

Minutes of the EB meeting 2008-10 on 14 November 2008

Time/place of the meeting: Buffet de la Gare Lausanne, 14 November 2008, 10.00 – 13.00h

Present: Antonio Ereditato (AE), Tatsuya Nakada (TS), Martin Pohl (MP), Ueli Straumann (US, chair), Jean-Pierre Ruder (JPR, Secretary).

The Chair opened the meeting at 09.50h already.

1. Agenda

Approved.

2. Apologies

No apologies.

A. Administrative items

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2008-08)

[JPR]

The minutes are approved.

4. List of Action Items

[JPR]

The list of action items is cross-checked and amended.

5. Next meeting

[US]

The next EB meeting is confirmed: 30 January 2009 (2009-01), 10.00-13.00h, Buffet de la Gare, Lausanne; the Calendar of meetings 2009 is available on the CHIPP website.

B. Items for discussion

6. Particle Physics at PSI

- Result of discussion with Gäggeler and Mesot

[US]

US reports from his communications with Gäggeler, Mesot and members of the Forschungskommission of the PSI, which met on Nov. 10. Everybody agrees that the high visibility of particle physics at PSI should be supported. It is foreseen to keeping manpower for CMS pixel support and upgrade and to allocate additional manpower to the CMS analysis activities. Furthermore the world-wide-unique high rate muon facility will be supported also in future. Mesot seems not aiming at reducing manpower in particle physics, but rather to restructure the organisation at a time when 6 retirements are forthcoming. Although any new activity in basic research (new muon experiments, detector development for astroparticle physics etc.) is welcome at PSI, the funds for this must come from outside. TN confirms by saying that he has also heard about a change of structure rather than a reduction. MP mentions that the CTA participation will be test case (PSI is expected to sign the MoU).

- CHIPP letter to PSI?

[all]

Taking stock of the discussions, EB decides to NOT produce a letter.

7. Finances

- Plans for the remaining SUK funds in 2009 [US]
US presents a table detailing the use of funds over the period 2008-2012. The difference with the previous planning comes from longer PostDoc contract duration (3 instead of 2.5 years) and a higher salary than expected (+ 10%; due to the age of the PostDocs hired). Taking into account the 5 PostDocs already hired and the one already in the process (U.ZH), 3 additional PostDocs (U.GE, EPFL, ETHZ) could be hired starting mid-2009. In addition, a PostDoc for Tier-2 at Manno could be funded as a transition measure until mid-2010 when that post is expected of being taken over by FORCE. AE complains that U.BE is left out in the second round as he had counted on an additional PostDoc. The EB has some questions about the Manno PostDoc: What is the Manno contribution to the post? Should this be a physics PostDoc but for computing only? Will he/she belong to an experiment? What is the expected profile?
In the end, the EB concludes that the idea of a Manno post is supported in principle, but that the interface with the experiments must be clearly defined (he/she should NOT be a member of an experiment team).
→ US: to answer the questions of the EB in writing.
→ US to present in January 2009 several scenarios for the funding table (e.g. hiring 5 PostDocs, but only in 2010; hiring no Manno but include Berne; Manno post during transition phase; Manno post for the whole period,).

8. Representation in the NF Research Council

- Status and the way forward [US]
US reports from a discussion he had with Burkhard, confirming that the move from particle physics to engineering had been deliberate, but that the successor of Vuilleumier (early spring 2009) should come from particle physics. That vacancy will be communicated to CHIPP.

9. Steering Committee FORCE (5 December 2008)

- Input from the EB? [US]
JPR reports about the request of the SER to receive a table containing all the remaining FORCE requests for the period 2009-2011.
After a short exchange of views the EB concludes that the CHIPP financial table (compiled by AE) should form the basis and that its granularity should not be adapted / changed.
→ JPR: to ask Burkhard for the 2008 numbers and forward them to AE.
→ AE: to produce a revised table and distribute it to the EB
→ US/JPR: extract / produce / discuss the numbers to fulfil the SER request.
No other input is provided.

10. ECFA Visit 2009 (EPFL, 6 March 2009)

- Programme [TN]
TN confirms that the date (6 March) is kept and presents briefly the first version of the programme. The EB concludes that the basic outline is ok.
JPR informs that State Secretary Dell'Ambrogio will open the meeting; an official letter will follow.
TN presents the budget estimates: 6200.- (coffee and cleaning: 1700.-; lunch: 1300.-; dinner: 3200.-) with an estimated attendance of 50 people. In addition to EPFL and SER, U.GE will contribute. The EB concludes that the dinner should be by invitation only.
→ TN: to write a request for support to the SER.
- Participation of State Secretary Dell'Ambrogio [JPR]
→ All: to send possible messages until end January to JPR.
- Appointment of a new PSI Plenary ECFA member [TN]
TN informs that the mandate of Th. Schietinger will come to an end on 30 April 2009 and asks for his successor to be nominated. US mentions that the successor does not necessarily have to come from PSI, but that this would be desirable in the context of the

discussion held under item 6 above. He points to a timing problem, as the representative has to be nominated by the CHIPP Plenary (which will take place in August).

