

Report from the Board of Directors meeting 29.IX.2015

Main topics of interest for the students

1. General communications: Ministerial Fundings
2. 150 hours collaboration
3. Postponement of PhD Thesis defenses.
4. Admission to the Master in High Performance Computing
5. Suspension of Master in Complex Actions
6. SPINAL Laboratory at Udine (leave of dr. Taccola)
7. Plan of building and park
8. Admission of new students and PhD fellowships

1. General communications

The Ministry has communicated the assignment of Puntì Organico (needed to hire professors and administrative personnel) for 2015, as well as the FFO (ordinary funding). SISSA has received all the 'reward' quota, hence the total funding is much more than accounted for in the budget and slightly more than expected.

2. 150 Hours collaboration

The new call for the 150 hours collaborators has been approved. As usual, each hour will be paid 10,30 euros and the students from the second year on can apply. There are a few new tasks, among which activities for the Central Administration in the office for International Research office and to create a database for laboratory equipment maintenance.

3. Postponement of PhD Thesis defenses

There will be 19 students who will defend their thesis after the end of the IV year of PhD; 11 of them are from Neuroscience, 4 from Physics and 4 from Mathematics. According to the list we have received all of them will defend by three months after the end of the PhD, and hence there is no need of an explicit approval by the Senate and the Board.

Moreover, a student of the PhD course in Geometry, who finished his IV year in 2009 but could not graduate because of serious health reasons will have an extended deadline until March, 31st 2016.

4. Admission to the Master in High Performance Computing

20 students have been admitted to the Master in HPC; among them there is a postdoc at SISSA, a student and a winner of a PhD fellowship who decided to opt for the master. The student enrolled may (there was not confirmation) have requested a suspension of the fellowship to be able to attend the classes, which are very demanding.

5. Suspension of Master in Complex Action

Prof. Treves, coordinator of the Master in Complex Action held at SISSA in the last five years or so, reported to ILAS that after a few years most of the motivation of people animating the master program has faded away and, despite the loss of a unique offer in Italian research institutes, he proposed to suspend the MCA for the forthcoming academic year in order to allow for a reorganization and possibly the intervention by some external actor.

We commented that in late Spring the students of the master asked for a meeting with the Students' representatives in order to complain about the organization and the lack of stimulating content.

The master will be discontinued for an indefinite period of time

6. SPINAL Laboratory at Udine (dr. Taccola)

After that dr. Taccola won a temporary position in a University abroad, the School was left with the problem of the laboratory he was the coordinator of, located at Gervasutta Hospital in Udine and in which two PhD students are still working. To let them continue their research the Board has approved the call for a Research Fellowship (of type B) for the current year, and has agreed to provide a further fellowship for the next year, aimed at keeping one of the two students, that will get his PhD, working at the lab. The Research Fellowship will be paid using “5 per mille” funding, since the kind of research carried out is of public interest.

7. Plan of building and park

The Board has discussed the routine document with the plan of the building work for the next year. Most of the expenses will be devoted to the maintenance of the old buildings at via Beirut campus. However, among the plan there is not the building of the sports court that was planned since the moving to via Bonomea campus.

We reminded that no more than two years ago the students reaffirmed their will to see the project completed, also taking into account that there already exist an executive project. However, according to the mandate of the Students' Council, we stressed that the most important thing in our opinion is to allow all the SISSA community to actually 'exploit' the park, not only the garden but the wood as well. For this purpose, an extraordinary maintenance of the part of the park in which the court should have been built should be considered.

The Director and the General Secretary agreed to discuss the topic with the Technical Offices and the Students' representatives and to bring to the following meetings of the Board, when the 2016 budget should be approved, a proposal according to this general guidelines.

8. Admission of new students and PhD fellowships

We have routinely approved the results of the entrance exams for APP, TPP, MAMA and GMP. Together with the approval there is the assignment of the PhD fellowships and of their amount. We anticipated that, in the same way as the basic amount of the postdoctoral fellowships has been recently increased to keep a net salary of 1800 euros/month while the welfare contribution increased, we deem that the School ought to raise the PhD fellowships as well, since the net salary has decreased from 1135 to 1122 and will become 1109 euros in 2018. The topic will be discussed again with the new Director by the new representatives, but everything has been reported in the Minutes.