Minutes of Students’ Council
Meeting n. 01/2020, 16/01/2020

The Students’ Council meets, regularly convened, on January 16th, 2020, at 11:00 with the following agenda:

1. Approval of the last Student Council minutes;
2. President communications;
3. Approval of the Report of the Student Council to the School Council;
4. Reports of the Evaluation Unit, Academic Senate, CdA, ARDiSS Committee;
5. Any other business.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role of representation</th>
<th>P</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Alessandro NOBILE</td>
<td>ARDiSS - President (Math)</td>
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<td>2) Mara DE ROSA</td>
<td>School council - Vice President (Neuro)</td>
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<td>3) Manuela SANTO</td>
<td>Senate (Neuro)</td>
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<td>4) Lorenzo FANT</td>
<td>Senate (Physics)</td>
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<td>5) Carlo SCARPA</td>
<td>Evaluation Unit (Math)</td>
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<td>6) Gabriele PERFETTO</td>
<td>Board of directors (Physics)</td>
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<td>7) Elena Tea RUSSO</td>
<td>Board of directors (Physics)</td>
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<td>8) Alessandro BARENGHI</td>
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<td>9) Osvaldo Basilio ARTIMAGNELLA</td>
<td>SFG</td>
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<td>10) Tore ERDMANN</td>
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<td>11) Carlo SCIALÓ</td>
<td>JuMBO</td>
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<td>12) Alessandro SCAGLIOTTI</td>
<td>MAMA</td>
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<td>13) Emanuele CAPUTO</td>
<td>Supply. Math - School council</td>
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<td>14) Adam MAGEE</td>
<td>GMP</td>
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<td>15) Alessandro RUBIN</td>
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<td>16) Fabio CALEFFI</td>
<td>CM</td>
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<td>17) Nicola CALONACI</td>
<td>MSB</td>
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President
[Alessandro NOBILE]

Secretariat
[Emanuele CAPUTO]
Minutes of Students’ Council n. 01/2020
January 16th, 2020

18) Alessandro GALVANI  SP  X
19) Lara PANTONI  AP - School Council  X
20) Matteo SECLI  CM  X
21) Francesco SGARLATA  TPP - School Council  X
22) Gauri SHARMA  AP  X
23) Giovanni TRICELLA  APP  X
24) Saddam HUJAZI  School Council (Math)  X
25) Domenico GURASCIO  School Council (Neuro)  X

Legend:  P present,  A absent.

Alessandro NOBILE, as the President of the Students’ Council, after checking the legal number of participants (13/25), opens the meeting at 10:12. Emanuele CAPUTO, as secretary of this meeting, writes the minutes.

1. Approval of the minutes of the Students’ Council n. 9/2019

Lorenzo FANT proposes some changes, postponing the approval of the minutes of the Student Council n.9/2019 to the next council.

Talking about the problem of the language of the minute, that currently has to be done in Italian, he pointed out several problems: mistakes in translations and the impossibility for non Italian speakers to complain precisely about the content of the minute. Elena Tea RUSSO says that the right way to do so is to have the minutes in both language with a certified translation. Lorenzo FANT says also it is a problem of time, in the sense that a considerable amount of time can be spent to understand if the point of the translation is the same.

2. President Communications

Alessandro NOBILE says that the Colloquia Committee asked him and in particular to the students representatives of Physics if there were some PhD students that want to have a private colloquium with the next speaker, the physicist and Nobel prize winner Barry Barish. The students representatives said that they there are going to spread the voice.

3. Approval of the Report of the Student Council to the School Council

Alessandro NOBILE asks if the report of the Student Council, that has to be presented during the School Council, was read and if there were any changes to be made. Since no one objects, the report has been approved.

4. Reports of the Academic Senate, CdA, Evaluation Unit and ARDiSS Committee

Report from the Senate:

President
[Alessandro NOBILE]

Secretariat
[Emanuele CAPUTO]
Lorenzo FANT says that there was the joint meeting with the Board of Directors and he was away, leaving the report to Elena Tea RUSSO.

Report from the Board of Directors:

Elena Tea RUSSO says that the Senate decided to cut 13% percent of the funding from each area budget. It is possible that there could be a public funding of 500,000 €, so there will be no need of cuts. The main problem is that there is no clear rule of how the fundings are distributed. There are six indicators on which you could ask for funding; based on the ratings of these six indicators and the MIUR decides to choose two out of six of these indicators for the fundings. There are new PhD scholarships, in particular there are two scholarships for Data Science, since there is no department of Data Science up to now, the scholarships will be considered part of the Physics Area for the moment. According to the Italian law, there could be at least 10% of yearly scholarship for traveling, missions, laboratory materials. Nevertheless, the Italian law considers the fundings just for the second and the third year of PhD.

