

Procès-Verbal de la 317^{ème} séance de l'Assemblée d'Ecole du mardi 02 mars 2021

Présences Aleksandra Radenovic, Ens
André Fattet, CAT
Consuelo Antille, CAT
Fabio Zuliani, CI
Francesca Nicoletti, E
Ghali Chraibi, E
Jacqueline Morard, CAT
Julien Gamarro, CI
Marco Picasso, Ens
Maxime Brosset, E
Nicolò Ferrari, E
Silvia Hostettler, CI

Kristin Becker, Déléguée des 2 AE au CEPF
Sabrina Wuilleret, Assistante administrative AE

Caroline Vandevyver, Head of Research Office
Ambrogio Fasoli, Associate Vice-president for Research

Excusés Frédéric Courbin, Ens
Frédéric Rauss, Mediacom

Absents Georg Fantner, Ens
Gianluca Paglia, CAT
Pauline Franz, CI

Ordre du jour

Membres AE; la séance débute à 12h15

1. Accueil
2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour
3. Adoption du PV de la 316^{ème} séance
4. Discussion avec notre Déléguée au CEPF
5. Communications du Bureau de l'AE
6. Consultations
7. Divers et propositions du jour

Membres AE et Invités

8. Echange avec Caroline Vandevyver - Responsable du Research Office
& Prof. Ambrogio Fasoli - Vice-président associé pour la Recherche **(13.15-14.15)**
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1. Accueil

Séance ouverte à 12h15 par Fabio Zuliani, Président de l'AE.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

L'ordre du jour est adopté.

3. Adoption du PV 316^{ème} séance

Le PV est adopté.

4. Discussion avec notre Déléguée au CEPF

No meeting since last AE meeting, next ETH Board meeting on Wednesday and Thursday. Main topics: budget allocation 2022, and also OPers-EPF.

Ordinance personnel ETH Domain (OPers EPF)

The second partial revision includes the following points (among others):

- women can work until 65 if they wish (Art. 20c)
- paternity leave 20 days, including same sex partners (Art. 52, al. 2c)
- possibility to take a leave of max 14 days for very ill children (Art. 37a)
- no more prime after 5 years (Art. 45 al. 2)
- transitional pension (art. 42a) – after 62 and no longer after 60, reduction of participation according to the ordinance of the confederation
- preretirement: only after 60 instead of 58 (art. 22), with the argument that the last years there were no demands at 58 and 59 – so why remove it then?

The fact that the ETH Domain is constantly asked to align to the Ordinance of the Confederation is problematic, also because the latter contains advantages that the ETH Domain does not have (e.g. allowances). Kristin will bring up this point at the ETH Board meeting. After the discussion and decision in the ETH Board there will be a consultation of the offices and of the institutions.

Consultations at ETH Zurich

At ETHZ the situation is slightly different, because the HV (school assembly) does not have the same responsibilities regarding the organization of the consultations. The feedback received depends very much on who is responsible for the consultation. As the general secretary and the vice-presidents or rector often participate in the HV meetings, they sometimes give the feedback from the consultations at that occasion. Discussions about the consultation process at ETH and at EPF arise among the members.

5. Communications du bureau AE

- Commission opérationnelle Covid-19 : un projet de tests systématiques pour toute la communauté devrait débuter prochainement (500/jour).
- Réunion du Bureau AE :
 - Corps intermédiaire : travail en cours pour améliorer la représentation du Corps Intermédiaire par les membres concernés. Réunions prévues avec Prof. Luisa Lambertini + ETH-CI/AVETH. Contacts continus avec EPDA / Polydoc.
 - Tristan Maillard – Bureau : Meeting prévu fin mars pour discuter de divers points soulevés en séances hebdomadaires.
- Accréditations institutionnelles : Fabio fait partie du COPIL, les membres du bureau sont impliqués dans des groupes de travail spécifiques pour la révision du rapport d'auto-évaluation de la qualité de l'EPFL. Les discussions sont en cours pour définir les prochaines étapes qui auront lieu d'ici la fin de l'été.

- Liste des invités aux séances plénières et extraordinaires de l'AE en 2021 proposée aux membres.

