

Minutes of the EB meeting 2015-08 on 9 December 2015

Time/place of the meeting: Wednesday, 9 December 2015, 10:45, ETH-Rat, Effingerstrasse 6a, 3001 Bern

Present: Teresa Montaruli (TM, via Skype), Olivier Schneider (OS, Chair), Adrian Signer (AS), Marc Türlér (MT, Secretary), Rainer Wallny (RW)

Guests: Tatsuya Nakada (TN) and Günther Dissertori (excused) as new EB members as from 1st January 2016.

The meeting is followed by the traditional EB lunch at the restaurant National, Hirschengraben 24, Bern.

1. Agenda

The agenda is approved without modifications.

2. Apologies

Günther Dissertori is excused. TM joined in via videoconference.

A. Administrative items

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2015-07) ([→ document](#))

Approved without comments.

4. List of Actions

OS goes through the list of open actions. It is agreed to withdraw action 2014-03 – 4.2 concerning the neutrino strategy, since we now have an accepted neutrino White Paper document. Concerning on the APPEC Census (Action 2015-06 – 4), TM reports that she is missing inputs for the neutrino experiments. She wishes to have completed tables at least for the APPEC General Assembly of 9 January. OS agrees that TM uses information from the CHIPP Tables, although the gender information is missing. It is agreed to keep as on-going the action on Antonio Ereditato to report on the US neutrino programme (Board 2015-02 – 17). The continuation of the mandate of the funding agencies to Ereditato is briefly discussed. In particular, whether SERI/SNSF should not rather give a global mandate to CHIPP to represent them.

→ MT: to send the latest CHIPP Tables to TM as input for the APPEC Census

→ TN: to re-discuss with Tristan Maillard the SNSF/SERI representation in the US neutrino programme

5. Next EB meetings

Based on the results of a Doodle poll, the dates of the first meetings of 2016 are fixed as follows:

- Wednesday, 3rd of February at 12:15 in Bern
- Friday, 11th of March at 12:15 in Bern
- Friday, 15th of April at 12:15 in Bern

B. Items for discussion

6. Date and main items of Board 2016-01

MT reports that the Doodle poll gave a clear preference for Friday, 26 February at 13:15. OS wishes to announce the date in the e-mail to the Board members with the minutes of the last meeting. Concerning the agenda, this shall be, as usual, the meeting to present the annual report and the accounts of 2015 with the auditor's report. OS agrees to still edit and comment the annual report prepared by MT. He adds that an important item is to present the status of the RECFA visit preparation and to ask for feedback. TN agrees that this will be too late for having a brainstorming on the programme. This means that the EB shall already

come up with concrete proposals for topics and speakers before the Board. The EB of February shall further clarify whether elections are due and discuss possible other topics.

→ MT: to organise the audit meeting of the CHIPP accounts 2015

→ MT: to prepare the draft annual report of CHIPP

7. Preparation of the RECFA country visit

OS mentions that he already asked Lenny Rivkin to work things out, but RW has not been contacted yet for the practical organisation at ETHZ. RW thinks that Rivkin is maybe in contact with André Rubbia, but wishes to have this clarified. Concerning the programme, OS has asked TN and Rivkin to think about it. TN reminds that last time the speakers were chosen by the EB. OS suggests that the EB asks Rivkin to come up with a draft programme proposing a list of topics for the talks. The EB can then propose speakers and give feedback on the programme at its meeting of February 2016. This is agreed. Concerning the attendance, TN mentions that the CHIPP community as a whole – and not only the Board members – are to be invited to attend the meeting. For the dinner, the speakers are invited as courtesy, but not the full Board.

→ OS: to ask Lenny Rivkin to prepare a draft programme with topics of talks

8. Finalisation of the CHIPP Prize procedures

AS reminds about the vote at the Board meeting 2015-03. The question was on the non-completion of the thesis before the application deadline. Although there was a majority of 13 votes against 8 to allow for non-completion of the thesis 12 months before the application deadline, the Board was not asked to vote on this particular question prior to the meeting. This means that proxy votes could not be taken into account and one could invoke article 25.2 of the Statutes to require a 2/3 majority in such a case. He notes that with the Plenary being next year in August, it would still be early enough for the next call (to be at least 5 months in advance) to have the Board confirm this quite important decision at the next meeting. OS and RW agree to have this endorsed more properly at the next Board. As other changes of the procedures have already been approved by the Board, AS suggests to have only two alternative proposals for item 2 to be chosen by the Board. OS thinks that this is a good idea and closes the item by suggesting discussing the precise wording at the next EB meeting.

