

N/réf : SW/FZ

Procès-Verbal de la 325^{ème} séance de l'Assemblée d'Ecole du mardi 07 décembre 2021

Présences André Fattet, CAT
Consuelo Antille, CAT
Fabio Zuliani, CI
Gianluca Paglia, CAT
Jacqueline Morard, CAT
Jan Frybes, E
Jeanne Estienne, E
Julien Gamarro, CI
Nicolò Ferrari, E
Pauline Franz, CI
Sandrine Gerber, Ens
Silvia Hostettler, CI

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

Excusés Aleksandra Radenovic, Ens
Georg Fantner, Ens
Jennifer Ayer, E
Marco Picasso, Ens
Frédéric Rauss, Mediacom

Ordre du jour

Membres AE; la séance débute à 13h15

- Accueil
- Adoption de l'ordre du jour
- Adoption du PV de la 323^{ème} séance
- Discussion avec notre Déléguée au CEPF
- Communications du Bureau de l'AE
- Consultations
- Divers et propositions du jour

Membres AE et Invitée (13.15-14.15)

- Echange avec Prof. Luisa Lambertini (AVP for PostGraduate Education)
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1. Accueil

Séance en visioconférence 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 323^{ème} séance

Le PV est adopté par l'ensemble des membres présents.

4. Discussion avec notre Déléguée au CEPF

There has been no ETH Board meeting since October 5th. One domain meeting took place on October 27th. Next ETH Board meeting planned on December 8 and 9.

Change concept desksharing

In the meantime, the AEs have received the new shortened version of the document, it will be discussed and approved in the ETH Board next week and then sent to the Federal Council.

Joint initiatives

The ETH Board has defined five Strategic Areas for 2025-2028: Human Health and Well-being, Energy, Climate and Sustainable Environment, Responsible Digital Transformation, Advanced Materials and Critical Technologies & Engagement and Dialogue with Society – these will be in the strategic planning document, which will be in consultation beginning of 2022. **Joint Initiatives** will be announced in these five areas. The ETH Board has decided to launch a call for joint initiatives in two strategic areas already now: Energy, Climate and Sustainable Environment, and Engagement and Dialogue with Society. Joint Initiatives are defined as "Large, time-limited collaborative initiatives in one or more Strategic Areas that include at least two institutions of the ETH Domain." For these two initiatives, respectively 10 and 3 MCHF per year will be available (from 2025 30 MCHF per year for 5 Strategic Areas), as matching funds (50:50). A Steering Committee has been formed, including Jan Hesthaven and Ursula Oesterle from EPFL. This committee is responsible for issuing a call for pre-proposals and it will also establish a management office (funded by the ETH Board) and organize evaluation by external experts. The funding period is 3 + 1 years.

The ETH Domain should be informed in mid-December. The call should be launched in January 2022, with a deadline about 6 weeks later for the pre-proposals.

Strategy for cooperation and locations

A strategy was developed for national and international locations, with definitions and criteria, i.e. D-BSSE and Singapore for ETH. Franco Vigliotti has the lead of the working group. The paper will go into the meeting of the ETH Board this week and then into internal consultation.

Dialogue topics 2022 for exchange ETH Board - AEs

Discussed at the joint meeting of the two assemblies on 4.11.

Transversal topic proposed by ETH Board President and Staff (will also be addressed by the 6 institutions):

- Impact of Switzerland's lack of full association to the EU Framework Program for Research and Innovation 2021-2027 "Horizon Europe" and to the EU program for education, training, youth and sport "Erasmus+".

Topic proposed by the HVs (not also addressed by the 6 institutions):

- Follow -up of the previous Dialog Meetings: How has the ongoing organizational development and leadership culture to be adapted to enable the institutions to adequately address the important Dialog themes of the last years, i.e. a) positioning of the ETH Domain in sustainability, b) participation, c) diversity & inclusiveness and d) growth in student numbers? What would be the appropriate supportive measures?

These proposals will be discussed this week in the ETH Board.

Joint meeting of the two Assemblies

It was proposed to invite ETH Board staff members to each joint annual meeting. It was also suggested to extend the meeting, possibly including a dinner and an overnight stay. This was discussed with the HV Zurich, a majority of the members were in favor of trying this. The AE is also in favor of having a 1.5-day common meeting in autumn 2022 at EPFL.

Strategy for the development of student and doctoral numbers.

Jeanne reports that discussions were led with Kathryn Hess and Pierre Dillenbourg, and there will soon be a discussion with Jan Hesthaven and Martin Vetterli, so at the time being students feel sufficiently involved.

5. Communications du bureau AE

- Operational commission COVID-19: decision to have events forbidden – focus on keeping exams safe – restrictions on masks wearing.
- Institutional accreditation: 3 members of teaching body are part of it – A two days audit is going at the moment (Dec. 6&7) focusing on “Quality management” to have the right to be recognized officially as “University” in Switzerland. Many groups of people are involved (including Julien, Pauline, Nicolò, Jacqueline, Fabio from School Assembly). Results are planned on Dec. 8th.
- Annual report of the School Assembly, academic year 2020-2021: the document is at disposal to all School Assembly members for any comments and approval. It will be sent next week to T. Maillard (General secretary) and published on our webpage.

