

Minutes of the EB meeting 2013-06 on 2 September 2013

Time/place of the meeting: 2 September 2013, 13.45-15.30h, Schweizerische Akademie der Naturwissenschaften SCNAT, Schwarztörstrasse 9, 3007 Bern

Present: Gilberto Colangelo (GC), Klaus Kirch (KK, Chair), Teresa Montaruli (TM), Olivier Schneider (OS), Jean-Pierre Ruder (JPR, Secretary), Marc Tuerler (MT [guest]).

The Chair opens the meeting at 13.45h.

1. Agenda

The agenda is approved as is.

2. Apologies

None.

A. Administrative items

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2013-05)

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 not discussed, as all open actions are on the agenda.

5. Next EB meeting: 2013-06: 25 October 2013, 09.45h, Berne

The starting time of the meeting is shifted to 10.45h; if a meeting room is available, the meeting will take place at the SNF premises.

→ JPR: to check with the SNF the availability of a meeting room.

→ KK: to confirm the timing after having clarified his travel plans.

B. Items for discussion

6. EB Chair

KK recapitulates the situation concerning the composition of the EB (following the last Board decision) and informs the EB that OS has agreed to be a candidate as Chair. Both, GC and TM express their full support for this solution. KK then suggests that the EB recommends OS to the Board. OS accepts this nomination. GC informs that he will become Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at University of Berne (in July 2014), but that he will continue as an EB member at least until then (including his responsibility for the CHIPP Prize). After a short exchange of views regarding the timing for his replacement (and the possibility to harmonise his succession with TM's re-election at the end of the year) the EB decides to discuss the issue in early 2014 in the frame of the 'new' EB.

→ JPR: to put the matter on the agenda of the 2014-01 EB.

7. Sketch budget 2014 & contributions

KK introduces the sketch budget and explains that only the budget 2014 is at stake. The numbers for the following years are shown only for illustrating the medium-term evolution. KK continues stating that he prefers the second of the two options wrt. the contributions, i.e. reducing the institutional fee compared to 2013, but only in a moderate way in order to maintain a certain buffer. After answering a number of specific questions from OS, the Chair notes the EB's support for the prudent approach outlined in option 2.

→ JPR: to correct the financial plans and to prepare the budget documents for the Board using option 2.

8. LT Financial Tables: missing contributions

KK informs the EB that NA61, T2K, LAGUNA-LBNO, and EXO have still not reacted to JPR's request (and his reminders) to update the last year's numbers and suggests to have an exchange of views regarding the next steps.

The EB is very disappointed about the behaviour of the three group leaders and recalls the fact that all Board members had agreed to the procedure and had delivered all the numbers already in the last year's data collection. As no reasons were given by the respective group leaders for this year's non-response, the EB agrees that TM should contact the three professors and ask once more for the numbers. After a thorough debate the EB however refrains from immediately threatening with negative consequences (like giving explanations in front of the Board, or leaving the places in the table empty and highlighting this issue to the LA FLARE). In case the three experiments do not react to TM's contact, however, the Chair will take action.

→ TM: to contact Blondel, Rubbia and Gornea and ask for the numbers.

→ JPR: to send the tables and the LAGUNA business plan to TM

C. Items for information

9. SCNAT funding requests

KK briefly informs that CHIPP has handed in two funding requests to SCNAT, one for the Zuoz Summer School and one for the SWAPS2014 ApP WS (10k each).

10. ECFA mid-term report: status

KK recalls the fact that the themes to be covered by the mid-term report, which is to be delivered in November, are known and that it will be rather easy to collect the required material. He will contact L. Rivkin (RECFA delegate) and will ask him to present the report at the October EB. In case the report is delivered by one of the PECFA delegates, this person should also be invited. The EB agrees that in that case, O. Steinkamp would be a good choice.

→ KK: to contact Rivkin and clarify the matter.

→ KK: to invite Rivkin (and possibly Steinkamp) for the October EB.