→ MT/AS: to provide two proposals for item 2 to be chosen at the Board meeting

9. CHIPP PhD Winter School 2017: next steps

OS reports that there is still no response from volunteers to organise the next CHIPP PhD Winter School. TM confirms that she is one of the four people who anonymously declared to be ready to help with the organisation. She however would prefer that younger people take care of the organisation. AS remarks that his feeling is that nobody wants to cancel the school, but that there is also no enthusiasm to continue it. He however agrees with TN that the students attending were happy, and the received feedback from the participants was good. RW reminds that team building in Switzerland is one of the objectives of the school. He wonders if the Zuoz School is enough in this respect. He suggests to possibly merge the CHIPP School with the Schladming Winter School held yearly in Austria. He could inquire with his Austrian colleagues, in particular with Jochen Schieck in Vienna. TN wonders if merging the two schools would be a simplification or a complication. OS suggests to first find a group of people to take the responsibility of the organisation and then to let them investigate this possibility. TM suggests sending a message again to get responses from volunteering Board members and then to re-discuss the issue at the next EB. OS agrees and proposes the following action.

→ MT: to ask again for volunteers to organise the school in the e-mail with the Board minutes

10. CHIPP Annual Plenary 2016 and 2017

OS reports about the message the EB received yesterday evening from Hans Peter Beck concerning the date of the CHIPP Board and Plenary meetings and asking for ideas for the plenary speaker to be invited by the SPS committee. OS reminds that the Board meeting has already been agreed to be on Monday, 22 August in the afternoon. The Plenary could then be on Tuesday morning, since many people will already be in Lugano and the SPS meeting will only start in the early afternoon of the 23rd of August. This is agreed, although it is realised that attendees not taking part to the Board would then most likely have to travel a day earlier on Monday evening. Concerning possible plenary speakers, the message sent by TM with some proposals is discussed and OS volunteers to transmit the outcome to Beck. OS then switches to the Plenary of 2017 by mentioning the proposal by Andreas Schopper to hold the CHIPP Annual Plenary together with

the Swiss (SPS) and Austrian (ÖPG) physical societies in 2017. The idea is that the meeting will be in Switzerland and thus that CHIPP could also join in. The following discussion showed that the EB is not very much in favour of this idea, because it thinks that it is important that the CHIPP association has its own plenary meeting every second year. This allows tightening up the links within the CHIPP community. Having a separate meeting only once every four years (during the year where the joint SPS-ÖPG meeting happens in Austria) is felt to be too sparse.

→ OS: to convey the result of the EB discussion to Hans Peter Beck

C. Items for information

11. News from LA FLARE meeting

OS reports on the meeting of the FLARE steering committee (LA FLARE), which took place on 9 November. RW mentions that this year's prioritisation process was relatively straightforward, except for the foreseen T2K proposal by Alain Blondel, which turned out to include more than just the part on the operations, which was prioritized in Priority 2. As presented already at the Board meeting by Tristan Maillard, there will be some evolution of FLARE in the coming years. OS reports that the idea to have a call for proposals only every second year was discussed at the LA FLARE meeting. The idea to have an event in spring 2016 with all the people intending to submit a FLARE proposal was also presented. PIs would then present orally their proposal to an international advisory panel, which will decide who should be encouraged to submit a proposal in November. The continuation of LA FLARE is unclear. According to Maillard, the roles of LA FLARE shall be maintained, but he did not say whether the body with the current composition and annual meetings shall be kept. This triggered a short discussion initiated by TN on the role of LA FLARE. As pointed out by RW, the long-term priorities are defined by big European bodies, such as ESO, APPEC, etc, whereas on the shorter term and on national level, this is done by the funding authorities, SNSF and SERI. He notes that there is no real Swiss-specific long-term strategy, except for what is discussed at LA FLARE. OS confirms that this is not really done currently by the Round Table International. He notes that the role of CHIPP – as confirmed at the Plenary meeting in Bossey – is to try to give guidance on the long-term and this is well recognized by SERI and SNSF. The discussion ends with the mention of the specific case of CTA to be discussed by the parliament.

