

Minutes of the EB meeting 2012-02 on 10 February 2012

Time/place of the meeting: 10 February 2012, 13.45h-16h, Schweizerische Akademie der Naturwissenschaften SCNAT, Schwarztörstrasse 9, 3007 Bern

Present: Klaus Kirch (KK), Olivier Schneider (OS), Jean-Pierre Ruder (JPR, Secretary).
Guest for item 6: H.-P. Beck (HPB)

The Chair opens the meeting at 13.45h

1. Agenda

OS suggests discussing the possible contribution of CHIPP to the PhD Winter School under AOB.
With this addition, the agenda is approved.

2. Apologies

The EB takes note of the apologies received from GC (holidays) and LB (sick).

A. Administrative items

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2012-01)

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

4. List of Action Items

2011-06 – 9: SPS: The CHIPP logo should appear on the announcement of those SPS Annual Meetings, which incorporate the CHIPP PhD and ProDoc gathering.

2011-09 – 16.2: Lepton conference: → OS to talk to TN

Board 2012-01 – 15: → OS: to remind/ask ChG regarding the Swing payments from FORCE computing funds.

5. Next EB meeting

2012-03: 16 March 2012, Berne, 14.15h

The meeting is confirmed.

B. Items for discussion

6. Outreach

- Agora request – how to proceed?

HPB reports about the SNF's negative decision re the CHIPP Agora request. Despite the experts' rather good assessments, the Commission for Public Science Communication Projects of the SNF has turned down the application. Weak points mentioned were (1) use of social media not included, (2) not enough

details given regarding the work of the communication expert, and (3) the absence of impact expectations. The planned internet page has received good marks from the Commission. According to HPB, the use of social media such as facebook and twitter can be added without problems, and there is the possibility of including Youtube videos about particle physics (HPB knows such videos and has contact to producers). The detailed work packages and tasks of the communication experts were meant to be defined precisely by this expert, but HPB sees a possibility to make progress. Finally, he considers it also possible to be more precise regarding the expected impact. He would be ready to re-submit a revised version of the request, provided that the EB shares his analysis. Overall, he is happy with the reports and judgements of the referees, but finds it difficult to accept that the request has been rated quality level 4 (out of 6). Only 23% of the requests submitted have been funded. He suggests distributing the Agora request to the EB members.
→ JPR: to distribute the Agora request to EB.

In the ensuing discussion, KK shares the analysis and wonders whether HPB has a communication expert at hand. HPB explains that indeed he is in contact to a journalist with scientific background, who would be ready to do the job¹. Regarding the maintenance of the webpage, he thinks of outsourcing this task to a company. In this context, KK mentions the offer from SCNAT to build a professional web-platform, which could be used by the member societies.

→ KK: to provide to HPB the name of the person responsible for Outreach at SCNAT.

According to HPB the success rate will not be increased by having the whole Outreach Group as co-applicant. In addition this would create logistic difficulties, because the request has to be co-signed by the communication offices of all the universities involved! KK suggests to underline the commitment of the university's communication office, and to assign the communication expert to this office. Answering a question from KK, HPB informs that the journalist would be ready to help improving the request. In that case, KK would support a resubmission of the request.

→ HPB: to contact the journalist and the Berne communication office, to re-write the application, and to check with SER regarding the 50k contribution.

The topic is closed with a short exchange of views regarding additional funding sources like CHIPP (at present not foreseen in the budget), institutes (from overhead funds), SCNAT, Foundations, Migros (Kulturrappen).

- Acquisition of some domain names

HPB suggests acquiring already now the following domain names, which might be of use for the Agora funded website: teilchenphysik.ch, pysiquedesparticules.ch, fisicadelleparticelle.ch, particlephysics.ch. The costs for such a reservation are 17 CHF/year.

The EB agrees to proceed, but would like to be sure that the Italian name suggested is correct.

→ JPR: to inquire with G. Dissertori and V. Chiochia.

→ JPR: to acquire the names.

