

## Minutes of the Board meeting 2021-01 on 11 February 2021

Time of the meeting: Thursday, 11 February 2021 from 9:00 to 12:00

[Indico page](#)

[CHIPP webpage](#)

### 1. Welcome and agenda

Rainer Wallny, the CHIPP chair, welcomes the Board members, the honorary Board members and the observers at the Board. The Chair welcomes two new Board members: Anna Soter (ETHZ) and Cristina Botta (University of Zurich).

### ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

#### 2. Apologies and Proxy votes

Board members with voting rights (as of 5 October 2020): 69

Present: Antusch, Baudis, Beck, Biland, Braccini, Caminada, Canelli, Chapochnikov, Colangelo, Crivelli, De Cosa, Dissertori, Donega, Durrer, Golling, Greljo, Hildebrandt, Isidori, Kilminster, Kirch, Montaruli, Müller, Piegsa, Ritt, Sanchez Nieto, Schneider, Seidel, Sfyrla, Shchutska, Signer, Soter, Spira, Wallny (Chair), Weber, Wu.

Other participants: Benelli (Admin.), Bourquin (Prof. Em), Fischer (Obs. SNSF), Gallo (Obs. SNSF), Grab (Prof. Em), Refregier (Obs. CHAPS), Rivkin (Prof. Em), Salzarulo (Obs. SERI), Schopper (SPS), Türlér (Obs. SCNAT).

**Apologies:** none.

The Chair details the proxy votes announced before the meeting<sup>1</sup>.

Quorum: 23 votes (= 1/3 of the Board members; Art. 24.1 Statutes); Votes present: 35 present + 2 proxies = 37 → The quorum is reached.

Rainer Wallny explains the procedure for electronic voting via zoom and presents his slides<sup>2</sup>.

**Minutes** of the last meeting (2020-03 [October 2020]): → [minutes](#)

The Chair asks for comments concerning the minutes of the previous meeting. Since there are none, the Chair invites the Board to approve them. The minutes are approved (with 35 yes and 1 abstention) and will be published on the [CHIPP](#) website.

### DECISION ITEMS

#### 3. Closure of the 2020 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

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1 Florencia Canelli for Cristina Botta, Klaus Kirch for Bernhard Lauss

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 Institute regarding CHIPP members acting as official delegates to international organisations, in particular if there were changes with respect to 2019. It will be possible to update the document until 20 March. Please send input to Angela.

- **Annual Accounts 2020**

Angela presents briefly the main incomes and expenditures of the profit and loss statements. The incomes amount to 125'500.- CHF and the expenses to 127'678.- CHF, resulting in a loss of 2'178.- CHF. This is reflected in the balance sheet by a corresponding decrease in assets from 41'729 CHF at the end of 2019 to 39'550 CHF at the end of 2020. 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. Angela explains to the Board that CHIPP should eventually make a motion to have a balance since, in the last few years, there has always been a constant deficit. This will be discussed later during the meeting. In this way, CHIPP will be able to support more projects, such as Young Physicists awards and to sponsor invited speakers to the CHIPP workshops. We still have sufficient reserves for the time being, but an increase in the CHIPP membership fees of 10% is considered in this meeting under agenda point 5, this would cover the deficit.

- **Auditor's Report**

The Chair states that the audit took place on 3 February 2021 via ZOOM by the two auditors, Ben Kilminster (UZH) and Saverio Braccini (Uni Bern), in the presence of Angela Benelli (admin.) and Ms. Susanne Hodler (accountant, SCNAT). He conveys the auditor's judgement that the statements fairly represent the financial position of CHIPP and that they 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 2020 (with the understanding that all the necessary modifications and insertion of missing information will be done before the end of March 2021) and to follow the positive recommendation of the auditors by approving the Annual Accounts 2020.

The Board with 35 votes in favour + 1 abstention:

- approves the CHIPP Annual Report 2020 to be made publicly accessible on the CHIPP website;
- approves the annual accounts, the balance sheet, and the profit and loss statement for 2020;
- formally discharges the CHIPP EB and the CHIPP administration for the year 2020, 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 ITEMS**

### **4. Swiss Roadmap**

The Chair explains that the full process of the Roadmap editing was very challenging, but the collaboration between the Editorial Board members was optimal and very amicable. Wallny cordially thanks the Editorial Board for their diligent work. Günther Dissertori thanks Rainer for leading the full process so efficiently. Laurent Salzarulo (SERI) thanks and congratulates the full Editorial Board for delivering a very informative document which is an example for the other communities, both in Switzerland and abroad.

