

Minutes of the Board meeting 2018-01 on 15 February 2018

Time of the meeting: Thursday, 15 February 2018 from 13:15 to ~16:00

Place of the meeting: Room 'Eiger', Haus der Akademien (SCNAT), Laupenstrasse 7, Bern

Map and direction: <http://www.naturalsciences.ch/organisations/scnat/contact>

1. Welcome and agenda

The Chair opens the meeting at 13:15 ([→ slides of the Chair](#))

The Chair welcomes the Board members, Honorary Board members and the Observer at the Board. The proposed agenda is approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. Apologies and Proxy votes

Board members with voting rights (as of 1 November 2017): 63

Presents: Blondel, Chaponnikov, Clark, Dissertori, Ereditato, Golling, Hildebrandt, Kirch, Nakada, Piegsa, Rivkin, Sfyrla, Signer, Wallny, Weber

Other participants: Benelli (Admin.)

The Chair details the apologies received and the proxy votes announced before the meeting¹.

Quorum: 21 votes (=1/3 of the Board members; Art. 24.1 Statutes); Votes present: 14 + 8 proxies = 22

→ the quorum is reached.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2017-03 [3 November 2017]) ([→ document](#))

The Chair asks if the Board has comments regarding the last minutes, since there are none, he asks the Board to approve the last minutes.

The Board unanimously approves the minutes (with thanks to the minute writer).
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DECISION ITEMS

4. Closure of the 2017 Accounts

- **Annual Report 2017**

The Chair reminds that CHIPP, as member of SCNAT, has to deliver an annual report to this organisation and that therefore the format of the CHIPP annual activity report is based on the SCNAT format. Angela asks the Board to please check in particular the section "Institutional Collaboration" in which several CHIPP members were acting as official delegates to international organisations in 2017, it should be as complete as possible to show the full commitment of the Swiss community in the International institutions.

- **Annual Accounts 2017**

¹ Malte Hildebrandt (for *Stefan Ritt*), Anna Sfyrla (for *Teresa Montaruli*), Klaus Kirch (for *Christoph Grab*), Michele Weber (for *HansPeter Beck*), Leonid Rivkin (for *Olivier Schneider*), Allan Clark (for *Giuseppe Iacobucci*), Tatsuya Nakada (for *Aurelio Bay*), Antonio Ereditato (for *Igor Kreslo*)

The Chair presents briefly the main incomes and expenditures of the profit and loss statements. The incomes amount to 151'930.- CHF and the expenses to 153'616.- CHF resulting in a loss of 1'686.- CHF. This is reflected in the balance sheet by a corresponding decrease in asset from 57'431.64 CHF at the end of 2016 to 55'745.12 CHF at the end of 2017. This deficit is however less than in the approved budget of 2017 and is also slightly lower than the one (2'834.50 CHF) of the previous year. The Chair notes that we should eventually make an action to have a balance, but that we still have sufficient reserve for the time being. In order to explain the loss in the asset Tatsuya Nakada presents the budget that has been approved for the year 2017 and what have been the actual expenses and incomes for 2017 pointing out the differences.

- **Auditor's Report**

The Chair states that the audit took place on 31 January 2018 in Zurich by the two auditors, Ben Kilminster (UZH) and Aurelio Bay (EPFL), in presence of Angela Benelli (admin.) and Ms. Monika Röllin (accountant, UZH). He conveys the auditor's judgement that the statements fairly represent the financial position of CHIPP and that have been prepared with care. The Chair asks the audience for questions. As there are none, he invites the Board to approve the Annual Report 2017 and to follow the positive recommendation of the auditors by approving the Annual Accounts 2017.

The Board unanimously

- approves the CHIPP Annual Report 2017 to be made publicly accessible on the CHIPP website;
- approves the annual accounts, the balance sheet, and the profit and loss statement for 2017;
- formally discharges the CHIPP EB and the CHIPP administration for the year 2017, expressing at the same time its thanks and appreciation for the careful accounting.

→ Admin.: to make the report accessible and to provide the accounts to SCNAT

Discussion of the future CHIPP funding

The Chairman exposes the issue about the future of the CHIPP funding. In the long term, the asset is going to be reduced too much to allow an optimal operational cash flow, so we will have eventually to make an action to have a balance.

Looking at the list of CHIPP members in the different Institutes, Tatsuya Nakada points out that the numbers of theorists are rather small for ETHZ, EPFL, Geneva and Zurich University. A discussion starts on why this happens: the theoreticians see CHIPP more an experimentalists' network, the theory community has less financial requirements that CHIPP could coordinate and finally theoreticians are working more independently and have different networks in case they need the help or support. The Board stresses the importance of the collaboration between theoreticians and experimentalists, especially in planning the new path to take for the future. The CHIPP Board questions how to make CHIPP more attractive to both theoreticians and experimentalists, Klaus Kirch proposes to show everybody what would be lost not being part of CHIPP. The chairman proposes to make a list of CHIPP achievements of the last years.

