

Minutes of Board meeting 2017-01 on 10 March 2017

Time of the meeting: Friday, 10 March 2017 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

The Chair welcomes the Board members, Honorary Board members and the Observers at the Board. There are four new Board members: Camille Bonvin and Martin Kunz from Geneva (Theory), and Igor Kreslo and Florian Piegsa both from Bern. The proposed agenda is approved with the addition of an update on the joint SPS-ÖPG-CHIPP Annual Meeting by Andreas Schopper under A.O.B.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. Apologies and Proxy votes

Board members with voting rights (as of 9 March 2017): 67

Present: Baudis, Beck, Blondel, Canelli, Dissertori, Golling, Grab, Grazzini, Hajdas, Hildebrandt, Iacobucci, Kilminster, Kirch, Kreslo, Krusche, Montaruli, Nakada (Chair), Piegsa, Rivkin, Schneider, Sfyrla, Signer, Weber

Other participants: Bourquin (Hon.), 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: 23 + 6 proxies = 29

→ The quorum is reached.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2016-03 [14 October 2016]) ([→ document](#))

The Chair asks for comments concerning the 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. Closure of the 2016 Accounts ([→ document](#))

- **Annual Report 2016**

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.

- **Annual Accounts 2016**

The Chair presents briefly the main incomes and expenditures of the Profit and Loss Statement. The incomes amount to 133'830.- CHF and the expenses to 136'644.50 CHF resulting in a loss of 2'834.50 CHF. This is reflected in the Balance Sheet by a corresponding decrease in asset from 60'266.14 CHF at the end of 2015 to 57'431.64 CHF at the end of 2016. This deficit is however less than in the approved budget of 2016 and is also slightly lower than the one (3'209.01 CHF) of the previous year. The Chair notes that we should eventually make an action to have a balance, but that we still have sufficient reserve for the time being.

¹ Proxies: Dissertori (for *Wallny*), Hildebrandt (for *Ritt*), Kilminster (for *Isidori*), Kirch (for *Thielemann*), Krusche (for *Antusch*), Schneider (for *Bay*). Apologies: Ereditato, Kunz, Mermod, Wu.

- **Auditor's Report**

The Chair states that the audit took place on 7 February 2017 in Zurich by the two auditors, Ben Kilminster (UZH) and Michele Weber (Uni. Bern), in presence of Marc Türlér (admin.) 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. The Chair asks the audience for questions. As there are none, he invites the Board to approve the Annual Report 2016 and to follow the positive recommendation of the auditors by approving the Annual Accounts 2016.

The Board unanimously

- approves the CHIPP Annual Report 2016 to be made publicly accessible on the CHIPP website;
- approves the Annual Accounts, the Balance Sheet, and the Profit and Loss Statement for 2016;
- formally discharges the CHIPP EB and the CHIPP Administration for the year 2016, 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. Election of an account auditor ([→ document](#))

The Chair reminds that an independent audit is mandatory for CHIPP as an association under Swiss law. The mandate of Michele Weber would continue for one more year, but he wishes to step down now to avoid a conflict of interest with his new mandate as EB member. Due to the small task involved, the EB identified Aurelio Bay (EPFL) as a candidate without a call for nominations. He is ready to serve as auditor. Nobody requests a secret vote.

The Board in open vote and unanimously elects Aurelio Bay as CHIPP account auditor for a three-year mandate from June 2017 to June 2020.

6. Support to Swiss NuPECC membership ([→ document](#))

The Chair reminds that Switzerland is a member of the Nuclear Physics European Collaboration Committee (NuPECC). The SNSF decided to cease its previous funding of the Swiss NuPECC membership via the European Science Foundation (ESF), because it is no more a member of ESF. However, if CHIPP gives a strong support to NuPECC activities, SNSF could reconsider this decision. As the NuPECC activities go beyond the traditional nuclear physics community also to low energy physics, the Chair asked Klaus Kirch to prepare a document (distributed) listing all the Swiss activities benefitting from NuPECC. Kirch notes that from his perspective and the many contacts he had, it is important for Switzerland to remain a member of NuPECC. Bernd Krusche mentions that the low-energy neutrino programme is also part of the NuPECC activities and that the ESF was just collecting the money and thus did a service to NuPECC. Kirch adds that Germany has also left ESF, but still continues to support NuPECC. As there are no further comments, the Chair invites to vote.

The Board unanimously and without abstentions

- recognises NuPECC as an important organisation for particle physics in Switzerland;
- approves a CHIPP recommendation to the SNSF to continue funding the Swiss membership in NuPECC.

