

Report from the Board of Directors meeting 01.VII.2014

Main topics of interest for the students

1. General communications
2. Final balance 2013
3. International Joint Master program in Physics of Complex Systems
4. Admission of SISSA/ICTP Joint PhD and of spring preselection and exams
5. Increase of mission funding – announcement
6. Bio-Mat experimental activity
7. Fellowships for JCOM Masterclasses

1. General communications

The ISAC, after its visit of the end of May, has submitted its report to the School. The report will be published for the SISSA community in a few days, in the meanwhile it has already been discussed (partially) at the School Council and in a meeting between the Director and the Students' representatives. In the next days analogue meetings will be held with the PhD courses coordinators and some specific persons.

Prof. Menini is promoting initiatives for the equal opportunities at SISSA and in the university system in general (gender unbiased language, mentors-mentees program in science, women in committee for the appointment of professors). It is a recommendation by the ISAC, too.

2. Final balance 2013

The final balance 2013 has been approved, being slightly better than expected. Details aside, the second tranche of the Areas budgets is going to be assigned as expected. It is the last balance according to the principles of "Contabilità Finanziaria": since 2014 we are using "Contabilità Economico-Patrimoniale"

3. International Joint Master program in Physics of Complex Systems

This is a Master Degree program (Laurea Magistrale) that had been running for some years, organized together with PoliTO, ICTP and some universities in France. A semester of the program is run at SISSA, and some of our faculty are teachers (and can give theses). The level of the students, who have to pass a selection, has been increasing year after year. We renew the program, to which the Kungliga Tekniska Hogskolan of Stockholm is joining.

4. Admission of SISSA/ICTP joint PhD and of spring preselection and exams

The SISSA/ICTP joint PhD in Mathematics and Physics is a program for ICTP students who graduate with a Diploma and are admitted to PhD courses organized by SISSA, with a fellowship paid by ICTP itself. For Physics the exams have been completed and 5 students have been admitted. Moreover, summarizing the results of the preselection, the first session of admission exams and external fellowships, the final picture is the following

In particular, the following table summarizes the situation today

PhD Courses	Positions	Not EU	First exam	Renounce	Places left	External or ICTP	Total
<i>MAMA</i>	8	2	-	-	6		8
<i>AP</i>	5	2	2		1		5
<i>SBP</i>	5	0	5		0		5

APP	4	0	-		0	1	5
MP-GEO	8	3	-		5		8
SP	5	0	5		0	1+1	7
TPP	5	0	-		5	1	6
SFG	6	1	-		5		6
NB	8	0	-		8		8
CNS	7	2	2		3		7
CM	5+2	0	5+2	1	1	2	8
JUMBO	2 (6 in tot)	-	-		2		

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

5. Increase in mission funds - Announcement

After the ISAC report, and seen the budget 2013 and 2014, SISSA is going to increase the fundings for missions of 3rd and 4th year PhD students, from 500 to 800 euros. The technicalities (differentiating between missions and participation at conferences and schools) and the deliberation will be addressed in September.

6. Bio-MAT experimental activity

In the last months, the School has been discussing for long time Prof. De Simone's (Mathematics) proposal to establish a laboratory to measure velocity and forces involved in the motion of microorganisms. The amount of the contribution requested to SISSA is 300k EUR over a span of two years. The lab will be regarded as part of SAMBA activities (divided into two branches), under the management of dr. Noselli

7. Fellowships for JCOM Masterclasses

SISSA Medialab, together with SISSA, ICTP, ICGEB and some other research institutes is organizing JCOM masterclasses, international training courses in science and technology communication.

1500 Eur will be devoted to cover the fees for two SISSA students participating in the programs of school visit of last year. A mini-call for that should be opened.