

Professors' meeting 07.10.22

Present: Adrian, Andreas C., Andreas Sch., Ben, Christof, Cristina, Fabian, Gino, Ilaria, Johan, Katharina (Minutes), Nico, Olaf, Peter, Philippe, Prasenjit, Titius, Thomas Ge., Thomas Gr., Stefano

Excused: Johan, Massimiliano

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Personnel
3. Minutes of the meeting of 06.05.22
4. Infrastructure: Status of building 56 [Fabian], Energy saving
5. Budget: budget cuts, 2% re-investment, global budget
6. ICS
7. Salaries for academic guests & PhD students with external grants
8. Long term computing
9. Student Administration
10. Varia

2) Personnel

Olaf Steinkamp, Titularprofessor, working on LHCb and mu3e

Anna Troller: maternity leave from January – July

presently we are looking for a replacement(s) starting already to gradually take over from Anna

4) Infrastructure

- Status of building 56

UZH Estates & Buildings informed that renovation of Y56 will be more expensive requires approval by the Universitätsrat, it is not yet approved.

Feasibility study for the clean room (CMS and Demeter) and the new condensed matter labs finished end of August. Detailed planning has started. If all proceeds according to plans work could start in Spring '23. Instead of 2 phases for the installation of the labs and clean room as planned originally everything is planned to be done in one phase which saves resources and time.

- Power shortage this winter

The university is preparing for a possible electricity and gas shortage most likely to occur in February and March, but in extreme cases an earlier and thus potentially longer shortage is also conceivable.

Each institute needs to save 10-15% of electricity. The 10% savings correspond to roughly 20-40 kW 24/7.

In this to prepare we need to prepare an overview of devices that cannot be switched off and make a survey of the electric consumption of the institute until October 20

Achim is in charge of collecting the data with the help of Stefan Siegrist. Each lab should identify a contact person until October 10. The survey is done independently for the mechanical workshop and the rest of the institute.

The result of the survey will be presented in the next professors' meeting in November.

- Helium shortage

ETHZ has supply shortages as there is no more helium on the world market and can no longer guarantee the quantities we need to keep all the condensed matter labs running. Possible savings should be studied also in the context of power savings (eg compressors vs. liquid helium). The labs have to start saving helium now and start preparing to discuss the distribution of helium among the experiments.

5) Budget

2023 there will be a 4% budget cut, corresponding to about 260 kCHF for our institute. As discussed in the previous meeting, **this 4% cut will mostly affect the group BKs** as it cannot be saved in the central budget.

The management decided to use this round of cuts to implement a global budget. This allows a safer long-term planning, a fair allocation of resources and a transparent documentation of the liabilities towards the faculty.

Short summary of the global budget

- Each professor will be in 1 out of 4 categories: associate/full, experiment/theory

The allocation is as follows:

- One postdoctoral position at 18/03 (all)
- One senior researcher position at 20/09 (full professors only)
- Half a technician position at 14/16 (experimental professors only)
- running expenses (all)

- The salaries correspond to salary groups and will be recomputed annually according to the pay tables.
- Independent research groups and SNF professors in years with no overhead will get a BK of 3000 plus 1500 per group member in teaching. For professors paid by PSI nothing will change.
- Some previously central expenses will now be covered by the groups (Helium, CHIPP, Pauli Center)

Feedback from the Dean on 2% re-investment for teaching. Our institute handed in proposals of how to use 2% re-investment money to reduce the teaching load for PhDs. In September the dean's office decided that we will not get extra money in this round.