12. News from the RTI meeting

OS reports on the Round Table International (RTI) meeting held on 29 October 2016. The only big news is that the body will be enlarged to include also other communities than only astronomy, astro-particle and particle physics. Of particular relevance for CHIPP is the news that SERI will support the Future Circular Collider (FCC) with a special grant of 1 MCHF in 2015 and another 1 MCHF for 2016-2017. OS clarifies that this comes from leftover money that is independent from the message to parliament and the FLARE budget. He concludes the item by stating that CHIPP did again stress the important funding needs for the Phase II upgrade of both ATLAS and CMS.

13. News from SWHEPPS 2016

RW reports on the progress with the organisation of the Strategy Workshop on High-Energy Particle Physics in Switzerland (SWHEPPS) to be held on 8–10 June 2016 at the Seminarhotel Ägerisee. There has been a meeting of the organisation committee on 19 November. RW refers to the slides on the outcome of the meeting he sent this morning. The organisers agreed that it should be a workshop of Pillar 1, i.e. including low-energy, high-precision physics. The slides show a new timetable now including flavour physics and low-energy physics. The workshop shall also be the seed towards writing a White Paper (WP) on Pillar 1. It is foreseen that the session conveners will become the main editors of this WP. Possible conveners have been identified in the slides, but have not yet been informed. This should be done by the end of the year. RW is relieved that the absorption of low-energy went smoothly. A discussion followed on the timeliness of the workshop and of the writing of the WP by about the end of 2016. RW notes that we are a bit early for ground breaking new discoveries from the LHC Run 2, but this shall not prevent to start the writing of the WP with possibly new inputs coming by the end of 2016. There is already something to be updated on the understanding of the Higgs properties, etc. compared to the previous document, which is the Roadmap implementation. TN then raises interesting questions on the possible exclusion of SUSY below 500 GeV and of new physics below the CLIC threshold. He thinks settling such exclusions are important to have the WP more focused.

14. SCNAT support to host “particlephysics.ch”

MT quickly mentions the meeting to be held this afternoon at the SCNAT with Hans Peter Beck, Benedikt Vogel, Marcel Falk and Pascal Blanc. The aim of the meeting is to discuss the porting of the multi-lingual “particlephysics.ch” to a new thematic portal on particle physics on the SCNAT website. He also reports that the extended SCNAT funding request sent in by Hans Peter Beck on November 1st has been informally accepted in an email from Christian Preiswerk on 19 November. This allocates up to 10 kCHF funding for the continuation of the outreach activities via the new thematic portal of the SCNAT.

15. Other news

OS briefly mentions the submission by the deadline of the FLARE request on the LHC Maintenance and Operations (M&O). He also reports that the extension of the contract to 60% at the UZH for MT is settled. This increase by 10% is to account for the work of MT as the Swiss member in the European Particle Physics Communication Network (EPPCN). He notes, however, that the EPPCN agreement with CERN has not been signed yet.

→ MT/OS: to arrange for the signing of the agreement of the EPPCN with CERN

16. Status of future meetings

- TEXAS Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics, 13–18 December 2015, CICG, Geneva
- RECFA country visit 2016, 1–2 April 2016, ETH Zurich: see item 7.
- SWHEPPS 2016, 8–10 June 2016, Ägerisee, ZG: see item 13.
- Zuoz Summer School 2016, 14–20 August 2016, Zuoz, GR
- Joint SPS/CHIPP annual plenary 2016, 22–25 August 2016, Lugano, TI: see item 10.
- PSI 2016 workshop on Physics, Symmetries and Interactions, 17–20 October 2016, PSI

17. A.O.B.

TM wishes to thank OS for all the work done in the past two years for CHIPP. The other EB members join to the thanks. During the following lunch, OS also thanks RW (as outgoing EB member) for his important participation and contribution in the EB and wishes good luck to the new EB for the coming years.

The Chair closes the meeting at 13:10.

29 January 2016

written by: Marc Türler

approved by: Olivier Schneider