Wallny reminds the Board that the document has a dual purpose. On the one hand, it informs SERI on view of the infrastructure roadmap report to the Parliament for the 2021-24 period; on the other hand, it informs the general public and the CHIPP community itself about the Swiss long-term plans. Rainer explains that the Roadmap is a bottom-up process which summarises the status of the field and the vision of particle physics for the future.

Wallny reports on the timeline of the Roadmap edition to the Board:

- ☐ V1.0 for the preview version released to the Board on 18.12.2020
- ☐ V1.2 preview version for swissuniversities and ETH domain 6.01.2021
  - Meeting chaired by SCNAT and representatives SERI, SNSF, of the universities and ETH domain on 20.1.2021

- Presentation to SCNAT [here](#)
- ❑ V 2.0 version for the Board on 20.01.2021
- ❑ **V 2.1** includes comments from the Board 08.02.2021

There is still pending a final English check from S. Schramm (University of Geneva) and from D. Gordy, a professional editor, to be implemented. The Editorial Board and the full Board would like to thank Steven Schramm for his superb work. The final layout work will be done by the SCNAT. They, in particular Marc Turler, have been very supportive. The SCNAT has also proposed to contribute to financing the work of the professional English editor.

The Board approve the Roadmap content and images, 34 votes in favour + 2 abstentions

## 5. **CHIPP membership fees**

In order to get flexibility for more actions towards young physicists, possibly to organise a student award, to ensure a safe cash flow in the Post Finance account, the EB proposes to increase the membership fees, from 110 CHF to 125 CHF (~14%) and an increase for institution fees from 5600 CHF to 6200 CHF (~10%).

The increase will produce an income of around 7'000 CHF. After a discussion, the Board decides to vote for the increase of the membership fees. In case any Institute Administration, not present at the Board meeting today, expresses a concern about it, the issue will be discussed again at the next Board meeting in June; otherwise the new membership fees will be implemented from the year 2022.

The Board with 31 votes in favour + 2 abstentions:

- approves the EB proposal to increase the CHIPP membership fees to 125 CHF for individuals and to 6200 CHF for Institutions.

→ EB will send an email to the institutes to inform them about this decision.

The Chair asks the Board for a consultative vote on the intention to continue proposing that the CERN Directorate pay the CHIPP membership fees for the Swiss nationals (Swiss passport) holding a PhD who work at CERN. The Board may consider in the future opening the CHIPP membership to students that have done their PhD studies in Switzerland but are not necessarily of Swiss nationality. Rainer proposes anyway to contact in future Joachim Mnich (CERN Director for Research and Computing) to enquire about the CERN wish to support CHIPP.

The proposition to ask SERI to fund the CERN membership has to be verified. Laurent Salzarulo explains that, in fact, CERN is unlikely to have a special engagement toward CHIPP since it doesn't have it with any other National Member society.

The Board unanimously expresses a negative vote on the proposal to ask the new CERN administration again to pay the CHIPP institutional fee and so the matter is dropped.

## 6. **FLARE Panel report**

Rainer Wallny welcomes Pascal Fischer (Head of mathematics, natural and engineering sciences Division at the SNSF); Wallny asks Gino Isidori to act as host and moderate the discussion for this agenda item of the meeting. Isidori, being a theoretician, does not have a conflict of interest in the FLARE discussion.

Rainer reminds the Board of the history of the FLARE funding scheme. Up to the funding period 2013, the two funding mechanisms FORCE and FINES were available, the first for particle physics (PP), the latter for Astronomy. After 2013, the two schemes were merged in the FLARE instrument and incremented; since then the available budget was shared between PP and Astro, with a proportion of around 80%-20%. The review panel has changed during the last ten years, including, at first, national experts and then international experts. The FLARE funds are part of the ERI Dispatch of the State secretariat for Education Research and Innovation (SERI). The Swiss Parliament allocates the budget as an additional task to be administered by the SNSF, which evaluate proposals based on a specific call made in agreement with directions from SERI.

