

Minutes of the Board meeting 2024-01 on 25 March 2024

Time of the meeting: Monday, 25 March 2024 from 14:00 to 16:00

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1. Welcome and agenda

The chairman welcomes the new Professors Marcelle Soares Dos Santos (UZH) and Björn Penning (UZH).

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Board members with voting rights (as of 1 March 2024): 74

present (ZOOM): Antusch, Baudis, Beck, Blanc, Braccini, Caminada, Canelli, Charbon, Colangelo, Crivelli, DeCosa, Donegà, Greljo, Golling, Grazzini, Hoferichter, Hildebrandt, Kilminster, Kirch, Kunz, Iacobucci, Isidori, Ita, Lauss, Montaruli, Müller, Paolozzi, Penning, Piegsa, Radoslav, Rubbia, Schneider, Schramm, Serra, Sfyrla, Shchutska, Signer, Spira, Sanchez-Nieto, Sgalaberna, Signer, Soares Dos Santos, Soter, Spira, Stoffer, Steinkamp, Walter, Wallny, Weber.

Other participants: Rivkin (Prof. Em.), Grab (Prof. Em.), Benelli (Admin.), Stocker (Obs. SERI), Türler (Obs. SCNAT), Graverini (Deputy Outreach)

Apologies: M. Seidel.

Proxy: Mauro Donega *for Rainer Wallny*, Anna Sfyrla *for Florencia Canelli*, Malte Hildebrandt *for Stefan Ritt*.

Quorum: 24 votes (= 1/3 of the Board members; Art. 24.1 Statutes); voters present: 49 present + 3 proxies = 52 -> The quorum is reached

2. **Minutes** of the last meeting (2023-03 [October 2023]). The minutes are approved and will be published on the CHIPP.ch website. [Vote: 37 Yes, 2 Abs]

DECISION ITEMS

3. Closure of the 2023 Accounts

The Chair reminds that CHIPP, as member of SCNAT, has to deliver an annual report to this organization and that therefore the format of the CHIPP annual activity report is based on the SCNAT format. The very first draft of the annual report is available on the reserved CHIPP directory. Angela asks the Board members to please check the entries of their own institutes regarding CHIPP members acting as official delegates to international organisations if there were changes with respect to 2023. It will be possible to update the document until the end of April. Please send input to Angela.

Annual Accounts 2023

Angela briefly presents the main income and expenditures of the profit and loss statements. The incomes amount to 188'668 CHF and the expenses to 179'986 CHF, resulting in a benefit of 8'682.- CHF. This is reflected in the balance sheet by a corresponding increase in assets from 34'378 CHF to a 43'060 CHF at the end of 2023. Angela and Susanne Hodler performed the accounts independently. They were in full agreement, and the documents presented to the auditors were the ones of Ms. Hodler.

Auditor's Report

The audit took place on the 14 February 2024 at the SCNAT with two auditors – Saverio Braccini (Uni Bern) & Steven Schramm (UniGe) in the presence of Angela Benelli (administrator), and Susanne Hodler (accountant, SCNAT). According to the auditors, the statements fairly represent the financial position of CHIPP, have been prepared with care and comply with statutory requirements. The auditors corrected some spelling typos in the accounting documents.

The Board unanimously [Vote: 36 Yes]:

- approves the CHIPP Annual Report 2023 to be made publicly accessible on the CHIPP website;
- approves the annual accounts, the balance sheet, and the profit and loss statement for 2023;
- formally discharges the CHIPP EB and the CHIPP administration for the year 2023, expressing at the same time its thanks and appreciation for the careful accounting.

→ Admin.: to make the report accessible on the CHIPP website

CHIPP Activities 2025

Every year in August CHIPP presents to the SCNAT the funding requests for the following year and only in the CHIPP Board meeting in October are the activities usually planned for the year approved.