The Chair acknowledges the full support of CHIPP and will therefore send a letter to SNSF stating this and asking for continued funding of the Swiss membership in NuPECC. He then mentions that Gilberto Colangelo was wondering whether we should then also join ECT*, the European Centre for Theoretical studies in Nuclear Physics and Related Areas. The Chair thinks that if we join all possible bodies in Europe it will get a bit out of control. The EB already discussed this in the past (EB 2015-05, item 11) and comes to same conclusion that CHIPP has not the means to pay of the order of 10 kCHF per year for ECT*. The Chair asks if somebody strongly feels that we should investigate this possibility any further. Kirch can understand that there are reasons to support ECT*, but that this should not come from the CHIPP budget. Krusche thinks that if Switzerland continues to not contribute globally, ECT* could ask contributions to all participants from Switzerland. Signer however notes that there are many other organisations, while Günther Dissertori finds the expected contribution of ~10 kCHF to be rather substantial. Olivier Schneider suggests CHIPP to

sponsor workshops organized by CHIPP members on a case-by-case basis rather than giving a global support to ECT*. Blondel has already an idea for such a workshop to be on neutrino cross-sections on different chemical elements. As Colangelo is the strongest proponent for this and is not present, Kirch suggests postponing the discussion to the next Board meeting.

→ EB: to discuss with Gilberto Colangelo whether to present this at the next Board

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Pillar 1 White Paper

Günther Dissertori reports on behalf of Rainer Wallny about the progress on the SWHEPPS summary paper and the next steps towards preparing a Pillar 1 White Paper. He notes that Wallny is a bit despaired not receiving for months the last two contributions to the SWHEPPS summary. The objective is to have the WP ready in about one year. RW is still ready to lead this exercise, if he gets the support from the conveners. The Chair suggests moving to the next item, which is very much related, and then to discuss everything together.

8. Strategic workshops of 2018

The Chair reminds that the update of the CERN strategy is expected by late spring 2020, while the preliminary discussions will take place in 2019. If one counts backward, the Swiss contribution shall come by early 2019, which might mean updating the CHIPP Roadmap during the year 2018. One or two strategic workshops in 2018 should be foreseen now to be in time for asking for SCNAT support by the deadline of end of August. Asked by Giuseppe Iacobucci on the need of two meetings, Adrian Signer answers that this would prevent to loose momentum after the first meeting, as we just experienced with SWHEPPS. Alain Blondel recalls that preparing the first CHIPP roadmap was a lot of work. The Chair suggests a first symposium in early April to set the scene followed by a second meeting in September to define the strategy. This implies that a group needs to write a draft document of the roadmap as input to the second meeting. Klaus Kirch strongly supports this, as it is timely. The September meeting would be used to digest the draft and come up with the proposal from Switzerland to the CERN strategy. The date of the April meeting is agreed to be on 3–6 April 2018 (i.e. just after Easter). The second meeting is foreseen before semester start on September 6–7 or 13–14. Günther Dissertori reminds to please provide the missing parts to the SHWEPPS summary to Rainer Wallny.

9. Computing steering board (→ [slides](#))

Christoph Grab presents slides on CHIPP Computing Board (CCB) issues. He presents the current organisation and tasks of the CCB. This works well, but there are very important upcoming issues concerning the long-term strategy, which would be appropriate to be discussed on a higher level. He therefore proposes a new CHIPP Computing *Steering* Board (CCSB) to be formed. He then presents the possible composition of this CCSB and some of the recent evolutions showing the need to become more creative to optimise the use of the limited computing resources. The next steps are to draft out a mandate for this new CCSB based on inputs from the community to then possibly have a decision at the next CHIPP Board meeting. Michele Weber expresses his strong support of this new steering board motivated by the quick evolution of computing needs. Teresa Montaruli regrets the absence of somebody from the astroparticle community in the foreseen composition. Grab agrees that there are political issues related to the computing for astroparticle experiments, for instance for CTA, to be discussed. Giuseppe Iacobucci agrees to have astroparticle physics represented. The Chair suggests first agreeing to form a new steering board before discussing who shall be in. He notes that many questions of astroparticles can also be of interest to particle physics and there could be new resources associated to these experiments. Grab agrees that the current CCB cannot discuss these broader aspects. The Chair notes that if the Board agrees more or less, we can give the mandate to Grab to come with a proposal and a mandate to be agreed at the next Board meeting. In his view, it shall not be limited to the LHC, but oversee the computing needs for all the CHIPP activities. He suggests the EB to participate in setting up the mandate and proposes to postpone the membership of the CCSB to the third Board meeting in autumn. Iacobucci agrees and suggests the current CCB to become a technical board for LHC computing. The Chair closes the discussion by thanking Grab and the Board for agreeing on this.

