

STUDENTS' COUNCIL – TERM 2014-2016⁹th MEETING September 28th, 2015 MINUTES

On Monday, 28/09/2015, at 16:18, in the A1 room of SISSA (International School for Advanced Studies) in Trieste (IT), the Students' Council – summoned by electronic mail on 25/09 – gathers. There are present:

Components	Role	P	E	A	
1	Claudia MANCUSO	President – School Council – Phys.	X		
2	Silvia CORSINI	Senate	X		
3	Cristiano DE NOBILI	Senate	X		
4	Matteo CASATI	Board of Directors	X		
5	Paolo GIDONI	School Council – MA	X		
6	Yamil VIDAL DOS SANTOS	School Council – CNS - VP		X	
7	Federico ISEPPON	School Council - NB	X		
8	Giuseppe PUGLISI	AP	X		
9	Mauro VALLI	APP			X
10	Lorenzo DEL RE	CM		X	
11	Giovanni PINAMONTI	SBP			X*
12	Alessio CHIOCCHETTA T.	SP			X
13	Pietro BARATELLA	TPP	X		
14	Francesco BOAROTTO	AM	X		
15	Giorgio SCATTAREGGIA	GEOM	X		
16	Gianluca ORLANDO	MAMA		X	
17	Nicolò PIAZZALUNGA	MP	X		
18	Cristina FIMIANI	SFG		X	
	Ulisse BOCCHERO	Invited	X		
	Giuliano LAZZARONI	Invited - Postdoc - Mathematics			X
	Paolo VATTA	Invited - Postdoc - Neuroscience			X
	<i>vacant</i>	Board of Directors			
	<i>vacant</i>	Evaluation Unit			
	<i>vacant</i>	School Council			

Legend: P present, E excused, A absent. * see in the minutes variations; ° participates for specific points of the agenda

Ulisse BOCCHERO has been invited as known candidate to the election for the Board of Directors. Matteo CAORSI and Carolina BIOLO have been invited as well but could not attend the meeting.

The President <i>Claudia Mancuso</i> The chairperson <i>Matteo Casati</i>	The Secretary <i>Matteo Casati</i>	Pag. 1 Of 7
--	---------------------------------------	-------------

Claudia MANCUSO, President of the Students' Council is the chairperson. Reporting secretary is Matteo Casati

The President verifies that the Students' Council is validly instituted because more than two thirds of its components are in office. The President verifies that the legal number of participants is reached (11/18).

The meeting is opened with the following agenda:

- 1 Communications by the President.**
- 2 New election and General Assembly**
- 3 Progress reports. Updates and further steps.**
- 4 SIAM Report**
- 5 Reports from the Senate and the Board of Directors representatives**
- 6 Report of the space committee**
- 7 Any other business**

1. Communications by the President

The President reports about the vademecum for first year students, drafted by Domenico MONACO and submitted to Riccardo Lancer. Its intended aim is to be provided to the freshmen at their enrollment. It has been some time, thought, that there are no news from the Students' Secretariat about it. The President Claudia MANCUSO commits herself to contact Lancer for more information.

The Welcome Day 2015 will likely be on December, 1st. The reason for the delay is that the (still unknown by us) speaker for the lectio magistralis cannot be available earlier. More details will hopefully follow in the next weeks.

The President announces that Massimo LUMACA has resigned from his office as member of the Board of Directors. Moreover, she tells the Council that Domenico MONACO and Piermarco FONDA has ceased from their office after graduating in the previous weeks..

Giovanni PINAMONTI enters the meeting at 16.25

2. New election and General Assembly

The President informs the Council that on **October 14th** there will be election of students' representatives in Mathematics and Neuroscience Area Councils, as well as supplementary elections for the students' and postdocs' representatives in the School Council, the Evaluation Unit, the Board of Directors and the Academic Senate. In particular, there will be the following

Mathematics Area Council. Term 2015-17	
PhD course in Mathematical Analysis, Modelling and Applications	1
PhD course in Geometry and Mathematical Physics	1

The President <i>Claudia Mancuso</i> The chairperson <i>Matteo Casati</i>	The Secretary <i>Matteo Casati</i>	Pag. 2 Of 7
--	---------------------------------------	-------------

Neuroscience Area Council. Term 2015-17	
PhD course in Cognitive Neuroscience	1
PhD course in Neurobiology	1
School Council. Supplementary for term 2014-16	
Students' representative for Physics Area	1
Students' representative for Mathematics Area	1
Board of Directors. Supplementary for term 2014-16	
Students' representatives	2
Evaluation Unit. Term 2015-17	
Students' representative	1
Academic Senate. Supplementary for term 2014-16	
Postdocs' representative	1

Francesco BOAROTTO proposes that the meeting is chaired by Matteo CASATI, since this is his last meeting while in office. The Council approves.

Matteo CASATI is the new chairperson. Claudia MANCUSO assists him with the minutes.