In their reply to the institute's request, the dean's office asks for some of the proposed measures to be implemented without the financial compensation that was requested by the institute:

- Third-party funded post docs should have the same teaching load as UZH funded postdocs. The institute has not yet decided how this should be implemented.
- external PhD students should have the same teaching load as internal PhDs (this is in contrast with the MoU with PSI)
- Tutorials can all be in English (in conflict to medical faculty)

Since the institute does not get extra money to reduce the teaching load we discuss how to reduce the teaching liabilities (SPIN course, service classes for life sciences)

6) Meeting with ICS, Sept 30th

we had a meeting with ICS to discuss the development of their future masters' programme and synergies in teaching. ICS is developing an independent non-consecutive master in '*Theoretical Astrophysics and Cosmology*' open to students from other disciplines. This means that we will redesign our physics master '*Astro(particle) and Cosmology*' in order to match the research fields of our institute for autumn 2023 and avoid too much overlap with the ICS master.

Synergies in teaching: ICS will take the responsibility, including teaching assistants for GR (master) and Continuum Mechanics (bachelor) that are so far combined ETH/UZH courses.

A question arises whether a merging of the two institutes is envisaged. The answer is no, the culture and financing model is very different. It might be that ICS joins the same Fachbereich in the long term.

7) Guidelines: for academic guests

Please inform Regina or Brigitte half a year before if you plan to host an academic guest who stays longer than for 2 weeks. We would like to impose similar treatment of the guests with the following guidelines

- Employment as a senior scientist (salary class, work permit and visa if necessary)
Salary: 7200.- (similar to Pauli Center) incl. social security, withholding tax. This includes the direct payments towards the guest's accommodation.
- Organization of guest accommodation is done via Rectorate Services
- Reservation of desk in the guest office with key is done via Regina/Brigitte
(if the guest office is not sufficient, the host team will look for a solution)

Note that the salary might be too high if someone is still employed by the home university (to be discussed with HR).

Short term visitors (<2weeks) can be paid per diem.

Guidelines for external PhDs (PhDs with a grant)

The external PhDs should have a comparable salary, this means they might need some support from the groups. The PhDs should also contribute to teaching and get paid for their contribution. The additional salary from the group should account for the difference to a salary of an SNF PhD.

For Swiss excellence scholarships the group leaders already sign that they provide extra funding, other grants are not overviewed by the university but the procedure should be the same.

8) Long term computing

Roland will retire in 2029, we should therefore start soon looking for a successor. He/She should have a PhD in physics and speak German. If you have a candidate in mind inform Katharina.

Computing in 2023: there will be several changes: new template for the website and a change of the network (similar to the network in chemistry). This work cannot be done by Roland and Paul alone, we are therefore looking for temporary additional support.

Discussion: in the context of the new template for the website we should put all the lecture material to OLAT and only keep basic information on the website.

9) Student administration

For your information: there will be a new tool implemented for the administration of master theses similar to PhDs theses. This will take some work load from the supervisors and Anna because many steps should be automated and it strengthens the role of the master coordinators.

PhD teaching hours: this has been standardised and students should fill the teaching hours into an online form which is then checked by Matthias/Stefano. The students need to provide consistent information, we will therefore compile an internal list with default number of hours per teaching activity that will be on the website.

10) Varia

- Cooperation Database: last updated in 2019, now there is a new database in place which needs updates needed, you will be contacted by Katharina & Gaby to check the information that is there
- SNF grants success rate: 1/4 grants, 869'149/1'547'559 which is fine in terms of the money we got but a bit worrisome that only one grant was successful. It is important that the management is informed about the successful/unsuccessful grant applications.
- Recently many thefts at campus Irchel also from rooms that were locked (eg Reginas' laptop). Be careful, tell your group members to lock the rooms if they are not in the room, look out for people you don't know and report if you see something unusual.
- November 2 Tage der Lehre: anyone interested to organise a satellite event on the general topic of BESTanden)? Should get in contact with Prasenjit

Agenda

- Symposium Quantum Matter by Design: November 28 & 29
- Prizes for best master theses: Soluyanov & Dectris prize: Nov. 17
- Open Day: November 18 – posters and updated videos
- Christmas Dinner: December 2
- Next meetings, November 4, December 2