→ Grab: to prepare a proposal and a mandate for a new CHIPP Computing Steering Board

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Report on the CHIPP PhD Winter School 2017 ([→ slides](#))

Florencia Canelli reports shortly and lively on the CHIPP Winter School held on 13–18 February 2017 at the Hotel Rischli in Sörenberg. She had foreseen 20 participants, but got 43 registrations. This however included many foreigners asking for support and most being undergraduates or postdocs. But due to limited capacity of the hotel, even a couple of late Swiss applications could unfortunately not be accepted. There were in the end 29 participants (7 women and 22 men) mostly PhD students from Switzerland. She then reminds the programme and the lecturers. Almost all the students had posters and Ben Kilminster reviewed and rewarded the best posters with his own money. She also mentions in particular the nice evening with Klaus Kirch and shows some pictures. The outcome of the last day survey was that the date was good in February; the hotel needs to be larger; and the programme was appreciated. The lower price with respect to previous years probably also helped to attract more people, and the frequency of every second year seems appropriate. The Chair thanks Florencia, he notes that the EPFL students were all very happy and wishes to congratulate her for a very positive Winter School. Olivier Schneider adds that he remembers the discussions we had two years ago when we had doubts about the attendance. It is a relief to see that this went so well. The Board acknowledges the success of the Winter School and thanks Canelli for the organisation (applause).

11. Report on the Gender in Physics Day 2017 ([→ slides](#))

Teresa Montaruli reports on the Gender in Physics (GiP) Day held on 26 January 2017 in Geneva. The event was organised in the frame and with support from the Gender Equality Network in the European Research Area (GENERA). She reminds that GENERA is an EU project running from September 2015 to August 2018 with a funding of about 3 MEUR to measure, monitor and advance gender equality in physics. She then presents the structure and objectives of GENERA and the themes of the GiP Day in Geneva. At the University of Geneva, there is quite a lot of interest in gender issues with the “Bureau d'Égalité”, while at the federal level, there is the Swiss equal opportunity programme. She notes that Finland and other EU countries try to reach the 40% level of women. In a survey on girls following a science promotion workshop, as much as 62% of the girls answered they have never seen a woman scientist. This triggered a few remarks whether this was about knowing about a woman scientist or meeting her in person and whether they never met a scientist at all. Teresa thinks it was about meeting in person a woman scientist. She then shows some statistics from the SNSF and the comparison of the funding success of men and women, before listing actions on gender equality issues at SNSF and in the NCCRs. A short discussion follows. The Chair thanks her for this broad overview of activities.

12. Report on the 1st FCC physics workshop ([→ slides](#))

Alain Blondel reports on the first Future Circular Collider (FCC) physics workshop held at CERN on 16 to 20 January 2017. The workshop gathered more than 200 participants and emphasized the synergy and complementarity of the different components of the programme (ee, hh, and eh). He presents the characteristics of the foreseen 80 to 100 km collider based on the preliminary studies. The document on costs and schedule is not (yet) public. Blondel then emphasizes the importance of the project for the long-term future of CERN and the need of Swiss involvement. The second workshop will be held on 15-19 January 2018 and he encourages the Board members to save the date. Asked by Ben Kilminster how the High-Energy LHC fits in, he says that this will be addressed in this second meeting.

13. CHIPP Prize 2017: announcement

Adrian Signer reminds the open call for nominations for the CHIPP Prize 2017 with a deadline on 3 May 2017. He asks Board member to encourage applications from their best current and former PhD students. With respect to item 11, he adds that if one has a female PhD student he/she should encourage her twice to apply!

14. Update on FLARE funding

The Chair reminds that the FLARE panel meeting took place at SNSF on 19–20 January 2017. After a presentation on priorities by himself for particle physics and by Stéphane Udry for astronomy, each PI could present his project for 10 minutes, followed by questions from the panel. The FLARE funding was communicated to PIs on 17 February. A consultation by CHIPP on the results allowed us building a table with the requested and received funding per experiment, which is displayed for information. MT comments that projects with full support still got a generic cut of about 4%, except for the mandatory contributions to the

LHC Maintenance and Operations (M&O) and the LHC Tier-2 computing. Overall, 87% of the requested funding in particle physics was granted, which is a satisfactory outcome. Asked by Maurice Bourquin about the absence of the DARWIN experiment, Laura Baudis explains that this will be asked for in 2 years, as a follow-up of the current Xenon nT project. Giuseppe Iacobucci expresses thanks to the EB and the Board for all the efforts done with the CHIPP Tables, the discussions, etc., which allowed CHIPP coming up with a coherent picture for particle physics. He notes that it was a lot of work over the years, but it was important to be done.