6. Consultations

- 05.11.2021 : Consultation sur les directives sur les voyages professionnels et étudiants responsables. GT : Georg, Julien, Jeanne, Jacqueline (deadline 11.01.2022).
- 02.11.2021 : Consultation sur le règlement applicable au télétravail. GT : Sandrine, Fabio, Jan, Jacqueline (deadline 17.01.2022).

7. Divers et propositions individuelles

- The School Assembly's position papers during consultations: a recurring question is whether to give a personal opinion or to express the representation of its body. School Assembly can write an opinion (clear-cut or not) and give feedback on the various positions received. It can also detail, for example, the opinions of the representative bodies which sometimes differ, but a personal opinion of a member of the School Assembly cannot serve as a response.
- The Faculty Councils each operate differently, which creates a disparity. Sometimes the deans impose or in contrast delegate to members, who may be confronted with an excess of power or authority of the deans, due to their title of Chair of the Faculty Council, or sometimes the opposite, finding themselves alone in decision-making. Proposals: survey the deans – discuss with Jan Hesthaven (VPA). Decision: Fabio will discuss this with T. Maillard (General secretary) and make sure that the Regulations are applied by all Faculty Councils.

8. Echange avec Prof. Luisa Lambertini (AVP for Post-Graduate Education)

- Presentation of Doctoral School and its current projects and Continuous Education and its current projects
- Open interaction with the School Assembly members:

Participation

- Intermediate body members: Finding motivated PhDs and PostDocs representatives (e.g. PhD rep, PolyDoc etc.) is difficult at EPFL due to multiple reasons, such as language barrier, time involvement, and lacking recognition from both the direct supervisor (PI) and EPFL management. What is planned to improve the situation?

Response: Direction is well aware of the problem. Nothing is planned at the moment but discussion is open on the topic.

Suggestions from the School Assembly members:

- 1) People who engage themselves (e.g. in faculty councils, PhD reps, AE) could get a certificate stating their participation and involvement, upon finishing their term. (accounts also for Professors, Admin staff, and Students...). Response: experiences of this kind can be included in CVs. I am in favor of an official certificate. Jan Hesthaven or HR could issue it. I suggest that you talk to HR about it and this will be reported to the VPA management.

2) Every year, there are awards for extraordinary research/teaching. Could there be awards for extraordinary investment in the EPFL community? (accounts also for Professors, Admin staff, and Students...). Response: Yes good idea, I am in favor of that. I will talk to the VPA (Jan Hesthaven) about this idea.

3) Specific to PhDs: At the end of the PhD, students have to pay a tax of CHF1500. For PhDs who have extraordinarily invested their time for the community, EPFL could pay the tax as a sign of recognition.

Response: SAC (academic service) is keen to ensure that all students are treated equally. I remain open to option number 2 concerning PhD students. We need transversality for fruitful exchanges.

Mental Health

- Intermediated body member: You are also a member of the Respect team. Unfortunately, the trust in the complaints system at EPFL is low from a PhD/PostDoc point of view. What are your plans as Respect team to improve the procedure? Response: we had a meeting with EPDA association last week who voiced the same concern.

Explanations on Respect unit work: we have an email address to contact us to take care of a case (one of different entry points). The other entry points converge. We deal with a lot of cases, often inter-personal cases. A minority is also intermediate Body whose relationship shows a problem. If an issue is serious, it moves on to the next step: we ask the President to open an administrative inquiry. All have been resolved positively: improvement of the situation, support, coaching, positive solutions.

We have to improve our communication to the community to explain and transmit what we do and reassure people that if there is a real problem, it will be solved. The reports we write for the President could be available to everyone (respecting anonymous of concerned people).

VPT is in process to redefine Respect office, with the same logic of centralization, including full time employees.

- Intermediated body member: Mental health deterioration over the past two years: could you give us an overview, of how frequently the Respect unit is contacted (maybe also in relation to social services, and the psychotherapeutic consultation)? Is there need to extend the offer at EPFL (especially regarding the psychotherapeutic consultation)? Response: The Respect Unit does not see many cases due to mental health. PhD students suffer from the Covid situation. Two doctors are available at UNIL for PostDocs and other EPFL students, but they are not fluent in English.
- For employees (e.g. apprentices), there is no support. Response: discussion to be held with HR.

Accreditation

- What topics have you identified to be controversial during the accreditation process? How do you want to address them? Response: the process is moving forward (meeting yesterday with a feedback tomorrow). I have not identified any controversy. I can't give an answer at the moment.

Training

- What is becoming of Continuous Education? development of MAS, DAS, CAS, and also COS? Response: referring to my presentation: put more energy on continuing education and increase the offering. There is more and more demand for short programs from the industry.