→ TN: to ask for an extension of Schietinger's mandate till September 2009.

→ TN: to talk to PSI (Denner, Horisberger, Ingram) about nominations.

11. CHIPP and the Hamburg Harbour Anniversary

- Participation with speakers, exhibition? [US]

US informs that Switzerland is invited as Partner Country to the 820th Hamburg Harbour Anniversary (8-10 May 2009). The fair is very broad and comprises a flight show of the Patrouille Suisse, cultural events, gastronomy, art-work, science). The science part is organised through DESY who wishes to place particle physics (LHC and light sources) in the focus. DESY is seeking an active support from CHIPP (scientific talks, posters, looking after the exhibition).

After a short exchange of views, the EB agrees on a support in principle. The details will have to be discussed later.

→ US: to inform DESY about the agreement in principle.

C. items for information

12. Communication

- Fact sheets: future updates [JPR]

JPR proposes that the EB sets a mechanism for updating the fact sheets in a regular manner. TN suggests, that twice a year (after RRB), changes and modifications should be communicated to JPR. The EB agrees.

→ TN: to send the relevant information to JPR after the spring and fall RRB

In the ensuing discussion, MP inquires about the possibility to produce a glossy version of the fact sheets as well as fact sheets on non-LHC activities (AMS, CTA, neutrinos). AE consider fact sheets about other activities an interesting add-on, but would prefer that the fact sheets be structured according to the three pillars of the Roadmap. A fourth fact sheet could deal with PSI as the national lab. MP agrees, although recognising that the PSI fact sheet would then be somewhat detached from the Roadmap; however, he mentions that the U.GE DPNC Roadmap has followed the same structuring.

→ JPR: to contact the Swiss Communication Network for the glossy version (could be a contribution to the Hamburg Harbour Anniversary, see item 11 above).

→ AE (Neutrino) and MP (astroparticle, CTA) to start bringing things together and to forward information to JPR.

- Communication Network: new challenges [US]

US informs about the new website (www.lhc.ethz.ch), which he considers well done; however, it appears that there is a funding shortfall for covering the website cost. In addition, he mentions that the plans and ideas of the Communication Network will have to be reviewed in a strategy meeting at end-November in Bern, because the foundations, which had been approached, have declined to support the proposed activities (travelling exhibition, flight simulator, ...).

13. LHC-PostDocs on SUK/ETH money

- Feed back from CRUS on PRO*DOC request [US]

US informs about the feedback he has received from CRUS/Werlen. It seems that the request had been rejected by the relevant committee because in its opinion it was not clear what type of physics is addressed, the teaching activities were not clearly described, and the selection procedure was not clear. Apparently, CRUS did not know the C15 text. CRUS/Werlen motivated US to resubmit a request. MP wondered whether the new request should focus on particle physics in general or on LHC in particular. US suggested sticking with the LHC analysis, since it was required to set priorities, and this priority was believed to be part of the success of the original SUK request. But other particle physics fields should be invited to join for the lectures, as it was foreseen in the original request.

➔ MP: to sent out the invitations to the EB members and Pauss in January (see item 6 of the previous EB meeting)

- Matching funds: news from GE? ZH? [MP, US]
MP informs that the Geneva Rectorate has sent the request to the faculty and that he tries to get a “poste de pondération”.
US gives the latest news from U.ZH: half will come from the Dean and half from the Institute; he successfully insisted to get ¼ more (because in the present first year of the project there was nothing allocated); the funds are in the budget.

14. CERN enlargement

- Input to mandate of the WG [JPR]
JPR thanked for the support wrt. the input, which had been sent to the CERN Council President. On a related matter, TN inquired about the Swiss position wrt. to the accession of new Member States to CERN.
➔ JPR: to send background information to TN/US

15. Status of future meetings

- CHIPP Planning 2009: confirmation [US]
The EB takes note.
- Other meetings and Workshops: status (17/18 Nov, Neutrinos, ETHZ)
No additional news

16. Force Request on M&O: 2008/9

- M&O: result of the RRB meeting [TN]
TN reports from the RRB, which went very smoothly. All budgets 2009 have been approved as presented; there were minor changes in the forecast for computing.
- Draft M&O request [JPR]
JPR presented the resources table and asked for help in the checking; ATLAS and CMS numbers are ok, whilst for LHCb Cat. B a wrong percentage has been used.
➔ JPR: finalise the text and the table; forward it to US for submission to the SNF by 24 November.

17. SCOAP3

- Letter Pohl to Salvatore Mele [MP]
MP reports that he had sent the letter on behalf of CHIPP. CHIPP appears now on the SCOAP3 website as member. The Head Librarian of U.GE is ready to help with contribution calculation.

18. A.O.B.

- CHIPP Homepage:
missing prize home page, status of data base [all]
The EB discusses shortly about creating a specific website for the CHIPP Prize. US agrees that this can be done quickly, if no graphic and lay-out specifications have to be followed. On a suggestion from the EB, he agrees also to ask the same U.ZH student who had repaired the data base.
➔ US: to see with his student about the Prize website.

The meeting ended at 11.50h.

18 November 2008

written by: Jean-Pierre Ruder
approved by: Ueli Straumann