The CHIPP activities for the year 2025 approved by the Board for which the SCNAT support will be asked are:

- Winter School 2025: 12000 CHF from SCNAT and 2000 CHF CHIPP
- IPPOG - Membership fee for International Particle Physics Outreach Group (IPPOG) Collaboration
- Dialog - Scientific articles from Barbara Warmbein
- New: 2025 Swiss Summer Student Particle Physics Program (put together by Luigi Marchese with ETH, EPFL, Geneva, UZH, others ?) - Pilot program in 2024

The board discussed the implementation of a Swiss summer student particle physics program in 2024, aiming to centralize the application process for summer research projects across universities. Funding concerns and project coordination were highlighted, with plans to evaluate the pilot program's success for future iterations. For the moment the finance of the project depends on the single PI of each Swiss Institute. Any additional upcoming initiatives were encouraged to be communicated to Angela to have a centralised place to keep track of the single projects.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. CHIPP functions and tasks (info for nominations)

The chairman reports the EB proposal to extend the tenure of current EB members for another year until 2025, with plans for one member to continue as chair. However, there was confusion regarding the terms of certain members and the need for nominations for upcoming positions. Ultimately, it was decided to open nominations for various positions, including the computing board, Outreach & education, P-ECFA panel, and the winter school organizer. Additionally, there was mention of nominating a representative for the IUPAP/C11 election in October.

CHIPP FUNCTIONS ENDING in DECEMBER 2024 in parenthesis the actual representative

CHIPP EB (Kilminster, Spira, Crivelli)

ACCU delegate (S. G. Sevilla)

CHIPP Account Auditors (S. Schramm)

CHIPP Computing Board (M. Donega)

CHIPP Outreach & Education (K. Müller & E. Graverini)

Plenary-ECFA (F. Blanc extension not possible) & (Philipp Schmidt-Wellenburg possible extension)

ECFA ERC Panel (A. Ilg extension not possible) & (E. Niel & M. Pesut & G. Lospalluto possible extension)

Observer in the CHAPS (M. Kunz)

ECT* representative (G. Colangelo)

CHIPP Winter School (Lesya Shchutska & Annapaola DeCosa)

IUPAP election October -> nominations for a C11 commission member

Honorary members: Uwe-Jens Wiese (U. Bern Theory)

5. FLARE

Kilminster asks the board to note that the SERI dispatch, after consultation, indicated a slight decrease in FLARE funding by 2 million. Assuming the historical 80% CHIPP and 20% CHAPS split, it is acknowledged that this would result in a loss for CHIPP. It is mentioned that the open call for FLARE would likely occur in the coming months, possibly by summer, with a typical deadline around November 15th. Attention is drawn to the neutrino community's efforts to identify reductions by reallocating funds to the next period. Despite these reductions, there remains an unknown total request of approximately 46 million out of the 37 million available. Additionally, it is highlighted that there are areas of overlap between CHIPP and CHAPS, particularly in instrumentation, suggesting a need for consideration in project allocation. The FCC experiments are considering a FLARE request after the next European strategy update, although it was clarified that this has not yet been included in the funding table, representing a potential additional request.

6. Computing: LHC, HL-LHC, CTA

Mauro Donegà presents the recent performance of the computing system highlighting challenges faced due to delays and storage issues. Concerns are raised about the deviation from expected growth in computing resources compared to storage. Additionally, an unexpected seven-week downtime of a crucial system is announced, prompting a need for users to reduce their requests, and run at 50% capacity. The reason for this crisis is the installation of the Grasshopper super chips that will allow to run the machine learning AI infrastructure. During the downtime about 50% of the pledges of each experiment will run on the old system (Daintz). During the discussion, concerns were raised about the current computing system, noting that it may not be ideally suited for the required workflows. Additionally, the importance of a technical design report (TDR) to ensure compatibility with existing technology was emphasized. However, there's uncertainty regarding CSCS's views on these directions, and communication with them is pending. Questions were raised about the consequences of discontinuing the collaboration agreement with CSCS, prompting exploration of alternative solutions. It was suggested to revisit the collaboration agreement to potentially improve the delivery of required computing resources. The meeting highlighted the need for careful consideration of actions to address current challenges and potentially change course if necessary.