- Activities connected with the 200 years celebration of SCNAT

KK informs about the large effort from SCNAT to prepare its 200 years celebration. An information meeting will be organised in Berne, where KK and HPB will attend.

- Activities 2012: See item 9.

7. June Board meeting: FORCE/FOLIS presentations: list of questions

KK introduces the draft questionnaire which will be distributed to the community asking for written and oral input from large projects and written input only from medium/small ones. He underlines that the discussion in the Board will possibly continue up to September. In today's EB, he plans to have an exchange of views about the categorisation of the projects and the necessity to include also the FOLIS projects. In the discussion, OS insists that the exercise should not aim at reducing the participations to the level of the available FORCE and FOLIS funds, because he considers a certain degree of overbooking as healthy. He is also wondering, what the EB and CHIPP plans to do with the information collected from the written and oral input. He is of the opinion that FORCE and FOLIS projects should be included. He suggests to give guidelines re the time/project available and possibly a template for inserting the answers and numbers. KK could think of aggregating the information in one or several tables and would be ready to simplify the questions. He considers it important

¹ After the meeting, HPB provided more details to the minute writer: Dr. Benedikt Vogel holds a degree in literature and with physics as minor field of study. He has shown his competences in interviews with F. Pauss und H.-P.Beck, which have both been published in Swiss newspapers

that the numbers are explained in the presentations and aims at making people understand that the goal is to present requests which are appropriate, credible and commensurate with the resources available. The EB completes the list of experiments and checks the names of the involved scientists. OS suggests addressing the request for providing these numbers and answers to all the Board members working in a given project and to leave the choice of the speaker to each project.

→ OS: to provide comments and input within the next 2 weeks.

→ KK: to talk individually to GC and LB for collecting input.

→ KK: to provide then a revised draft including also an outline for the process of compiling the information.

The topic will be taken up again in the March EB meeting.

C. Items for information

8. Short reports: CHIPP PhD Winter School Engelberg (22-27 Jan 2012)

On the basis of a draft report from the organisers, JPR reports from a successful school attended by 27 students (26 from Switzerland) and 24 working on one of the large LHC collaborations. Lively and constructive discussions followed the lectures and dedicated discussion sessions were held in the evening. Many individual contacts across collaboration borders were established, and the feedback from the students was very positive both regarding the organisation and the content of the school.

9. Status of future meetings

- WS 2011:
 - DarkAttack2012, 15-20 July: no news at present.
 - Zuoz Summer School, 19-25 Aug: the preparations are running fine with the programme being online and the registration having started.
 - Detector R&D, fall: the survey has shown that the Workshop would benefit from a postponement and from a connection with one of the schools. The idea of an experimental detector school in 2014 including hands-on training is under discussion and consideration.
- Other meetings 2012:
 - SPS Annual Meeting, 21/22 June, Zurich: no news at present.
 - KK: to ask Martin sending out reminder for abstracts
 - European Strategy Session, open meeting 10-12 Sept: no news at present. The Strategy Group will meet on 10 March; KK has started the process of collecting the input from the CHIPP WG aimed at updating the Swiss input to the process.
 - OS: to provide input directly to KK.
 - CHIPP Plenary, 13/14 Sept: no news at present. KK reminds the EB that the discussion about the programme will have to start in March.
 - KK: to include the programme discussion in the March EB agenda.

10. Annual Report C15 2011: Draft document

The EB takes note of the document compiled for SER, ETH-Rat and SUK, which is not limited to C15 activities only but reports in this context also about CHIPP activities. OS provides a few specific corrections regarding matters linked with the EPFL.

11. A.O.B.

- OS suggests having an exchange of views regarding M. Pohls request for a possible financial CHIPP support to the CHIPP PhD School Engelberg. JPR informs that the 2012 budget shows 7500 CHF for Schools and Conferences, from which also the CHIPP Prize is paid.
 - KK: to inform M. Pohl of the CHIPP willingness to participate with 2k, in case ProDoc is short of funds.

The Chair closes the meeting at 16.35h.