The chairman reminds that the constituency for the students' representatives in the School Council is made by the PhD courses representatives of the corresponding Area Councils. Moreover, the termination of Yamil VIDAL DOS SANTOS and Federico ISEPPON's office as PhD courses representatives does not imply a concomitant termination of their office as members of the School Council. Moreover, the constituency for the PhD representative of MAMA are the students of first, second, and third year while the one for the representative of GMP are the students of first and second years only, since there are still students belonging to the old PhD courses.

In the previous months a few students have been proposed to run for the seats in the Board of Directors and the Evaluation Unit; Matteo CAORSI (GMP) and Ulisse BOCCHERO (NB) are willing to run as members of the Board and Carolina BILOLO (MAMA) will run for the Evaluation Unit.

The Board is instructed to send a mail to all the students advertising the forthcoming election and asking other students who may want to run for some of the vacant position to let the Council know it.

The chairman proposes that on Wednesday, October 7th a Students' Plenum is summoned to inform all the students about the existence and the activities of the students' representatives and to allow the candidates to introduce themselves and campaign. The chairman proposes the Council to summon the meeting at 14.30.

The Council APPROVES.

3. Progress report. Updates and further steps

The chairman reminds that during last June's meeting, the legal number was not reached and hence the Council did not take any decision about the Progress Report issue. Since most of the Progress Report for the current academic year have been done (with the only exception of SBP

The President <i>Claudia Mancuso</i> The chairperson <i>Matteo Casati</i>	The Secretary <i>Matteo Casati</i>	Pag. 3 Of 7
--	---------------------------------------	-------------

and SFG), the chairman asks for an update and whether the PhD courses which expressed their favour for the procedure we proposed (a standard form to fill in and hand to the student) has been enacted.

For Mathematical Physics and Geometry, despite the explicit consent of the PhD coordinator, no form were used during the Spring exams (only a few of which were actually held after the decision) For MAMA, no forms were used as well. The Board of Physics Area was informed that the issue would have been discussed in the Senate, hence the single PhD courses did not take any initiative.

For NB, the Faculty Board adopted the standard procedure of their own without using the proposed form, but however giving a detailed report of the exam to the students.
In CNS the form was adopted.

The chairman proposes that the next consequent step is carried out, namely to officially bring the issue in the next meeting of the Academic Senate, since all the Areas and the PhD courses are now aware and not against it.

Giovanni PINAMONTI suggests to reconsider the need of such a formal step, since all the issue had started because of a lack of transparency in Neuroscience Area and the problem seems to have been solved without the need to add bureaucratic burden to the other PhD courses and Areas.

Matteo CASATI replies that the increasing of transparency in the exam procedures will benefit all the students; moreover, the sloppiness of the internal procedures, although effective, should be avoided.

After a short discussion, the Council APPROVES with 11 votes pro and 1 abstention (Pinamonti).

4. SIAM Report

Paolo GIDONI reports about the constitution of a SIAM Chapter at SISSA. SIAM is the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. The local officers are Paolo Gidoni (MA), Gianluca Orlando (MAMA), and Giuseppe Pitton (MAMA).

The local SIAM Students Chapter will organize seminars and networking activities among the students of Mathematics and the different Areas within the field of Applied Mathematics, with both internal and external speakers. The aim of our local Chapter is to involve in particular the students from Physics and Neuroscience.

Giuseppe PUGLISI asks whether the activities will be similar to the ones of a journal club, namely reporting someone else's research, or will be about original one. Paolo Gidoni replies that in principle both of the activities fall within the scope of the charter.

Paolo GIDONI adds that the only other SIAM Chapter in Italy is based at Politecnico di Milano, and that one of the aims of SISSA chapter will be to establish a strong networking with the other Higher and Special University Schools in Italy (SNS, SSSUP Sant'Anna, IUSSP Pavia, Udine, Galileiana, Catania, etc).

The President <i>Claudia Mancuso</i> The chairperson <i>Matteo Casati</i>	The Secretary <i>Matteo Casati</i>	Pag. 4 Of 7
--	---------------------------------------	-------------

Matteo CASATI adds that, in any case and even beyond the scope of SIAM Chapter, the networking and cooperation with the other Higher and Special University Schools is crucial, not only for scientific reasons but also for 'political' ones.

Claudia MANCUSO remarks that the Director-elect, prof. Ruffo, agrees on the topic.

5. Reports from the Senate and the Board of Directors representatives

Cristiano DE NOBILI reports about the previous meeting of the Senate, held on September 22. The most delicate issue for the students is the SPINAL laboratory, located at Gervasutta Hospital in Udine. There used to be three PhD students and a Researcher (dott. Taccola) working in Udine, all afferent to the Neurobiology Group. Formally, the PI of the lab is prof. Nistri. The Researcher won a grant abroad and will be absent for two years; the younger student (I year) obtained to change her project and to work at SISSA, while the remaining two will continue to work alone in Udine: one of the two will start his final year in November, while the other will start her III year, and risks to remain completely alone, without any reliable supervision, next year. The students asked to move the experimental equipment to the main campus, but it is not possible both because of the agreement between SISSA and Gervasutta Hospital and of logistic obstacles. A postdoc should be hired to work in the laboratory.