Carlo SCARPA says that in this budget in the line "visitors" of funding for students it is not meant that all the visiting professors enter in this category. Elena Tea RUSSO says that, by law, this budget needs to be accessible to every PhD student. Moreover, the PhD4PMI project is (not?) included, because it gives extra budget if you participate to a project.

Report from the Evaluation Unit:

Carlo SCARPA says that there was no meeting of the Evaluation Unit from the last student council. He says that from February on he can not attend both the meetings of the Student Council and Evaluation Unit, but he will try to solve the problem via Skype calls.

Report from ARDiSS:

Alessandro NOBILE says that there was no meeting of the Evaluation from the last student council. He says that are new modifications to the ARDiSS card. Since there is a discussion about the ISEE, he points out that the ISEE you need to present is the one that is in charge at the time of the compilation of the online form.

5. Any other business

Adam MAGEE explains the news about the issues international students face, which was already discussed in the last Student Council. He says that the problem could be attacked in four ways:

- English language in the councils;

- a 150 hours collaboration to help people facing problems connected to living in Italy, mainly bureaucracy;

- new positions of representation, like an international student in the student council,

- long term international representatives at the level of the Senate and the Board of Directors.

The reason is that for an international school, the number of international students is pretty low, mainly compared with other institution of the town, such as ICTP. He also says that there are problems connected to the Italian courses in SISSA. Matteo SECLI, as the member of the SISSA Club in charge of language courses, says

President
[Alessandro NOBILE]

Secretariat
[Emanuele CAPUTO]
that he could solve the problem, but he never received any complaint before. Since Saddam HIJAZI asks which is the procedure for enrolling a language professor in SISSA, Matteo SECLI explains that the SISSA Club contacts students from SSLMIT to teach in SISSA. Elena Tea RUSSO points out that, since SISSA is an international school, the organization of the language courses should be given to the institutions and not to SISSA Club. She also says that it is difficult for the SISSA Club to find proper language teachers for all the language courses that are present in SISSA. The discussion moves to the current situation of the permit of stay for international students. Adam MAGEE points out that, after a discussion with Riccardo IANCER, head of the Student Secretariat, he understood that there is a possibility for a permit of stay that is longer than one year, but this can be done just for post docs and not for PhD students due to Italian laws. Adam MAGEE also thinks that people could be cliquish, in particular relating to some international communities that seem to be more closed.

The idea is to organize some international events in order to make all these communities and international students in general to meet each other. Elena Tea RUSSO asks if we could add an extra person in the student council, namely the figure that was considered in the previous point of Adam MAGEE, by our own. Alessandro NOBILE confirms that this is possible. The discussion moves on how to elect this new figure. The Council agrees about the duration of the charge to be two years, as for all other student representatives. It is pointed out that if this position is meant just for international students, it could be a problem to find a person that is willing to accept this position; it could be better to wide the pool of people who can be elected to the whole students community. Saddam HIJAZI says that according to him it is not a problem to have an Italian student as an international representative, but he has to be willing to understand how to solve all the problems connected to international students: for instance how to create a bank account, how to have a fiscal address and so on. On the other side, having an Italian representative for this charge could be even an opportunity, since he knows already the language. Adam MAGEE says that he would prefer to open the position just to international students, but if this is not possible he does not see it as a problem to open to Italian students. Alessandro NOBILE also points out that, according to Adam MAGEE’s informal pool, the international students are more willing to talk about their problems to international students with respect to Italian students. Carlo SCARPA asks if we should take into consideration the difference between non-Italian and extra EU, because the second category is much more experienced in this class of problems. Alessandro NOBILE says that he will talk with Antonella DERIN about the new elections that will be held in a few months to understand if it is the right occasion to elect it. In a next Council, Adam MAGEE will present a draft of modification to be added to the regulation of the Student Council to include this new representative. The majority of the Council agrees.

Alessandro RUBIN talks about a way to solve the problem of packages that arrive to the reception. His idea is to insert Amazon lockers inside SISSA to solve this problem. Another option is signing a form that will free the people working at the reception from being responsible for the packages. Adam MAGEE says that the situation at the entrance at the ground floor is not important, since they are not a source of complaint. Lorenzo FANT thinks that putting Amazon lockers is not a solution to the existing problem, but just an extra.

Alessandro RUBIN has an extra proposal: he would like to create a SISSA official Telegram channel in order to spread important informations about events which are going to happen at SISSA.

The meeting ends at 13:25.