11. Data storage at Swiss Tier2 LHC GRID: status

OS reports about the latest developments: after the CHIPP Plenary it became clear that the discussion was somehow stuck, because one of the experiments was of the opinion that the introduction of an asymmetry in the present distribution of resources (40:40:20 for ATLAS:CMS:LHCb), which was decided many years ago, would not be acceptable. When digging more into the technical details, the CHIPP Computing group reached a better understanding of the effective needs, and a recent meeting came to the conclusion that the minimal LHCb disk storage requirement of 300 TB can almost be met; the presently available 105 TB at CSCS will be increased to 220 TB at the beginning of 2014 (without using another spare 60 TB, which could perhaps be made available as well). The CPU power currently available to LHCb seems sufficient if the CPUs used for MC simulations are attributed to real data processing. However, the acceptance of LHCb of such a reduced capacity for MC remains to be explored. In case of a disagreement, the matter could be put in front of the Board as early as 4 November. In this case a corresponding document for the Board would have to be ready for distribution on 25 October.

→ OS: to update the EB in October.

→ OS: to inform the CHIPP Computing group about the deadline for a Board document.

12. CHIPP Administrator: status

KK informs that Marc Tuerler (MT) is in contact with the Human Resources at UniZH for a 50% employment as from January 2014. The present set up of a ZH employment funded by CHIPP will be preserved. MT's office will be at ISDC. A hand-over period of three months has been agreed between JPR and MT. In addition, JPR will step in for MT between 30 June and 2 July, where a data collision with MT's other activities will occur.

→ MT: to conclude his employment contract asap.

→ MT/JPR: to agree on the details of the hand-over period.

→ MT: to organise the details of his replacement during the CHIPP Plenary period (30 June – 1 July 2014).

13. EB dates 2014: constraints

In order to start setting the meeting dates for 2014, JPR collects the regular constraints of the individual EB members (teaching etc.):

Not available: Tuesday 8-10 [spring] and Tuesday 3-7 [fall] (OS), Thursday PM (TM); Wednesday 10-12 [fall] (OS), Friday 8-10 (GC), Friday 10-12 [fall] (OS); 1st week of February and 4 weeks in July (GC).

Avoid if possible Wednesday 5-7 [spring] and Monday 4-6 (OS).

→ JPR: to collect the constraints of R. Wallny.

→ JPR: to make a doodle survey for setting the dates.

14. CHIPP Membership: status regarding payment

KK is pleased to inform that the last payments have been received recently.

15. Short report(s)

- Workshop XQCD13, Bern, 5-7 August: GC reports about a successful WS with 80 active participants.
- Letter to CRUS: KK informs that he has written a letter to CRUS, inquiring about a possible support of CHIPP as suggested in the report about cost-intensive infrastructures (September 2012). GC informs the EB about that according to his information CRUS has supported many projects in the past.

16. Status of future meetings

- 2013
 - Annual Meeting of the SPS, 3-6 Sept, Linz: will start tomorrow; one-day participation is possible.
 - WS on low energy precision physics, 9-12 Sept, PSI: all set and ready.
 - Detector R&D, 12/13 Sept, PSI: all set and ready.
 - 2nd International Workshop on Antimatter and Gravity WAG 2013, 13-15 Nov, Berne: no news.
- 2014
 - Strategy Workshop on AstroParticles in Switzerland SWAPS2014, 11-13 June, Geneva: TM informs that three topics will be covered (neutrino physics, dark matter, high-energy ApP) in a structure with plenary meetings in the morning, short talks in the afternoon, and topical discussions in the evening. The neutrino part is well advanced and in DM good progress can be expected soon; however the intended connection between astronomy and ApP is not easy.
 - Annual Meeting of the SPS, 30 June – 2 July, Fribourg: The CHIPP PhD and PostDoc meeting will be integrated (as TASK session).
 - OS: to contact Pohl for the organisation.
 - CHIPP Plenary, date tbd (during SPS), Fribourg:
 - OS to discuss with Pohl and Schopper about the 'best' date.

17. A.O.B.

- KK and OS bring up a recent CTA information note from SERI, the goal and interpretation of which is not totally clear. The matter will be discussed at the next RT International.
 - KK: to contact TM and Straumann regarding a possible discussion at the next EB.
 - JPR: to put the topic at the agenda of the October EB

The Chair closes the meeting at 15.45h.