The admission to the next year for the students who already passed the exams has been approved. The list of the theses defenses to be held after the end of the IV year has been presented, mainly because it had been a 'hot' topic in the previous meetings. Almost all of them, indeed, are within the three months after the formal conclusion of the course and hence do not need an explicit approval by the Senate.

Nicolò PIAZZALUNGA leaves the meeting at 17:05.

Matteo CASATI intervenes as the only students' representative in the Board of Directors in office. Since both the representatives were absent during the previous meeting of the BoD, he reports about his term-and-a-half long office. The Councillors have received the report in written form (Attachment 1).

During the exposition of the report, he announces that during the next meeting of the Board of Directors it will be proposed to write off the sports court from the list of the programmed buildings. Since the same proposal was done two years ago and both the Council and all the students, by a referendum, were favourable to the realization of such a facility, Matteo CASATI asks the Council how to behave in the meeting. In the previous two years, the plan was not cancelled but barely nothing had been done to actually carry it out.

After a long debate where several options have been considered, the Council MANDATES him to express the students' disagreement about the abandoning of the project. If the project can not be saved as it was done at the end of 2013, the Council MANDATES Matteo CASATI to require an investment in the maintenance of the park, to let the students and all people at SISSA to effectively enjoy from the – now almost abandoned – space where the court should have been built.

The President <i>Claudia Mancuso</i> The chairperson <i>Matteo Casati</i>	The Secretary <i>Matteo Casati</i>	Pag. 5 Of 7
--	---------------------------------------	-------------

6. Report from the Space Committee

Matteo CASATI informs the Council that during the morning the students members of the Space Committee (Casati himself, Silvia CORSINI and Cristiano DE NOBILI) have met the Director presenting the report for the activities of the academic year 2014-15.

The Councillors have received an abridged report together with the statistical analysis of the space usage (Attachment 2).

In particular, it is remarked that, despite almost everyone at SISSA complains about the need of further office space, in Physics Area they are extremely underused, where compared with Mathematics and, much more, with Neuroscience.

Giovanni PINAMONTI remarks that, despite the office reserved to several Physics student might host a few more people, the maximum occupancy prescribed by the Administration would make them too crowded.

Silvia CORSINI replies that in the attached report there is a list of rooms (almost all from Neuroscience) where there are more, and sometimes much more people than the maximum.

Giovanni PINAMONTI concedes that the offices for first year students, in particular for SBP, are significantly underused.

Matteo CASATI remarks that it will always be like that, unless the habit of reserving one big office to each PhD course for the first year students, as it is done (with the exception of APP, split among TPP and AP) in Physics Area is abandoned.

Pietro BARATELLA asks who is in charge of the assignment of the office, since in TPP course there are some problems since a student refuses to abide by the requests of his fellow students to move from one office to another.

Matteo CASATI replies that in general it varies from course to course, but that for TPP it is definitely up to the PhD course coordinator, prof. Bertolini.

7. Any other business

Silvia CORSINI tells that during the Senate meeting the Director raised the problem of the usage of the Training and Research Contribution for the students in their final year (namely, the "1000 euros"). The Director commented on the purchase of external hard drives, allowed by the regulation, at the very end of the year, and hence in apparent contrast with the reason of the norm. The payment has been denied.

Matteo CASATI replies that it is unfair, since the check of the compliance of the expense with the norm is up to the course coordinator: if he or she authorized the request, which is in this case explicitly included in the regulation, then there should not be a further 'discretionary' evaluation.

Francesco BOAROTTO adds that, if the School did not want to allow such kind of behaviour, it should have been made clearer in the Regulation.

The President <i>Claudia Mancuso</i> The chairperson <i>Matteo Casati</i>	The Secretary <i>Matteo Casati</i>	Pag. 6 Of 7
--	---------------------------------------	-------------

Francesco BOAROTTO leaves at 17:45.

Giuseppe PUGLISI raises the related issue of the laptop contribution, that at the moment can be used for the purchase of a full laptop only, asking whether it could be made to include also more general purchases of computer hardware (RAM cards, hard drives...)

Matteo CASATI replies that it might be possible, but it somehow would conflict with the original reason of such a contribution, which was alternative to the actual purchase of a laptop for each student.

Giuseppe PUGLISI briefly reports about news from ARDISS Steering Committee. ARDISS Director has changed; moreover, to ask for contribution towards the meals expenses (reduced canteen fares), public transport monthly and yearly tickets, and reduced fees for the Right to Education Tax, the income return (ISEE) must be uploaded online by September 30th. Riccardo Iancer has already informed all the students by email

Having depleted the agenda, the meeting is dismissed at 17:58

<p>The President <i>Claudia Mancuso</i> The chairperson <i>Matteo Casati</i></p>	<p>The Secretary <i>Matteo Casati</i></p>	<p>Pag. 7 Of 7</p>
--	---	--------------------