

Resumé of Board of Directors's meeting – September 25th, 2012

As I have already written in the mail, the meeting went very smoothly without any arguing. As the last time, their main concern is always the *punti organico*, id est the parameters in order to hire new professors and researchers. There is a meeting of Italian Conference of Rectors scheduled tomorrow in order to (try to) solve problems with the hiring of researcher *a tempo determinato* payed by external funds, since some public calls have started before they enacted the law, and they couldn't know how to compute them. Anyway, it's not an issue directly concerning students.

1. Communications

1. Regione FVG instituted a regional register of graduates. The Director gave us much less details than the ones Dario reported. Basically, "it's a stupid idea, since there is AlmaLaurea already, but we couldn't say no, hence we're in"
2. We're undergoing a major change in a lot of administrative stuff, since there will be online (almost automatic) procedures for missions, visiting professors, digital library, room booking, organizing conferences....On October, 4th starting from 9.30am there will be a general assembly in Aula Magna explaining all this stuff – including the *new* room management system (the idea should be: the spaces owned by sectors pass to areas – in order to try and 'defeudalize' things – and the rooms for visitors, ICTP students, undergraduate students will be assigned by general administration. *This is the idea, at least. We'll see.*
3. HPC. The project is going on, by the end of October hopefully they will be able to make the public announcement for the call. I remind you that it means that in one of the via Beirut buildings (the largest one) they're going to build a powerful computing facility, which will be used – in 'twinning' with an INFN one they're building in Pisa – by us, INFN researchers, and some external users who will pay us for it (such as AREA etc.)

2. Budget

1. There are some changes in the 2012 budget: more income (both from Ministry and ERC) and more expenditures than expected in the provisional budget. In particular, we got 1400k from the Ministry and 1050k from a number of grants, but we should spend 550k for maintenance, bills and employees' welfare. As you certainly know, if you have more income you must change the budget planning for more expenditures; so seemingly there are no changes. But then it becomes easier that at the end of the year there will be a surplus (last year there was one of 2M according to the Director, reading the final balance of 2011 I'd say almost 6M)
2. The budget for the next year is in preparation and should be ready by the beginning of December. Anyway, we forecast, according to the law, a 4% cut of FFO for 2013 and an equal one for 2014. These cuts are going to be shuffled off the Areas budget. Moreover, when in 2008 a national law raised the fellowship from ~10k to ~13k gross they assigned to universities additional funding to cover it. Regretfully these funds were allocated only for a 3 years term (I suppose 2009-2012), so there will be a cut of ~500k in the fundings. According to the Director, it may become a problem from 2015, since there's that famous surplus I mentioned and we might be forced to lower the number of fellowships.

3. Regulations

1. According to the old rules for PhD courses, the fellowship could be suspended up to 5 months, and paid out to 70%, in case of serious illness, maternity or paternity. It was intended that during your 'life' it could be done once. Now we decided that 'once' refers to

‘once for maternity, once for serious illness, once for paternity’, basically to promote the right to maternity/paternity of the students.

2. There have been changes also in the rules for *research fellowships*, usually awarded after the graduation in order to conclude the research project. Fulfilling a request by prof. Nistri, for people who graduated in Medicine the upper age bound isn’t more 30 yrs but 33. (the idea is that the degree course last 6 years and then you usually take a specialization, so you start your PhD course in late twenties, but it’s basically an *ad personam* rule)
3. Executive committees. Basically no news. They must be appointed by October, 1st and we’ve already discussed a lot. Only for records, I copy-and-paste my mail
Here you are the complete list of students' representative needed for the executive committees (the non-statutory ones, they support the Director and the governing bodies, are appointed by the Director and can be resolved in any moment)

1. *General services and resources. Maintenance of buildings, laboratories, stables..., cafeteria, kindergarten, guardians... one representative*

2. *SIS users (soon 'SICT users', since they are going to change their name). Consultation and programming for SICT activities. one representative*

3. *Library users. One representative.*

4. *Teaching committee. There must be a students' representative, but he (or she) is not going to be a full member of the committee - he will be invited only to discuss topics of students' interests [or maybe he will be invited 'by default', and requested to exit whenever they'll have to discuss 'reserved' topics]*

Each committee has a 2 years term. After 3 absences in a line or 5 total absences the representative will be divested of his role.

4. Agreements

1. Starting from this year we have an agreement with ICTP for the health service to foreign students. The problem is that the general health insurance SISSA stipulates covers the period January, 1st -December, 31st so that the ones starting working here in October and November are uncovered, and Italian law covers only emergency hospitalization, not general medic services. Since ICTP has its own physician, SISSA foreign students without insurance can go to him without any charge both for them and for SISSA.
2. Stages for students and graduates from University of Padua and School of Medicine and Psychology of Roma “La Sapienza”. Some of them are going here...

5. Students’ practices

1. Admission of new students for Astroparticles (4/4), Elementary Particles (4/5), Mathematical Physics (4/4), Geometry (4/4), Applied Math (4/4), Mathematical Analysis (5/4+1)
2. Admission to 2nd, 3rd, 4th year for students in Astroparticles, Elementary Particles, Mathematical Physics, Geometry, Applied Math and Mathematical Analysis (conditionally for Math. Phys and Geom students who hasn’t passed their exams yet)
3. 150 hours. There is a number of requests for students’ collaboration in a lot of fields, for a total of 48 students and 5525 hours. The announcement has been authorized, so it’s matter of days (I hope)
4. 6 months of post degree fellowships and 4 month of ‘research introduction’ awarded to Neuroscience area.
5. Admissions of Laurea Magistrale’s students for Math and Physics.

6. Triennial Plan of constructions

Preliminary announcement, according to law. In 2013 they're planning: HPC building in old via Beirut, additional work on the park (a new path and the 5-football/basket pitch apparently), enlargement of A2 building for warehouse, labs, workroom, rooms for undergrad students

7. Other business

1. According to the Area and Senate's deliberations, starting from November the PhD course in Neuroscience, which used to have two 'internal' curricula in Cognitive Neuroscience and Neurobiology, will be split in two actual courses. Apart all the 'theoretical' stuff, the fact is that in this way they can ensure that a (more) equal number of students enters both courses, since with only one concourse the students were 'too' free of choosing. The two titles of PhD in Neurobiology and Cognitive Neuroscience will be equivalent to Italian degree of Dottore di Ricerca in Neuroscienze (which seems quite ironic to me)