The projects funded by FLARE are of national and international interest and they are long term; MoU and RRB are agreements set in advance with governments and laboratories; their time horizon is around 10

years, which covers several FLARE periods (2-4 years). In order to manage the tension between the funding cycles' length and the long-term commitments, CHIPP has established the FLARE table instrument, the Long-Time prioritisation effort, and the White Papers.

For the funding period 2021-24, the SNSF has organised a review panel online (27.1.2021); CHIPP and CHAPS Chairs (S. Udry) were asked to present together their national priorities; CHIPP had already submitted the priority document to the FLARE panel in November 2020. At the panel, after the common CHIPP/CHAPS [presentation](#) of 20 minutes, the FLARE PIs had their 10-minute interviews to discuss their projects.

Gino Isidori explains that this discussion has been organised in order to understand the weight that the FLARE panel has given to the Prioritisation document submitted by the CHIPP Board and to see if, in some way, we can possibly improve this procedure. In the past the CHIPP prioritization effort had a very big influence on the FLARE panel decision; the outcome mirrored the wishes of the CHIPP community. The procedure this year changed and to have a concrete debriefing discussion, the EB prepared a questionnaire that we sent to the FLARE PIs. We set three questions to have general feedback about the interviews, the submission process and, to evaluate if there were ideas on how to improve the procedure for the future. The purpose was to discuss the results with the SNSF. Nine out of the 13 PIs responded. Here is a summary of the answers:

1. General feedback about the panel interviews

- ☐ Interview time is often considered too short, but the role of the interview in the whole process is also unclear
- ☐ Some PIs had the impression that time was spent on points that could have been better clarified before the interview

2. If we, CHIPP, were to give some feedback or make some suggestions to SNSF, what would they be? Some proposals were given as guidance, to which PIs generally agreed on:

- ☐ Reviews could be made accessible before the interview;
- ☐ Questions could be sent directly to the PIs beforehand;
- ☐ Additional material could be provided after the interview, in case questions could not be directly resolved;
- ☐ Would you have suggestions for the CHIPP EB on the process of preparing for the FLARE panel in general and on the prioritization discussions in particular at the Board? This would be useful for the next EB preparing the FLARE 2022 Call;
- ☐ Suggestions for simplifying the tables were received.

Isidori expresses the wish of the CHIPP Board to know from the SNSF representative what weight is given to the CHIPP prioritization effort and how the different approach from CHIPP and CHAPS in the prioritization procedure was considered. Pascal Fischer explains that the schedule of the two meetings was very tight and there was not a lot of time for questions; the time for the presentations was frequently overrun, and the fact that the meeting was completely virtual due to the COVID situation did not help. The 30 minute-slot was divided in 3 parts: 10' presentation of the applicants, 10' questions and discussion (with the applicants) and 10' panel discussion (without the applicants).

Fischer reports that the prioritization document that the SNSF received from CHIPP on the long-term priority was very useful and much appreciated; it was shared with the panel members before Christmas for the first time and then also made accessible to them together with the meeting documents. The long-term CHIPP priority is one of the evaluation criteria that the peer reviewers of the panel consider, while it is not considered by the external reviewers. The prioritization was really discussed alongside the other criteria and it has been given similar weight to the other criteria stated in the call.

Pascal Fischer comments about the suggestion to send the questions in advance to the PIs or, if necessary, to send the request to the PIs after the meeting for additional material. Neither proposition is possible. Fischer explains that the PI interviews have been set to give the opportunity to the PIs to actually

clarify the proposal they have sent and to discuss the technical and strategical questions. Some of the questions for some proposals are clear prior to the interview, but some are not; some appear during the interview at the presentation and others follow questions during the discussion; therefore, it would not be equal treatment of all applicants if the questions were sent before the interview.