The CTA (Cherenkov Telescope Array) is piloting a computing infrastructure with promising initial results, though scalability remains a question. Their setup differs from ours, but lessons from their experience can inform us and take decisions later this year. The CTA Working Group will merge with the CHIPP Working Group.

7. CHEF progress

The chairman reports about CHEF, it is a mean to fund students and staff for FCC experiments. The University of Zurich has agreed to lead this initiative and provide project support and administration, contingent upon receiving matching SERI funding. This funding would be earmarked for the period 2025 to 2028. Efforts are underway to secure additional funding from other institutions, with plans to apply for federal funding in the near future. It was noted that a placeholder for this funding has been included in the budget, pending demonstration of strong institutional support from SERI.

During the discussion, concerns were raised regarding the proposed structure of CHEF and its divergence from the successful model of CHART. Differences were noted, particularly in terms of funding allocation and flexibility. The idea of requiring matching funds for CHEF projects, unlike the current practice in CHART, was highlighted as a potential obstacle for institutes facing financial constraints. CHEF has limited funding available unlike CHART where big funding was made available from the ETH domain, CERN and other institutions.

8. CHIPP Roadmap workshop

Kilminster provides an update on the recent CHIPP roadmap workshop held in January, highlighting discussions on findings and recommendations across different pillars. Special topic coordinators facilitated discussions on topics spanning multiple pillars, such as machine learning and weakly interacting particles. The official mandate for the roadmap was received on March 5th, outlining the need for updates on existing infrastructures and prioritized needs. The roadmap is expected to be a shorter document compared to previous versions and includes a quality assurance process. There was also a mention of including computing infrastructure in the roadmap, prompting further discussion on its inclusion and organization within the document.

Proposed timeline for the next months:

- End of April: Pillar 1 will assemble a template with proposed text / timelines / etc.
- May: Other pillars should try to match this template with their content.
- June: Discussion within pillars to produce "pillar versions" of text.
- September: Draft circulated to CHIPP board.
- October: Consolidated draft circulated to CHIPP board for approval.
- November: Presentation of the roadmap to ETH and Swiss Universities.
- December 18h: final version published.

The discussion centres around the timing of the parliamentary vote for the 2029-2032 roadmap, noting that it had not yet occurred by the time finalization was needed. Emphasizing the importance of adhering to the schedule set by the parliamentary process, it was suggested to proceed assuming the vote would be successful. Lenny Rivkin provides an update on accelerator technology, highlighting its relevance across multiple roadmap areas and indicating plans for an updated document from CHART. It was agreed to reference this document in the roadmap, ensuring it reflects the importance of accelerators. It was proposed that a template for the roadmap be prepared by the low and high energy members of Pillar 1, with a deadline set for the end of April. Other pillars would then align their content with this template in May, followed by internal discussions and circulation to the board by September.

Additionally, it was noted that the next European Strategy Update will conclude in June 2026. Inputs from countries are due by March 31, 2025. Therefore, our roadmap should be drafted to serve as the foundation for these inputs.

9. RECFA visit feedback

The chairman reports on the recent RECFA visit on March 8-9th, which was well-received with positive feedback. While awaiting the official document from the state secretariat, thanks were extended to the planning team, speakers, and administration involved in organizing the visit. The unexpected costs incurred were noted, and efforts to find additional funding were mentioned. The visit provided a comprehensive overview of the program, aiding in roadmap planning. Ben presented at the RECFA meeting the results of the CHIPP survey on the Alumni, people that for some time had their education in Switzerland. Anybody interested in analysing these data are welcome to contact Ben Kilminster or Angela.

10. CHIPP Prize

Michael Spira mentions that there are few applications for the CHIPP Prize for PhD work, but they have received recommendation letters for at least two candidates. The board discusses to extend the deadline by a week and send out a reminder. The chairman encourages supervisors to motivate potential applicants.

There's a proposal to introduce a CHIPP Prize for postdocs, with discussions about the eligibility criteria and committee formation. They encourage supervisors to motivate potential applicants.

