

Minutes of the EB meeting 2011-08 on 9 November 2011

Time/place of the meeting: 9 November 2011, 13.45-16h, Schweizerische Akademie der Naturwissenschaften SCNAT, Schwarztörstrasse 9, 3007 Bern

Present: Laura Baudis (LB), Klaus Kirch (KK), Tatsuya Nakada (TN), Martin Pohl (MP, Chair), Jean-Pierre Ruder (JPR, Secretary).

Guest for item 10: Ruth Durrer (RD)

The Chair opens the meeting at 13.50h

1. Agenda

The Chair recalls that he has invited Ruth Durrer (RD) from Geneva Theory as guest for the discussion about the NCCR. JPR suggests transferring the CHIPP long term financial tables to the 'Discussion Section' B. This is agreed. With these changes the agenda is approved.

2. Apologies

None.

A. Administrative items

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2011-07)

The minutes of the last meeting are approved (with thanks to the minute writer).

4. List of Action Items

The list of action items is checked, commented and updated.

5. Next EB meeting

2011-09: 7 December 2011, Berne, 09.45h (with new EB members), followed by lunch.

The meeting is confirmed.

→ JPR: to book the restaurant.

B. Items for discussion

6. CHIPP long-term financial tables

- Status report

The EB proceeds with a detailed reading of the table looking specifically on the plausibility of the numbers and inputs. Whilst most of the input numbers seem to be correct, the EB notes a discrepancy between the number of technical manpower position in the table compared with the number of such positions in the FORCE requests.

→ JPR: to check manpower situation between FORCE summary table and the CHIPP table.

In addition, LB (and TN) bring up the question about the wide differences in costs indicated for such technical positions. After a short discussion the EB agrees that the differences are explainable by the

following facts:

- a. People hired have different education, degrees and positions.
- b. The costs indicated include the social charges, which are different in each canton.
- c. Not all positions are full time posts.

Once the FORCE/CHIPP table comparison has been made, the CHIPP long-term financial table can be forwarded to the SER (as one of the documents to be discussed in the LA FORCE).

→ JPR: to forward the CHIPP table to the SER and to distribute it also to the Board Members.

→ JPR: to distribute the FORCE table to the Board Members.

7. CHIPP Prize

- Revision of the Rules: feedback

KK presents the changes introduced on the basis of the discussion in October and suggests broadening somewhat the scope of the potential applicants by deleting the limitation of an application being possible only in the last year of the thesis and by offering the possibility to apply more than once. The EB agrees to these suggestions and decides to have these procedures again of the agenda in December, when also the new EB Members – and specifically the new responsible person for the CHIPP Prize (Gilberto Colangelo) – are present.

→ JPR: to put the matter on the agenda of the December meeting.

8. Task list

- Distribution: feedback and open task

The EB takes note of the revised list (Status5) and introduces – after a short discussion – LB as responsible person for the Astroparticle workshops.

→ JPR: to revise the list accordingly and put in on the web.

9. NCCR proposal

- Status report

MP starts by saying that he had hoped – after the approach decided by the CHIPP Board in Leysin – to have all theory groups on board in the NCCR. Whilst many of the groups are ready to join (at different levels of enthusiasm), he has been informed by the Berne group a few days ago, that they will only join if a leading house function is transferred from GE/PSI to Berne. Such a transfer would not be in line with the Board's Leysin decision and would need a new decision by the Board. MP then informs the EB about the outcome of the written procedure he had launched on this question: with 21 votes the Board has unanimously confirmed the Leysin decision (no votes in favour of a change)^{1,2}.

The EB discusses the situation and deplores the way Berne has acted. RD states that GE Theory would be ready in principle to work in a NCCR with Berne as leading house, but that the timing constraints³ would not allow such a transfer now and that in addition the way the request was brought forward was unacceptable. KK agrees that the timing is unacceptable since two months have passed since the Leysin decision and that all the Board members have been invited at several occasions to contribute to the text.

After a further exchange of views the EB concludes that Berne not being on board would constitute a considerable threat to the chances of success of the NCCR and therefore instructs several of its members to contact the two institutes concerned in order to find ways and means of having them in the NCCR too.

Regarding the content of the NCCR, the EB embarks on a discussion about how to focus the themes better and about the possibility of a less fragmented structure. New ideas about the so-called challenges are discussed (e.g. two vertical and two horizontal), but the fact that each sub-project has to be attributed to a specific challenge is judged as unsatisfactorily. LB then suggests using partly overlapping circles (Venn diagram) known in 'set theory', which allow any given project to be part of one, two or more challenges.

→ MP/RD: to revise the structure of the NCCR changing from horizontal/vertical challenges to a Venn diagram.

For time reasons, only a brief discussion about the (sub-)projects leaders takes place.

→ MP: to submit the list of leaders to the EB, then to talk to the people concerned.

The question of the distribution of the funds will have to be dealt with later in the process, but in any case before the official submission to SNF on 16 January 2012.

¹ The only supporting e-mail was not taken into account since it came from an Honorary Member (= no voting rights).

² The quorum required according to the CHIPP statutes is 1/3 of 50 = 17.

³ The proposal will have to be submitted to the Geneva Rectorate by 18 November.

10. European Strategy for Particle Physics

- Preparation of the input

It is confirmed by TN that the large gathering (town meeting) for the update of the European Strategy in Particle Physics will take place from 10-12 September 2012.

KK is of the opinion that – analogous to the 2006 Strategy effort – Switzerland should produce an input from CHIPP and – possibly also from SER. The CHIPP input can be based on the 2006 input, revised by taking into account the recent evolutions and the CHIPP Roadmap Implementation paper (approved in April 2011).

→ KK: to set up a Working Group from among the Board Members (to be contacted ahead of the January Board meeting) to revise the 2006 CHIPP input.

→ KK: to contact the SER (M. Steinacher) for a possible input from the State Secretariat.

Regarding the Swiss representative in the European Strategy Group, some clarification seems to be needed.

→ JPR: to clarify with U. Straumann the EB's decision of appointing KK (instead of MP).

11. CHIPP Activities 2012

- Status report and first discussion

The list of activities is discussed and updated.

→ JPR: to revise the list and put it on the web.

C. Items for information

12. CERN M&O costs

- Status report

TN informs the EB that the joint SNF FORCE request for the M&O costs has been submitted to SNF in time.

→ JPR: to distribute the request to the group leaders who have provided input to the text.

→ JPR: to inquire with SNF about the possibility for submitting the request in 2012 directly by CHIPP.

13. Short reports

There were none.

14. Status of future meetings

- WS 2011: Neutrino Physics and Astroparticle Physics, 9-11 December 2011, Grindelwald

LB informs about the difficulties to set up the programme. In view of the few weeks until the date of the Workshop, the EB decides to postpone the Neutrino Physics and Astroparticle Physics Workshop to spring 2012 and identifies 5/6 March 2012 as possible date (arrival 4 in the evening; departure 7 in the morning). At this time of the year, Grindelwald is not available (skiing season) and the Workshop will therefore take place in Lucerne or in Ticino. LB will start the organisation with local means from Zurich.

→ LB: to start the organisational activities together with the secretariat from Physik Zurich (C. Genovese).

15. A.O.B.

There was no A.O.B.

The Chair closes the meeting at 16.55h.

14 November 2011

written by: Jean-Pierre Ruder

approved by: Martin Pohl