

# Résumé meeting Board of Directors

## January, 29<sup>th</sup>

### **Communications by the Director**

As previously announced, the new General Secretary has been introduced. As you know, the former one, dott. Bardi, moved to Sant'Anna di Pisa and we were forced to look for a new one. The main field of expertise of dott. Rizzetto are the Human Resources, since he has served as Chief of HR at Venezia – Ca' Foscari.

About the budget, at the end the total amount of cuts to national FFO has been fixed to 5% (which means 300 M euros). It's worthy to remark that this is the total cut, the actual cut to SISSA funding is going to be known (much) later. As an act of protest against these cuts, the Italian National Council of Universities refused to prepare the three-yearly plan – it's very likely that it will not be effective at all.

There are new rules for PRIN and FIRB (Italian grants), which the CRUI (Italian Conference of Rectors) wanted to be more similar to European (i.e., ERC or FP7) ones. Some steps have been done in that direction, but not very satisfactory ones.

There is a change in the composition of the Board: prof. Rossi, an external member, lost his office because of too many consecutive absences.

In June we will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the institution of Master in Comunicazione della Scienza.

### **Financial issues (excerpts of...)**

SISSA, despite being a public university, must pay IMU for 2012 and 2013, in particular for the old building in via Beirut (because it's empty and unused) and for the buildings used by Medialab (because they have a 'commercial/business' usage). The two different issues should be faced during this year in order to avoid further expensive payments – moreover, it may only be a matter of miswriting of the law, since 'Schools' are exempted.

SISSA will support the Young Research Meeting, a conference organized by PhD students and young postdocs in Physics – and usually held in Rome; this year it's going to be at SISSA.

### **Security Service (Servizio Prevenzione e Protezione)**

The program for the activities of SPP in 2013 has been presented and approved. The main issue is that, according to a law approved in late 2011, it is necessary to provide all SISSA users with a training in security issues, of course at different levels according to the actual risk one is exposed to. There will be a course of 18 hours for 'Preposti' and people in charge of laboratories in the next two months; starting from March and until August there will be the training for Neuroscience Area 'scientific and technical workers', which of course includes all the students – who are equalized to staff at each level – lasting 12 hours, of which 4 of general e-learning, while from June to December there will be the training for Mathematics, Physics and general staff, for whom there should be 8 hours, among which 4 of general e-learning and 4 to be announced.

## **Didactics, Fellowships and so on.**

*PhD Fellowships.* As already mentioned several times, there is a problem of sustainability for the total amount of PhD Fellowships, since from 2012 the Ministry has (according to a 2008 law) reduced the amount of quota he pays for each student (basically, from 1000 net/month to 800 net/month, as before the 2008 national raise). By 2015 we must find enough external fellowships or we will be forced to decrease the number of students/year by 7-9 units. For starting, in 2013-14 the total amount of 1<sup>st</sup> year fellowships will pass from 68 to 66 (despite 64 being actually awarded for 2012-13 first year students). Another way to tackle the issue we're going to try it's to convince the Ministry to give us (and to other special schools) a special funding, since PhD fellowships burden us much more than ordinary universities, since their number with respect to the total is much larger.

*Research fellowships.* The calls for the 'Research training' (both undergraduate and postgraduate) and (normal) postgraduate fellowships have been approved and are going to be published. The total amount of requested months for the former ones is 77 (in 2012, 60 out of 75 were used), for the latter ones is 120 (in 2012, 93 out of 145 were used).

The public call for the *Master in Complex Action* has been approved.

The issue of the missing *150 hours* contracts for neurobiology (in September the requests weren't proposed to the Area Council and, consequently, there were fewer positions than usual) has been discussed, and it was announced that they're going to prepare an additional call for them; but nothing has still been officially approved.

## **Contracts.**

The contract for Cafeteria and Bar service has been renegotiated because the terms of the original tender were very different from the actual ones. In order to avoid the unilateral breaching by the Cafeteria people – who, according to the State Legal Advisory Service (*nda, Avvocatura Generale dello Stato according to EU translators*) would be right – we decided to reset their rent. We would like to stress that the data we have are incomplete, since both they and the tender refer only to 'Mensa' and don't take into account the number of (almost) meals served by the bar.