11. Future CHIPP schools and meetings

Zuoz school: Michael Spira discusses plans for the upcoming summer school in Zuoz, which will take place from August 4 to 10. They are pleased that this year's school will include lectures on accelerator physics and lattice QCD, which are relevant for various research areas. They express gratitude for the support received, which allows them to keep the fees competitive, below 1000 Swiss francs.

Winter School: Lesya Shchutka reports on the organization of the upcoming CHIPP winter school event in January. The dates and location are not finalized, but January is being considered to avoid conflicts with other events. The preferred option for the event is Grindelwald, from January 26th to 31st, though other options are still open for discussion. The agenda will cover topics such as low energy physics, high energy physics, neutrinos, astroparticle physics, machine learning tools, detectors, and possibly gravitational waves. The cost will be adjusted after factoring in CHIPP contributions.

CHIPP Annual meeting: Tobias Golling reports about the CHIPP annual meeting that will be on June 20th in Geneva, with an additional day added for discussions on machine learning computing. There will be parallel sessions, including one for early career researchers. Abstract submission deadlines are June 1st for talks and for posters. Registration deadline is June 10th. The meeting will end with a poster session and award ceremony. Both days are dedicated to the special topic, and registration allows for attendance on one or both days.

SPS/OPG joint annual meeting 2024 in ETHZ: Lesya Shchutka reports on the SPS annual meeting that this year will take place at ETH in Zurich. Special sessions include discussions on physics finance, 100

years of quantum mechanics, and physics careers. Plenary talks will cover topics like cosmology and the early universe. Parallel sessions will include particle, nuclear, and astrophysics topics, with a focus on machine learning applications and encouraging submissions from astrophysics colleagues. There's also a suggestion for a dedicated panel discussion on the anniversary of SPS. Abstract submission deadline is May 1st, with registration open until mid-August.

12. CERN@70

Hans Peter Beck presents the CERN's upcoming 70th anniversary celebrations and outlines public events planned throughout the year. CERN introduced resources available, including the CERN 70 logo and guidelines. Various events are scheduled from January to October, with a major ceremony on October 1st. Public events will be broadcast live, and previous events are available for viewing online. Beck highlights the need to coordinate Swiss events, suggesting a public lecture and panel discussion. SERI confirmed the involvement of a Swiss government representative on October 1st. It is emphasized the importance of collaboration in planning.

INFORMATION ITEMS

13. ECT* updates

Gilberto Colangelo, representing Switzerland at the ECT*, provides an update on the center's activities. He highlighted the 30th-anniversary review, positive outcomes, and changes in leadership. Colangelo discusses budget constraints and the need for continued support, he proposes increasing Switzerland's contribution from 10,000 to 20,000 francs, citing examples of other countries' contributions. Participants raised questions about Switzerland's fair contribution, considering workshop attendance and the overlap with nuclear physics activities. Overall, there is consensus on the importance of supporting the center's diverse theoretical physics research.

14. CERN QTI status

Marina Krstic Marinkovic provides an update on the Quantum Technology Initiative, focusing on hybrid quantum computing, quantum networks, quantum technology platforms, and collaboration facilitation. She mentions a collaboration proposal coordinated by Michael Dozer and invites interested parties to contribute. She also discusses the appointment process for a representative that needs to be approved by the CERN Council. Participants inquire about working with the centre, the definition of quantum technologies, and expressed appreciation and interest for the presentation.

15. A.O.B.

14.1: CHIPP code of conduct

Ben Kilminster reports on the idea of implementing a code of conduct in CHIPP, similar to other organizations such as CERN. While some expressed concerns about enforcement and potential legal implications, others highlighted the importance of having guidelines for behaviour within CHIPP-related events. The suggestion was to keep the code of conduct specific to CHIPP-related activities. Various opinions were shared, with some proposing a slim and focused code of conduct, while others questioned the necessity of such measures in a smaller organization like CHIPP. Ultimately, it was decided not to take immediate action but to consider the feedback received and continue the discussion.

[CERN code of conduct.](#)