

Report from the Board of Directors meeting 23.IX.2014

Main topics of interest for the students

1. General communications
2. Evaluation Unit and Executive Committees
3. Ombudsperson integration and Confidential Counsellor
4. Admission of SISSA/ICTP Joint PhD in Mathematics, APP, TPP, MAMA, GMP
5. 150 hours and Erasmus call
6. Modification PhD Teaching regulations
7. Postponement PhD defenses and integrative fellowships

1. General communications

On September, Wednesday 24th the new HPC cluster and the Master in High Performance Computing is going to be inaugurated. A lot of efforts have been put in this project that is now available to the SISSA users (testing should have been done during the summer)

The Welcome Day will be held on November, 19th. This year at SISSA, upon the proposal by PhD student Angelo Russomanno (CM), there will be organized a 'prose season' (the first play shall be on Nov 9th, The merry wives of Windsor). It is quite likely that after the welcome day there will be a cabaret show.

The SISSA Ice Bucket challenge has been moved to Sep, 30th. There were ~13 people registered

2. Evaluation Unit and Executive Committees

The Evaluation Unit of the School is expiring by the end of October. The Director appointed dr. Percacci as internal member, while the students elected Domenico Monaco (MP). The board confirmed the incumbent external members (prof. Zuliani, prof. Maritan, dott. Coran)

The Director expressed the need to renew the Executive Committees of the School, without – where possible – changing their composition. The hiring committee has been confirmed in the same composition; the students will have to replace the members who are graduating in Didactics, General Services and Resources, Library and ITCS committees.

3. Ombudsperson integration and Confidential Counsellor

After the outcome of the ISAC visit, the Director proposed to appoint, among the ombudspersons, a female one. According to the shortlist presented by the Students' council, prof. Mezzetti from UniTS has been appointed. It should be noticed that all the students can refer to any of the ombudspersons: prof. Amati, Laio or Mezzetti according to their will.

Moreover, the Administration has started to craft the call for the Confidential Counsellor: the law prescribes that an external expert shall deal with sexual harassment and bullying in the workplace.

4. Admission of SISSA/ICTP Joint PhD in Mathematics, APP, TPP, MAMA, GMP

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 Mathematics 2 students have been admitted. Moreover the admission to the first year of the PhD courses starting in October has been completed according to the following table

PhD Courses	Positions	Not EU (PreSel)	Exam	External or ICTP	Total
MAMA	8	2	6 (8 eligible)	1	9
APP	4	0	4 (8 eligible)	1	5
GMP	8	3(-1)	6 (7 eligible)	1	9
TPP	5	0	5 (9 eligible)	1	6

Legend: MAMA Mathematical Analysis, Modelling and Application, AP Astrophysics, SBP Physics and Chemistry of Biological Systems, APP Astroparticle physics, GMP 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. 150 hours and Erasmus call

The main 150 hours call for a.y. 2014-15 has been approved and will be published soon. Moreover, the call for the Erasmus fellowships have already been published and will expire on October 17th. The monthly amount of the fellowship for spending from 3 to 6 months in an EU country (including Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey) is 480 euros (in addition to the usual PhD fellowship); 37 months are available for SISSA students.

6. Modification PhD Teaching regulation

For some years now a rule has been active, according which if a PhD student quits before the completion of the first year he/she is required to pay back all the fellowship already got. After a case occurred this year and a comparison with the rules in force in other Italian universities, our regulation has been edited. If a students – in any year of PhD – quits, he/she is not required to pay back the fellowships, providing that the Teaching Board of the PhD confirms he/she stayed and worked at SISSA for the period. If the fellowship was paid but the student had already left, he or she would be required to pay back only the undue months.

Moreover, a minor edit of the regulation about the 50% increase of fellowship for periods abroad has been carried out, in such a way that it is clear that a whole full month abroad is the time required to have such a raise (and not, for instance, 3 weeks and then other 2 weeks, coming back to SISSA in the meanwhile).

7. Postponement of PhD defenses and integrative fellowships

According to the PhD Teaching regulation, the normal defense of one's own PhD thesis should be done between 3 months before and 3 months after the alleged conclusion of the PhD course. In case of further anticipation or postponement, the Teaching Board of the course should submit a motivated request to the Senate. The Senate has accepted two requests (SFG and NB); the Board confirmed these, despite rejecting the motivation of the lack of necessary disposable material (such as chemicals, etc.).

Moreover, 3 post degree fellowships have been directly awarded to three students to cover the time span between the end of the PhD fellowship and the scheduled defense (1 of them has been given to one of the postponing students, the 2 left to students defending within the deadline of three months). Such fellowships can be directly awarded only on external funds.