

Résumé of 18.12.2012 meeting of the Board of Directors

The main topics in the agenda were:

1. Approval of 2013 budget
2. Approval of 2013-2015 plan of hiring
3. A lot of conventions and contracts, among which CECAM and kindergarten
4. New General Secretary

1. According to the very last laws enacted by Berlusconi's government, for 2013 there is an overall cut of 5% to the FFO (Ordinary Funding) of Italian University – the exact amount of the cut for SISSA is to be announced during the year, or even later: we're not sure about the money they gave us for 2011...; moreover, according to the drafts of Friuli Venezia-Giulia budget, there won't be any 'ordinary' contribution of the Region to the universities. Hence, for the budget the administration estimated a total amount of external incomes of about 30M (among which 16.3 of FFO); the 5% cut to FFO has an impact of 4% cut to the Areas and ILAS budget. For now the first tranche of budget assignment has been disposed, the second one will be set probably in April according to the availability of resources.

In the previous years quite a significant 'hole' opened in the budget on the side of Research Assistants (Assegnisti, basically the Post-Docs since Legge Gelmini deleted that kind of position), because the lasting of their fellowships passed from 2yrs to 3yrs without changing the number of position opening, or even increasing them. A plan of recouping has been enacted for the next year and the following one, passing from a 'consolidate' expense of 700k (2010) to 900k (but for 2013 we must allocate 1.35M...)

Moreover, the increasing of the cost for journals' subscriptions of the library caused a presumptive deficit of about 100k for the next year. We assigned 70k more to the library budget, and the remaining 30k will be saved (or quitting from some subscription, or – better – through agreements with other libraries (University, ICTP...))

As announced earlier in 2012, there is a problem with PhD fellowships: a supplementary income from the Ministry started in 2008 expired at the end of 2011, so we must find the money 'by ourselves' to cover part of the fellowships (please note that by law a PhD fellowship is around 1030 net euros/month, the remaining quota is already payed by SISSA itself. From 2012 the Ministry transfers to universities only ~800 euros/month x person). With the current funding situation, we are able to sustain the overall number of fellowships we have until 2015. By then, in order not to reduce the number of fellowships, we must find the money to pay 6/7 PhD fellowships on external funds. We feel confident we'll be able to do it.

Please notice that the budget we approved is presumptive, so the incomes have been estimated in a prudent way (id est, a bit underestimated) and the expenses as well (id est, a bit overestimated).

2. At the moment, there are 36 permanent positions in Physics, 17 in Maths and 16 in Neuroscience. We received the request from the Areas for the hiring in the next years. It will be possible to hire and/or promote a number of person, both in the 'standard way' and according to the 'extraordinary Associate Professor plan' approved together with Gelmini law. At the moment, the requests outnumber by far the availability (just for the records, 8 for Physics, 2 Full and 3 Associated for Maths, 4 for Neuroscience), so the decisions about the priority is procrastinated after the results of National Abilitation (*sorry for the made-up word*). Moreover, Gelmini law introduced the figure of 'tenure tracked (temporary) researcher'. Despite it's uncomfortable for the school needs to keep people in tenure track, a number of them shall be hired, preferably on external funds, which don't 'cost' for the size of the staff (something like 3

for Physics, 3-4 for Maths, 1 for Neuroscience)

3. Here's the list of new contracts, agreements and conventions:
 - a) RIKEN TranSINE technologies co. ltd (patent Functional nucleic acid molecule and use thereof, prof. Gustinchich)
 - b) Institutional Communication to Medialab (in-house society, no need of public tender)
 - c) ASS Triestina: Training on Emergency Communication in Health Service
 - d) Kindergarten: first, after three years of activity we were able to modify the regulations according to the experience, letting more positions for SISSA internal users, forbidding enrollments for less than three months and preventing the people in charge of it from applying fares for external people lower than internal ones. Then we set the tender.
 - e) Promoscience: it's a SISSA spin-off, we renewed the agreements (Patti parasociali)
 - f) Glance Vision Technologies: idem as above
 - g) Friuli Innovazione and Ditenave. We as SISSA are fellows of Friuli Innovazione, a regional society. We let Friuli Innovazione participate to Ditenave (a shipbuilding consortium)
 - h) CECAM (Centre Europeen de Calcul Atomique and Moleculaire). We renewed the subscription for 2013
 - i) CEI (Central European Initiative). Change of the kind of association, no more 'bilateral' but as Trieste System as a whole.
 - j) Fondazione Santa Lucia, Roma. Cooperation in neuroimaging and cognitive neuropsychology. Prof. Rumati.
 - k) IST Lisbona and ICTP. Just formal, for concurring in organizing two conferences.
 - l) Interatheneum master in 'Coffee science and economy'. Formal change of administrative matters in a convention we're part of (basically without doing anything)
 - m) Mars Chocolate. Research project by prof. Baroni on colour additives, payed by them.
 - n) CINECA. Administrative stuff.
 - o) University of Udine. Cooperation on administrative stuff.
 - p) Re-seed project. Cooperation with University of Udine and Friuli Innovazione on 'job finding for highly educated young people, research spin-offs, technological transfer'.
4. Because of the resignation of our current General Secretary (the chief of administration) who is moving to Pisa, we set up a tender which was won by dott. Rizzetto, currently at Venice Ca'Foscari university. He's going to work in SISSA from Janaury.