15. CHIPP EB in 2018

Adrian Signer reminds the current composition of the CHIPP Executive Board (EB) and announces that both Tatsuya Nakada and Günther Dissertori are ready to serve for a second mandate in 2018–2019. He notes that Board members are still allowed to submit candidates, but there will be no official call for nominations. The election of two EB members and of the CHIPP Chair will take place at the next Board meeting of August. Klaus Kirch asks whether there is already somebody foreseen to become the Chair. Signer answers that the EB agreed that Nakada would stay as Chair for a second mandate and that this would be the EB proposal.

16. CHIPP administration

The Chair informs that Marc Türlér has accepted a position of scientific officer at the SNSF in Bern. He will leave the CHIPP administration progressively in May and June to allow for a smooth transition. There is the need to find a successor rather quickly by mid-April. A call for candidates will be sent out rather soon. The Chair reminds that the CHIPP Administrator's contract goes through the University of Zurich, because when started Ueli Straumann was the CHIPP Chair and we then continued this way. With Ueli's upcoming retirement, he suggests changing this and the obvious change is to have SCNAT as employer. SCNAT does this service already for other associations than CHIPP and could even provide office space if needed. The Chair asks whether the Board agrees to move to SCNAT employment and to actively try to find a successor for the CHIPP administration. As there is no objection, the Chair thanks Türlér for all the work over the last three years (applause).

17. News from the community

None.

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

Günther Dissertori notes some developments in the mid-term at the ETHZ. He will update on this later on.

19. Next CHIPP Plenary and Board meetings

The next CHIPP Board meeting and the CHIPP formal plenary meeting shall take place on Monday, 21 August 2017 at CERN, the day before the start of the joint SPS-ÖPG-CHIPP Annual Meeting.

20. A.O.B.

Andreas Schopper displays the programme of the joint SPS-ÖPG-CHIPP Annual Meeting to take place at CERN and at the CIGG conference centre of Geneva on 22–25 August. The plenary sessions are already defined. There will be 15 topical sessions. Thierry Courvoisier will give a public lecture on Thursday evening. Hans Peter Beck notes that the "Cit  Universitaire" is booked for 3 nights to offer low-cost accommodation at about 53 CHF for a single room. In general, accommodation shall not be a problem. CERN-affiliated people can have access to the CERN Hostel, where some pre-booking has been done. Abstract submission is getting set-upped for the first time via Indico with a deadline on 30 April. He adds that the format of the TASK session was discussed with the Austrian colleagues and the idea is to stay with short 15-min talks mainly intended for young scientist. It means that we will again have a format of PhD/Postdoc Days, with maybe some exceptions, if more senior scientists submit abstracts. Of the order of 50 abstracts can be accommodated. If there is more, one shall foresee parallel sessions. CHIPP and SPS members benefit from a reduced registration fee of 140 CHF instead of 180. The Chair confirms that ÖPG people are welcome to attend the CHIPP formal plenary meeting on Monday afternoon, but, obviously, without being allowed to vote.

The Chair has two more issues to bring up. One is on the national ranking of the CERN fellows. Until now, this was done by SERI, but Xavier Reymond wishes CHIPP to help in this process. The Chair agrees that CHIPP can provide its scientific expertise, but how this is done in detail is to be discussed. Hans Peter Beck ironically suggests SERI to provide some support for this (laughter). As there is no objection, the Chair suggests to accept this task and to see in the EB how to do this practically.

To finish, the Chair informs about a meeting on March 20th at CERN between the US DoE and SERI to discuss the US neutrino programme. He notes that he was also invited to attend. If asked, he would stick to what was already agreed, which is given in the slides related to the discussion of the FLARE funding of Board 2016-03 (see slide 8 of item 7), and is shown again here, with the title "Important remark". He mentions a comment by Antonio Ereditato, which suggests that if the 1/3 funding provision for Hyper-K was not to be allocated, this fraction should then go to DUNE.

The Chair thanks everybody and closes the meeting at 16:25.

28 July 2017

written by: Marc Türler

approved by: Tatsuya Nakada