

Report of the 29.10.2013 meeting of the Board of Directors

Main topics in agenda of possible interest

1. Communications by the Director. Welcome Day, SISSA in festa.
2. Missions reimbursement
3. Cafeteria and Canteen tender
4. PhD course in Mathematical Physics and Geometry
5. First year enrollment
6. 150 hours
7. Health insurance for UE PhD students and postdocs.
8. Sports court

1. Communications

As already advertised, the Welcome Day for the next current year will be held on November, 20th. The Lectio Magistralis will be given by prof. Morgante from Udine University. During the late spring (on June, 6th 2014) there will be the next SISSA in festa, a kind of 'open day' for all the Trieste citizens. The main theme will be light/sight/figurative art; any contribution, proposal or idea is welcome.

2. Mission reimbursement

Since 2012, when on a mission abroad, instead of asking the reimbursement for accommodation and meals exhibiting the receipts, one can ask for the so-called *trattamento forfetario di missione*, a fixed daily reimbursement to cover them without proving all the expenses. Travel and other expenses are not included in this reimbursement (you'll get them no matter which one of the two systems you choose). The amount of the reimbursement **in theory** varies with the country, but since the part which can avoid taxes is 77.47 euros (and since PhD students don't pay taxes on their fellowships) that is the daily amount that will be given. (Basically, choosing this system is convenient only if someone host you for free, but please do your own math)

3. Cafeteria and Canteen tender

During the next spring the current canteen contract will expire and we're preparing the new tender. The results of the survey sent in the last weeks have been considered, pointing out that the most chosen meal is the special one and that almost everyone is fine with that: so it will be the most important feature to be considered for the tender. Details of the tender are still under preparation by the General Services Committee.

4. PhD Course in Mathematical Physics and Geometry

Starting from the a.y. 2014-2015 SISSA the two PhD courses in Mathematical Physics and in Geometry won't start and will be replaced by a course in Mathematical Physics **and** Geometry, with a number of fellowships equal to the sum of the two previous ones. This attests the mixing of the two curricula, supervisors and grants the students the possibility of perfecting their research interest during the first year of classes, while also granting the School a more effective selection of the best candidates.

5. First year enrollment

With the end of October the enrollment of the new first year students has been completed. The official data are still a work in progress. Our estimations are

PhD Course	Available positions (CdA Jan 2013)	Enrolled
Astroparticle Physics (APP)	4*	4+1*
Astrophysics (AP)	5*	5
Condensed Matter Theory and Simulation (CM)	6*	2+2*
Molecular and Statistical Biophysics (SBP)	5*	5
Statistical Physics (SP)	5*	5
Theoretical Particle Physics (TPP)	5*	5+1*
Geometry (GEO)	4*	3
Mathematical Analysis, Modelling and Applications (MAMA)	8*	7+1*
Mathematical Physics (MP)	4*	2
Cognitive Neuroscience (CNS)	6	6
Neurobiology (NB)	7	7
Structural and Functional Genomics (SFG)	7	6
Joint SISSA-ICTP for Math and Phys	7*	5*
TOTAL	66+7*	57+5*

Moreover, this year it was the first one having five PhD fellowships available for students willing to be enrolled in the *Doctor Europaeus* programme, on external funds. The five positions (coming with a more-or-less specific project) were assigned to SBP, SP, SFG, NB, and CNS. Quite few applications have arrived (one had to specify it when applying for the exams); SBP and NB got their one, SP and SFG didn't have adequate candidates, CNS had two of them (but we still don't know whether we can give two fellowships to the same curriculum). In any case, it doesn't affect the total amount of fellowships, just how much SISSA has to pay with its own funding.

6. 150 hours

Despite the 150 hours call had already been approved in September (and the deadline was October, 15th) it turned out that Neuroscience Area needs more collaborators. So there's going to be another call for two positions of 100 hours each

The total amount of positions and hours the School has called for is, at the end

Organization	Positions	Hours
Physics Area	16	1350

Mathematics Area	3	450
Neuroscience Area	10+2*	1500+200*
Library	11	1650
ITCS	7	575
ILAS	1	150
Central Administration	7	450
TOTAL	55+2*	6125+200*

*Late approval: the call hasn't been published yet (Nov, 8th)

7. Health Insurance for EU PhD students and postdocs

For EU citizens without a TEAM (European Healthcare Card) is still impossible to subscribe National (actually, Regional) Health System. Last April for postdocs, and May for PhD students, we decided to get a private insurance as SISSA and give a reimbursement to people subscribing it, but no company provided us with what we need for a reasonable price. After the School effort, the issue is in discussion among technicians of the different Ministries under the coordination by the Foreign Affairs Ministry, but since the times are going to be quite long, we decided to address to the Regional Government the request of immediately enrolling all the people needing the insurance to the NHS, and SISSA will pay for them as soon as the Government sets the price. It's still an open question, but this is SISSA's stand.

8. Sports court

As already reported to all the students, we presented the results of the survey. 64% of students voted, and among them the 77% is in favour of the building. There have been some useful comments and remarks in the survey, we're going to keep them into account, and comply with them when feasible.