Tatsuya reports that the Basel group, which is very small, would like to have the Institute fees reduced or, as a second option, to revise the CHIPP membership fees removing the institutional fees and pay only for individual memberships. We have prepared as example different methods of calculating the CHIPP membership fees:

- 1) with only one institute fee (5600.- CHF) and a fixed amount per individual fees (110.- CHF) as it is now;
- 2) with different institutes fees depending on the size of the institute (i.e. big: 5600 CHF – medium: 3500 CHF – small: 1000 CHF) and then an amount for each member obtained dividing what is left to get our requested budget by the number of members;
- 3) with only individual membership fees obtained dividing what is our requested budget by the number of members;

The three scenarios provide very similar outputs.

There are several problems to consider: the database is not really up to date and there is a risk in eliminating the institutional fees. They provide a secure block of entries that reduces the fluctuations due to the changing number of active members. It should be noted that the current institute fee is per university is 5600 CHF.

The Board requires to make a study with a proposal to evaluate at the next Board meeting in August.

→ Admin.: to contact the database's administrators for each institute to have the trimestral updates.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Pillar 1 White Paper (→ [slides](#))

Rainer Wallny recalls the Board of the scope of the Whitepaper: setting the strategy for 2019-2029 (i.e. post LHC Run 2), to cover 2025-30 with HL-LHC and including interplay between high and low energy frontiers. This work, being the input to the Swiss Roadmap, should be completed before the first Strategic Workshop in April (SWICH) where the discussion about the status of the particle physics fields will be open to all CHIPP members. In September there will be a second Workshop with a smaller audience to prioritize the research program for the Swiss Roadmap to be ready for the discussion on the European Strategy in 2019. In spring 2020 the new European Strategy should be ready. The Pillar 1 Whitepaper will not attempt any prioritization recommendation. The Core Editorial team is composed by: Florencia Canelli, Gino Isidori, Klaus Kirch, Lenny Rivkin, Olivier Schneider, Tobias Golling and Rainer Wallny as organizers. The Whitepaper is divided into chapters covering the current status, implementation, potential future facilities, physical drivers and conclusions. The document will be at maximum 5-6 pages and should be read by everybody that will participate to the SWICH Workshop. The Editorial Board has also decided to add a letter with “provocative questions” to guide the discussions at SWICH in April.

6. Strategic workshops of 2018 (→ [slides](#))

Michele Weber stresses the importance of the two SWICH strategic Workshops for the preparation of the Swiss Roadmap in time for the European Strategy discussion in 2019. The first Workshop (SWICH) will be held at the Centre Loewenberg in Murten: 3-6 April 2018, the second one in the Parc Hotel in Fribourg: 13-14 September 2018. The registrations are open for the first SWICH Workshop. The Program committee has fixed the agenda with the intention to leave as much time as possible for discussion. The main goal of the Workshop is to gather all the relevant information in order to prepare the discussion leading to the priority list of our Swiss activities by the end of September.

7. Computing steering board (→ [slides](#))

Michele Weber presents the Computing Board report on behalf of C. Grab who could not be present. The LHC computing needs are expected to grow very rapidly and in the next 8 years the resources should be increased by 50 times. In order to cope with this requirement, Switzerland has already started a project LHConCRAY in 2016 (initiated by AEC-Bern) to test possibility of LHC workloads on HPCs at the CSCS. The test terminated successfully in December 2017, where the LHC jobs sent to the HPCs were performed with the same efficiency as with PHOENIX but at a higher economic value. As consequence PHOENIX project at the CSCS will be phased out.

Another important challenge for the Computing Board is to provide the computing resources over next years for the other communities outside the LHC. There is a plan to discuss the topic of future computing needs and possible strategies among all CHIPP pillars at the SWICH Workshop in April.

8. Update of the CHIPP membership database (→ Chairman [slides](#) 18-19)

Already discussed in Item 4.

INFORMATION ITEMS

9. News from CHIPP EB

Tatsuya Nakada compliments Roland Horisberger for being awarded the Charpak-Ritz Prize 2018 and Teresa Montaruli for being nominated unanimously vice-chair of APPEC GA.

There are several elections that should be held at the next CHIPP Board and Plenary meetings. Tatsuya presents the positions up for election at the next Board meeting and requests nominations where necessary.

