

Resumé of the Board of Directors meeting. March 12th, 2013

The Board has dealt with a lot of routine stuff as usual, but there was a couple of very important topics. The main issues for the students we discussed and approved are:

1. Regional funding
 2. Election of CNSU (National Council of University students)
 3. Announcement of Theses Awards 2013
 4. New regulation for PhD Courses
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1. In approving the budget for the 2013, in December, we were forced to not take into account the amount of the Regional funding to SISSA, since the Regional Government hadn't approved its own budget yet – and there were rumors according to which there would have been a severe cut of it. The Region granted us 225k euros, which is more or less the half of the last year's funding. But, since we didn't put anything in the budget, it turns out that it's an additional income.
 2. On May 21st and 22nd there will be the Election for the CNSU. It is an advisory board of the ministry in which a number of elected representatives of the students sit. Among them, there is ONE representative of PhD students. The poll office is going to be at the University.
 3. As it became a tradition, the announcement of the prize for the best PhD theses (one for Area) and for the best master thesis has been authorized and it's going to be published. In order to apply one must have discussed his thesis between March 1st, 2012 and February 28th, 2013. The prizes will be 1000 euros net.
 4. Finally, the most important part. After months of discussions and waiting, the Ministry has issued the National Regulation of "Dottorato di Ricerca", although it hasn't been published on the Official Gazette yet and so it's not enacted. These novelties affect also SISSA PhD regulation, so we finally managed to approve the new one (in principle, the main part of the work had already been done by the Senate, but since the National Law changed in the very last week we were forced to slightly edit it). In particular:
 1. In order to grant the students an help to deal with the problems that can arise during the course, everyone shall pick an external tutor for all the duration of the course. There will be a list provided by the School of available tutors among which to choose.
 2. The ordinary length of the course is THREE years; of course, the Faculty Board (Collegio dei Docenti, a better translation would be welcome) can propose the extension to the fourth year which must be approved by the Senate and the CdA. In case of such an extensions, by July of the 4th year the Faculty Board must check that the student is able to complete his project by the end of the year itself. If not, it must be immediately reported and justified.
 3. The Final Exam as a rule must be taken between 3 months before and 3 months after the official conclusion of the Course. It can be anticipated or (more likely) postponed once, after a careful examination and a resolution by the Senate.

In general, it's noteworthy that the School decided to interpret some articles of the National Regulation as they don't apply to us as a Special School which doesn't provide "Dottorati di Ricerca" but "Ph.D. Degrees". In particular, we decided not to comply with the deadline for enrollment, which should be September, 30th, and with the one for the achievement of the Master Degree (which should be October, 31st), even because we have already announced the calls for the next academic year.