

# Report from the Board of Directors meeting 20.V.2014

## Main topics of interest for the students

1. General communications
2. Rules for the Election of the Director - proposal
3. Preselection of not-EU candidates and first session of entrance exams
4. Award for best PhD and master theses 2013
5. BioMat laboratory (Mechanics of active, biological and bio-mimetic materials)

### 1. General communications

On June, 17<sup>th</sup> there will be the School Council. There will be presented the Students' Report for the 2013 activities

Moreover, on June 18<sup>th</sup> there will be the first joint meeting of Senates and Boards of Directors of the University of the Friuli Venezia Giulia.

### 2. Rules for the Election of the Director - proposal

The new Director must start his office in November, 2015. The School Council has already started to evaluate possible candidates. One major problem in recruiting an external Director, as everyone wish, is that according to the Gelmini Law if you elect an external professor he/she must move in as a SISSA professor, and there is not a way for him/her to go back to the home university after the end of the office. We are going to submit to the Ministry a proposal of General Regulation of the School (which, according to the law, they must approve) in which we give to an external Director the possibility, if he/she and his/her university want, to stay at SISSA only for the length of the term (six years) and then go back to the original university. We hope that we manage to get this exception approved, so that a number of valuable candidates can participate to the elections.

There will be three votes by the School Council, with a legal number of 2/3 and a needed majority of 2/3. If after the first 2 votes nobody is elected, the terms for the candidatures will be opened again for a couple of weeks. If after the 3<sup>rd</sup> vote nobody is elected, there will be a ballot vote between the first two.

### 3. Preselection of not-EU candidates and first session of entrance exams

In the March preselection for not-EU candidates for the PhD courses and in the first session of ordinary entrance exams a number of students has been admitted.

In particular, the following table summarizes the situation today

PhD Courses	Positions	Not EU	First exam	Places left
<i>MAMA</i>	8	2	-	6
<i>AP</i>	5	2	2	1
<i>SBP</i>	5	0	-	5
<i>APP</i>	4	0	-	0
<i>MP-GEO</i>	8	3	-	5
<i>SP</i>	5	0	5	0
<i>TPP</i>	5	0	-	5

<b>SFG</b>	<b>6</b>	1	-	<b>5</b>
<b>NB</b>	<b>8</b>	0	-	<b>8</b>
<b>CNS</b>	<b>7</b>	2	2	<b>3</b>
<b>CM</b>	<b>5</b>	0	5+2	<b>0</b>
<b>JUMBO</b>	<b>2 (6 in tot)</b>	-	-	<b>2</b>

Legend: MAMA Mathematical Analysis, Modelling and Application, AP Astrophysics, SBP Physics and Chemistry of Biological Systems, APP Astroparticle physics, MP-GEO Mathematical Physics and Geometry, SP Statistical Physics, TPP Theoretical Particle Physics, SFG Functional and Structural Genomics, NB Neurobiology, CNS Cognitive Neuroscience, CM Theory and Simulation of Condensed Matter JUMBO Joint Molecular Biology

In particular, Condensed Matter has asked for and got two more fellowships because of the high number of people eligible (and because last year they had very few students).

#### **4. Award for the best PhD and master theses 2013**

Since 2011 an award for the best PhD thesis in Mathematics (entitled to the memory of mr. Lutman, as usual), Physics (entitled to the memory of dr. Caracciolo, our colleague tragically passed away last year and awarded with a PhD *in memoriam* some months ago) and Neuroscience has been assigned by SISSA to the students graduated the year before. The total prize sums to 1000 EUR and can be won by people graduated between March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 and February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The deadline to participate is September 5. The call will be published on the SISSA website and advertised in the ordinary way.

Similar awarded are going to be given to the best Science Communication and Digital Scientific Journalism theses.

#### **5. Bio-MAT laboratory**

Prof. De Simone (Mathematics) has recently won an ERC with a project on micromotility, in order to study and model the motion in a fluid and on a surface of small microorganism. In order to do that, he asked the School for a contribution in order to establish a laboratory to measure velocity and forces involved in the motion. The amount of the contribution requested to SISSA is 300k EUR, while the total amount of the ERC grant is 1,3M EUR – mostly devoted to hire postdocs. A seminar, open to everybody, has been given Wednesday May, 14<sup>th</sup>. A lot of issues have been raised by professors not convinced by the project and by the opening of a (in some sense) new line of research at SISSA. During the meeting of the Board, everyone agreed that one important thing to underline and stress is that the lab is not going to be considered the 'private lab' of one research group, but rather a SISSA lab, under the supervision of a PI, in principle open to all the possible collaboration. Since, anyway, the Senate was much less convinced than the Board and its vote has been postponed to June, we agreed on postpone our vote, too.