- **APPEC General Assembly scientific delegate: Teresa Montaruli** (U. Geneva) accepted to continue from January 2019 to January 2021

- **CHIPP Account Auditor: Ben Kilminster** (U. Zurich) accepted to continue from June 2018 to June 2020
- **EPPCN representative: Angela Benelli** (CHIPP) accepted to continue from December 2018 to December 2020
- **CHIPP Executive Board: Adrian Signer** (PSI) would like to step down, we will request nominations
- **ETC* representative: Gilberto Colangelo** (U. Bern) accepted to be the Swiss ETC* representative from August 2018 to August 2020

The Chair goes through the elections to be held at the Plenary meeting:

- **ACCU: Michael Dittmar** (ETHZ) would like to step down, we need to request nominations
- **Plenary-ECFA representative: Lenny Rivkin** (PSI-EPFL) & **Olaf Steinkamp** (U. Zurich) cannot be extended after December 2018, we need to request nominations for two posts, one of this will be considered also for the **Restricted ECFA. Andreas Knecht** (PSI) accepted to continue from January 2019 to December 2020.

Angela will send an e-mail asking for nominations (deadline for the answers: 2 May).

10. ETC* membership

Tatsuya Nakada informs the Board that the SNSF formally accepted the funding of ECT* with 10'000 EUR per year for the next 4 years. The decision did not require a formal request. The SNSF division on International Co-operation shall now contact the direction of ECT* and solve the practicalities for a direct payment from SNSF to ECT* for 2018 to 2021. Any renewal beyond this date shall then be reapproved.

11. New member of the CHIPP Prize committee & CHIPPP Prize 2018

Adrian Signer informs the Board about the new composition of the CHIPP Prize Committee: Aurelio Bay, Alain Blondel, Ralph Eichler, Adrian Signer. Adrian on behalf of CHIPP thanks Maurice Bourquin for his precious collaboration in the Prize Committee.

This year CHIPP prize's announcement will be sent by email to all CHIPP members in the middle of February, the deadline for applications is set to the 13 April 2018. Adrian recommends the Board members to encourage their current or former PhD students to apply. The prize ceremony will be held at the SPS/CHIPP annual meeting the 29-31 August in Lausanne.

12. Zuoz summer school information

Adrian Signer informs the Board about the opening for registrations of the Zuoz summer school. The registration fee is fully inclusive: school fee, accommodation, full board, coffee breaks, excursion and conference dinner. It will cost 690.00 CHF for registering before the 1 May and 770.00 CHF afterward. The final deadline for the registration is the 1 August. Adrian stresses a very high level of the speakers that will cover theory and experiment in Particle Physics and encourage all the students to participate.

13. FLARE Tables

The chairman informs the Board that soon the current CHIPP Flare Tables will be sent out to the PIs for updates. The deadline for the updates is set to the 10 May. This will give us time to process them and by the middle of July we should have a first global picture of the requests being considered by the CHIPP groups. The first discussion on the table will be held at the Board meeting in August with the possibility to have further iterations. If there are areas where it's needed some coordination, we might invite at the EB meeting some PIs to discuss as done in the past. In addition, we will have a meeting with all the PIs in early October before the submission.

14. News from the community

The University of Geneva has appointed Federico Sanchez as Professor, he is mainly working on the T2K experiment. At the EPFL the interviews for a Professorship are progressing and there is already a short list of candidates. At ETHZ there is an opening for a position in accelerator physics.

15. Next CHIPP Plenary and Board meetings

- Plenary 2018 (again jointly with SPS): 29–31 August 2018, in Geneva (EPFL, Lausanne)
- CHIPP Board & Plenary meeting: Tuesday, 28 August 2017
- Board 2018–03, Bern: a Doodle will be sent out to find the most convenient date for everybody: ([link](#)) to fill before the 15 May 2018.

16. A.O.B.

APPEC Report - Summary of the Roadmap Launch Meeting (→ [slides](#))

Laura Baudis presents the APPEC Report on behalf of Teresa Montaruli who is not present.

Laura stresses the importance of the APPEC Roadmap where the strategic objectives of the European Astroparticle Physics community are set. In particular she insists on the importance of the collaboration among APPEC member countries, currently 18, in order to converge on future large-scale projects. APPEC will have the role to advice on organisational issues for implementing large facilities and to launch common call for the funding. The final version of the roadmap can be found in [here](#).

APPEC and the US Department Of Energy (DOE) have formed a committees of experts with the mandate to coordinate R&D for next generation ton-scale neutrino-less double beta decay detectors. APPEC appointed A. Giuliani (CNRS/IN3P3, SAC member), E. Previtali (INFN, CUORE), JL Gomez Cadenas (IFIC, NEXT), S. Schoenert (TUM, GERDA, LEGEND), K. Schaeffner (COSINUS, CUPID, CRESST). DOE appointed another committee and the two will collaborate as a Joint Coordination Committee.

APPEC is proposing to create an Institution called Astroparticle Physics Theory Centre for retreats of scientists to discuss. Various institutes are bidding for it: CERN, Univ. Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris Sorbonne) and the Pascal Institute at Paris-Saclay.