016. It misses two out of the 12 contributions. The CHIPP Board is invited to endorse the conveners to act as whitepaper section editors. The Board agrees on this without discussion.

9. CHIPP website on SCNAT web portal

Marc Türler presents a few slides – included in the slides of the Chair – on the pro and counter arguments to move the CHIPP website to the SCNAT web-portal dedicated to affiliated organisations, such as CHIPP. He shows as an example how the CHIPP home page could look line if we agree on the move. The positive points are mainly a modern website, simple to edit, with increased visibility among other fields of natural sciences, and also offering the possibility to share news with the outreach portal "particlephysics.ch". The negative points are a loss of the full control on the layout, as well as rather technical issues to include all images and documents in a database, loosing a convenient file system linking. Especially for the minutes of the Board documents and the slides, this is a really complication. There is also no support yet to host the CHIPP member database at SCNAT. Stefan Ritt comments that at PSI they also successfully moved to a database system from a file system. Asked by Olivier Schneider whether it is the EB proposal to move the website, the Chair clarifies that the EB has no strong opinion and wishes to hear the Board comments and whether the Board agrees that the main CHIPP pages are on the SCNAT website. As there are no objections, it is generally agreed to do this move in a most effective and pragmatic manner.

→ Admin: to start implementing the move of the main CHIPP pages

10. Debriefing of Plenary 2016

The Chair makes a very brief statement on the low participation of senior people. The situation was, however, not as bad as in Fribourg in 2014, especially, as reminded by Olivier Schneider, in the last session when the previous speaker was leaving when the next one started… He would like the Board members to be careful next time to have enough senior people attending the talks of the PhD students and postdocs.

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. CHIPP PhD Winter School 2017

Florencia Canelli reports without slides that the preparation of the CHIPP PhD Winter School to be held in Sörenberg (LU) on 13–17 February 2017 is progressing well. She received 7 registrations so far. Giuseppe Iacobucci asks her to please send a reminder a couple of weeks before the deadline.

12. Gender in Physics Days 2017 (→ slides)

Teresa Montaruli presents her slides on gender issues and what the CHIPP community can do to help. She mentions the setting up of a survey in collaboration with the equity office of the University of Geneva. She would like to get funding statistics with gender information from SNSF in the fields of physics and astronomy. She then presents the programme of the Gender in Physics day to be held in Geneva on 26 January 2017. CHIPP members are encouraged to register and attend. The Gender Equality Network in the European Research Area (GENERA) will derive actions that should be implemented by partner institutions, including CHIPP, which could discuss this in future meetings. She then gives a few concrete examples of unconscious biases and discriminating words. Tristan Maillard informs that the SNSF provides an addition 1000 CHF per year for any woman funded by the SNSF grant. This also applies to current requests. He asks Board members to please spread the information in their institutes.

13. The new Swiss Data Science Center (→ slides)

Aurelio Bay presents quickly the slides he prepared on the new Swiss Data Science Center (SDSC). The establishment of the centre within the ETHZ and EPFL is a decision of the ETH-Domain. It shall consist of an interdisciplinary team of data and computer scientists, and will be available to the whole research community in Switzerland. The overall budget for the 2017–2020 period is of 30 MCHF from where 2/3 will go directly to support to projects using the SDSC. He then shows some slides from the director of the SDSC, Olivier

Verscheure, presented at a meeting held on 29 September 2016 in Ecogia, at the Department of Astronomy of the University of Geneva. The idea of the SDSC is to bridge the gap between data science (data mining, statistics, machine learning, data visualisation, etc.) and the domain experts in fields as diverse as personalized health, smart cities (e.g. traffic regulation), economics, etc. The centre shall be fully operational in January 2017. Bay discussed on 11 October 2016 with Verscheure possible links between astronomical data centre and data science activities. There could be an added value through the examination of the common features in the data flow of multi-wavelength, multi-mission, and even multi-messenger data. As next steps Bay sees the following actions: Andrii Neronov should provide basic info on Euclid and CTA data and pipelines as possible 'use cases' for the platform to be then assessed by SCDC with respect to implications for requirements on the platform. Giuseppe Iacobucci comments that he has difficulties to see the possible use of such an infrastructure for the analysis of LHC experiments, but wonders if a cantonal university can submit a proposal to use the SDSC. In principle it is said to be open to the whole research community and also to industrial collaboration, but Bay thinks that maybe some connection to ETH-Domain could still be needed. Tristan Maillard explains the large investment by stating that the ETH-Domain decided this to be an important project with priority.

The meeting needs to be ended at this point as SCNAT is closing normally at 17:00 and we are already half an hour late!

14. The new CERN Thematic Forum on education
This item was skipped because of lack of time.

15. News from the community
This item was skipped because of lack of time.

16. New professorships at CHIPP institutes: report from each institute
This item was skipped because of lack of time.

17. Next CHIPP Plenary and Board meetings
This item was skipped because of lack of time.

18. A.O.B.
None.

The Chair thanks everybody and closes this long meeting at 17:30.

7 February 2017

written by: Marc Türler
approved by: Tatsuya Nakada