In the funding regulation, SNSF states that they do not accept any additional documents after the proposal has been submitted; therefore, it is not possible to request that an additional document be submitted to the panel to further clarify points that have been raised during the interview. This is not written in the FLARE regulation, but it is actually written in the very basic document valid for all SNSF funding schema. The CHIPP Board appreciate the possibility of being able to discuss at the interview fundamental and strategic questions that were not exhaustively addressed in the proposals; If concrete information, e.g. about the person-power available and about funding of technical/academic staff are need by the SNSF, this information could be sent more precisely prior to the interview. Other information, like the probability of having a major discovery in the project, is not available for explorative types of experiments. It is very important that the proposal success not depend on the PI performance with tricky questions, when really the capacity to answer the PI is evaluated instead of information about the solidity of a project that involves many researchers. It is important to know if the purpose of the interview is to clarify the technical aspects, with a physics introduction helping to set the stage, but it could be shortened. The Board is aware that the panel has a huge variety of topics to address; therefore, enlarging the panel's expertise could be envisaged. The Board would like to know from the SNSF the weight given to the interview in the process, and more details on the shared criteria between CHIPP and CHAPS regarding the available funding. Pascal Fischer points out that, in the prioritization document, it would be very helpful to have short sentences that justify the priority of a given project. He thanks the Board very much for the feedback given, which shows the full collaborative spirit between CHIPP and SNSF.

## 7. CHIPP functions and tasks – call for nomination

Several CHIPP positions need to be renewed next year; the EB proposes following the common practice: if a person wishes to continue for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term, we do not call for nominations, and there will be a re-election by the Board; If a term beyond second is aimed for, we call for nomination and there will be an election by the Board.

These are the functions that need to be replaced or extended:

- ☐ EB member: Anna Sfyrla → needs to be replaced
- ☐ EB member: Rainer Wallny → needs to be replaced
- ☐ CHIPP Account Auditors B. Kilminster → accept to be renewed
- ☐ CHIPP Computing Board M. Donega → accept to be renewed
- ☐ CHIPP IPPOG representative K. Muller → accept to be renewed
- ☐ Restricted-ECFA M. Seidel → accept to be renewed
- ☐ Plenary ECFA Seidel, Blanc → accept to be renewed
- ☐ Knecht → needs to be replaced
- ☐ APPEC General Assembly sci. delegate X. Wu → accept to be renewed
- ☐ Observer in CHAPS (astronomy) R. Wallny (CHIPP Chair) → needs to be replaced
- ☐ Observer in the CSR (space research) X. Wu → accept to be renewed

The Board has to start the procedure to elect the new members for the EB at the summer Board. The EB strives for diversity: regional balance, pillar balance, federal versus cantonal universities etc. Anna Sfyrla and Rainer Wallny are to be replaced; we should preferentially look for Pillar 1 or Pillar 3 members; possibly one Board member from federal and one from a cantonal university.

For what concerns the CHIPP Chair the common practice is:

- ☐ usually someone who has served as Vice Chair before (not necessarily consecutively)
- ☐ First elect EB Team, then elect the chair from the EB team

Gino Isidori and Anna Sfyrila do not wish to become CHIPP Chair, Michele Weber is willing to act as CHIPP chair in 2022 (one year term) to assure continuity and avoid the “parachuting” of a new EB member directly into the CHIPP Chair function. Four members is still a very appropriate number for the amount of work involved for the EB members.

Angela will send the invitation to the future Honorary Members, Mikhail Chapochnikov (EPFL).

CERN Council scientific delegate G. Dissertori (SERI) to be renewed end of this year; this will be discussed at the next CHIPP Board 02 in summer.

The Board with 31 votes in favour + 2 abstentions approve to:

Call for nomination for:

EB members (also willing to become CHIPP chair in 2022 or 2023)

One Plenary ECFA member (Jan 2022- Dec 2024)

Observer in CHAPS (astronomy) (Jan 2022 – Dec 2024)

No call for nomination for the other positions listed above.

## 8. CHIPP White Papers – for approval

The CHIPP prioritisation document has been approved by the CHIPP Board of the 15 October 2020; the White Papers for Pillar2 and Pillar3 now state that the prioritisation for 2021-24 is indicated in the document as the final reference. The Board is invited to endorse the White Papers for Pillar2 and Pillar3; the White Papers will be published on the [chipp.ch](http://chipp.ch) website. The White Papers for Pillars 2 and 3 have the purpose of informing the FLARE panel discussion; the White Paper for Pillar 1 at the moment has a more general purpose: it was written in preparation for the European Strategy Update. The Board will discuss whether the White Papers need to be updated before the next FLARE call in 2022.

Since not all the people involved in Pillar 2 and 3 are authors of the respective White Papers, but only the respective FLARE PIs that represent the full communities, the Board decides to vote for endorsement of the documents, not for approval of them. The Board decides to flag the documents as documents to inform the FLARE instrument; the general document that has the support of the full CHIPP is the Roadmap.