6. Consultations

- 03.02.2021 : Consultation sur le projet de la Révision de la Directive pour la gestion de noms de domaines (autres que epfl.ch) (LEX 6.2.1) et de sa fusion avec la Directive concernant la validation des dénominations et sigles de site WEB (LEX 6.3.2), GT – Julien, André, TBD (Deadline 30.03)
- 09.03.2021 : Consultation sur le projet de « Révision partielle de la Directive interne concernant les épreuves d'examen à l'EPFL (LEX 2.6.1), du Protocole d'épreuve en session d'examen (LEX 2.6.2), et de la Directive concernant les rapports de travail des assistants-étudiants, des assistants de construction et des assistants temporaires à l'EPFL (LEX 4.7.1). », GT – TBD (Deadline 05.05.2021)
- 16.03.2021 : Consultation sur le « Projet d'Ordonnance sur les bourses de l'EPFL », GT – Fabio, Consuelo, TBD (Deadline 05.05.2021)

7. Divers et propositions du jour

Covid and students

- Teaching Body reminds that online teaching is a difficult situation for the students and PhDs who are suffering from this learning environment. AE should mention it as often as possible. Everyone agrees.
- Mental health issues: AGEPoly is preparing another survey (already 3 done in 2020 on student's life and motivation: <https://agepoly.ch/covid-19/>) on psychological effects. Students are less motivated but are not looking for help.
- Bridge initiative: it's a social help for students (food, material, IT) which is proposed.
- Financial issues: Covid commission does not talk about it. AE will ask Matthias Gäumann (VPO) at the next AE meeting, on May 4th.

8. Echange avec Prof. Ambrogio Fasoli - Vice-président associé pour la Recherche & Caroline Vandevyver - Responsable du Research Office

Prof. Ambrogio Fasoli

- Presentation and description of his new position as AVP-R.

Vision:

- Research and Teaching should go hand in hand, also in practice, as those two aspects are fundamental. Neither of them should act to the detriment of the other or be sidelined. A strategy is under discussion. We are going to encourage and remind that infrastructures are important for Research.
- The human competences/structure of each Body are fundamental for the good functioning of EPFL and for its improvement (not only Professors).

Responsible of Research Office & Technology Transfer Office which are currently working well. A central service is here to help and must be as efficient as possible.

We host the Association of Postdoc to discuss what good practices are for them (continuous education, career plan, academic and non-academic outcomes, etc...).

ERC professorships: we are assessing the situation and clarifying how to improve it: Allow Postdoc to apply (proposal has been already agreed) - How to make it competitive to apply at EPFL (funds, salaries, academic title to successful grantees, etc) – A uniform approach and support of the Schools to the applicants must be developed.

➤ Questions and comments:

- There has been less success of early researchers starting grants recently. The reason is the position of hosting professors who must provide space and take most of the risk. It's a very big barrier to cross because the responsibility is on hosting professors. A strategic suggestion could be to set up exchange of students and talents within Switzerland. This would allow a scientific exchange and permit to shift the responsibility to EPFL. Aleksandra will write specifics about this to A. Fasoli.
- There are huge differences between Schools (event between Institutes within Schools) at EPFL. It's necessary to uniformize the treatment of PI candidates as some schools don't consider younger scientists from EPFL for the positions.
Example: ENAC accepts external Post-Doc but the main problem is the lack of space, especially if people arrive with equipment or if they need any, depending on the domain.
Another example: Eccellenza Fellowships could be awarded with alternative titles like « senior scientists » or MER.
The tools for applications (platform for candidatures and follow-up by people who have to give their approval) is not user friendly and often raises back & forth exchanges. Considering that many candidates apply for many grants (Eccellenza, Ambizione, ERC), it is difficult to follow.
- Intermediate Body: problem to hire long term contract scientists. Loss of knowledge if a Postdoc is moving to another university. What is your opinion? Response: recurrent well-known problem. Solutions used in some Centers could be extended to the whole EPFL.

Caroline Vandevyver

➤ Presentation of Research Office – objectives – project of communication (*see attached presentation*).

➤ Questions – remarks - precisions on the presentation:

- The 12 different research awards are internal at EPFL and given every year.
- What is the successful rate for these awards in general? ReO has the numbers. The success rate is quite high.
- Innovation: is there a redundancy with VP Innovation? We collaborate with them closely, contacts with industry are on their side and we implement the internal part, usually.
- Chronos software: a survey has been done in June 2020. The question of improvement is still open. Are you following this and considering improvement in this software? VPSI is responsible for it and apparently in 2021, there are no plans to develop it. It has to be discussed at a higher level. You may contact Marc Bachelot, VPF about this matter.