The Board approve with 31 votes in favour + 3 abstentions

to endorse the Pillar2 White Paper

The Board approve with 29 votes in favour + 4 abstentions

to endorse the Pillar3 White Paper

## 9. CHIPP Prize 2021

Gino Isidori asks the Board to encourage students to apply; the deadline is the 1 April 2021.

The winner announcement will be made at the CHIPP plenary meeting in June; the presentation could be arranged at both our CHIPP Plenary and at the SPS Annual meeting.

## 10. CHIPP Plenary meeting

The Plenary meeting will be in Spiez on the Lake Thün on 10-11 June. The meeting will also comprise the Young Physicists event. The Chair asks to send topics that could be of interest for the scientific part. The indico page is available: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/995303/overview>.

Angela reminds the Board to please register as soon as possible in order to have a rough idea of whether we have enough interest to definitely book the resort. Obviously, plans can change due to the COVID emergency, and cancellations are possible till the 15 May (if it's not decided by the Swiss government to cancel the full event).

## INFORMATION ITEMS

## 11. APPEC updates

Xin Wu presents his slides<sup>3</sup>. He reports on the Election of new General Assembly secretary: Katharina Henjes-Kunst (DESY) and General Assembly Chair: Andreas Haungs (KIT, Germany). Wu presents the updates and the resolutions made during the last General Assembly. Teresa Montaruli has been asked by APPEC to continue leading the Onbb process and to remain in the Joint Secretariat. The discussion toward a more sustainable APPEC is continuing. Even though, everybody recognizes (with the COVID emergency) that it's possible to work remotely, the request of 4 FTEs is still valid and necessary, to be able to cover all the APPEC tasks. Some countries have already offered contributions on the available tasks. For CHIPP, it has been proposed to contribute to some particular outreach events; this could be discussed further and the CHIPP EB is asked to consider the interest in this in the CHIPP community.

## 12. SPS/OPG joint annual meeting 2021 in Innsbruck (Austria)

Andreas Schopper explains<sup>4</sup> that the organization of the SPS/OPG Annual meeting is proceeding; both possibilities of holding the meeting in person and online are brought forward. The date of the meeting has been moved to 31 August – 3 September, in Innsbruck (Austria). The abstract submission deadline is fixed for 1 May; for registration, it is 1 August. It's still not clear whether it will be possible to have the poster session. Schopper invites all the professors on the Board to encourage their students to participate in the TASK session. One of the Plenary talks will be presented by Anna Soter (ETHZ); the SPS will schedule her talk at the beginning of one of the TASK sessions. The CHIPP Prize has a reserved slot for the presentation and it will be part of the Award ceremony.

## 13. New professorships at CHIPP institutes: report from each institute

There is a new Assistant Professor between DPNC Geneva and CERN of Silicon detector technologies. The position of Paolozzi has been approved by the Faculty Board; the first three years he will be in CERN and the last three years in Geneva.

In the EPFL, the selection process for a new Professor in Theoretical High Energy Particle Physics is continuing; at the next Board meeting, hopefully, it will be possible to present the new Professor.

## A.O.B

Adrian Signer reports that in March, it will be decided whether to hold the Zuoz PhD school in person or if the school will be postponed to next year.

Anna Sfyrila reports on the two FCC Swiss Workshops; Sfyrila and Florencia Canelli are organizing two workshops to kick-start the FCC activities in Switzerland; the first workshop is set to take place in September, the second in January next year. One workshop will be held at the University of Geneva, the other in Zurich.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://indico.cern.ch/event/986600/contributions/4154080/attachments/2181713/3697954/Board2021-1\\_Slides\\_Chair\\_v16.pdf](https://indico.cern.ch/event/986600/contributions/4154080/attachments/2181713/3697954/Board2021-1_Slides_Chair_v16.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://indico.cern.ch/event/986600/contributions/4215414/attachments/2186630/3696802/CHIPP\\_board\\_APPEC\\_202102.pdf](https://indico.cern.ch/event/986600/contributions/4215414/attachments/2186630/3696802/CHIPP_board_APPEC_202102.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://indico.cern.ch/event/986600/contributions/4215415/attachments/2187861/3697030/SPG\\_CHIPP\\_20210211.pdf](https://indico.cern.ch/event/986600/contributions/4215415/attachments/2187861/3697030/SPG_CHIPP_20210211.pdf)