

N/réf : SW/AR

Procès-Verbal de la 328^{ème} séance de l'Assemblée d'Ecole du mardi 05 avril 2022

Présences Aleksandra Radenovic, Ens
André Fattet, CAT
Consuelo Antille, CAT
Georg Fantner, Ens
Gianluca Paglia, CAT
Jacqueline Morard, CAT
Jan Frybes, E
Jeanne Estienne, E
Jennifer Ayer, E
Julien Gamarro, CI
Marco Picasso, Ens
Nicolò Ferrari, E
Sandrine Gerber, Ens

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

Excusés Fabio Zuliani, CI
Frédéric Rauss, Mediacom

Absentes Pauline Franz, CI
Silvia Hostettler, CI

Ordre du jour

Membres AE; la séance débute à 12h15

- Accueil
- Adoption de l'ordre du jour
- Adoption du PV de la 327^{ème} séance
- Discussion avec notre Déléguée au CEPF
- Communications du Bureau de l'AE
- Consultations
- Divers et propositions du jour

Membres AE et Invités (12.30-13.30)

- Echange avec Françoise Bommensatt (Vice-présidente aux Finances de l'EPFL)
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1. Accueil

Séance en présentiel (hybride Zoom) ouverte à 12h15 par Aleksandra Radenovic, Vice-présidente de l'AE.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

L'ordre du jour est adopté.

3. Adoption du PV 327^{ème} séance

Le PV a été adopté par l'ensemble des membres.

4. Discussion avec notre Déléguée au CEPF

ETH Board meeting March 9 and 10, 2022

Distribution of funds

No surprises, about 2% more budget for EPFL and ETH for 2023. 2025 will most likely be critical, consequences of the war in Ukraine are not yet foreseeable.

Professors ordinance

KB had reported relatively extensively on this in the last plenary session. During the joint discussion between the two bureaus, the proposed wording of the article concerning retirement (Art. 13 para. 4) was criticized and was and still considered it discriminatory (as a reminder: "ETH shall determine at an early stage, in consultation with the professors, the temporal and factual modalities of retirement and shall submit any necessary applications to the ETH Board."). KB has had a lively exchange with Monique Weber from the ETH Board Staff in this regard before the meeting, and has raised the point in the ETH Board. KB suggested that the article 13 should state that women can automatically remain in office until they reach the AVS age limit of men. However, this is not possible for legal reasons, as the ETH Law has a "can" formulation. Therefore, as long as the AVS law does not change, it cannot be worded differently in the Ordinance. It was also pointed out that the revision of the Professors ordinance, like that of the Personnel ordinance, worsens the conditions for professors and that the ETH Board must be aware that there may have consequences for recruitment (Martin Vetterli made a strong point here).

KB also raised the issue of delegation. Reminder: the Federal Office of Justice has refused to allow the ETH Board to delegate the drafting of regulations to the institutions, which means that the ETH Board should have issues the necessary regulations. This concerns Art. 6, compensation for the use of infrastructure in connection with "activités accessoires", and Art. 21, compensation for expenses and other benefits (relocation, but also dual career).

After the meeting, KB was informed that it was possible to find a solution with the Federal Office of Justice, so the responsibility for Art. 6 and 21 can be delegated to the institutions.

Real Estate (STCC and Chemistry building at EPFL, GLC building at ETH)

KB pointed out that in both ETHs the management attention in real estate seems to be insufficient.

Joint initiatives

Energy, Climate and Sustainable Environment: 18 preproposals were submitted.

Engagement & Dialogue with Society: 17 preproposals.

9 each were selected to submit a full proposal, PIs were informed.

Varia

Fee Ordinance (« Ordonnance sur les taxes du domaine des EPF »)

In November 2021, the Swiss University Conference increased the fee for taking the aptitude test for the Bachelor of Human Medicine program from CHF 200 to CHF 300 as of 2023. Unfortunately, the implementation of this decision requires an adaptation of the Annex to the ETH Domain Fee Ordinance, i.e. a mini-office consultation and a decision in the ETH Board in May. The ETH Board is obliged to do this formally correctly, even if it is a bit complicated.

5. Communications du bureau AE

N/A

6. Consultations

- Révision de la « Directive sur l'évaluation de l'enseignement – Lex 2.5.1 ». (Deadline 01.06.2022).

- Révision de la « Directive concernant les titres académiques octroyés aux collaborateurs et aux collaboratrices scientifiques – Lex 4.4.3 ». (Deadline 14.06.2022).
- Création de Lex « Règlement d'organisation des Centres de l'EPFL ». (Deadline 31.05.2022).
- Création de Lex "Academic Strategic Committee". (Deadline 31.05.2022).

Members' comments:

- Reminder: regardless of the subject of a consultation and the entities invited to participate, everyone has the right to express themselves even if they have not been invited to do so.
- EPFL Assembly should require that all consultations are offered bilingual (English-French), otherwise it should refuse them.
- All consultations should include an explanatory introductory text detailing the reasons and summarising of the proposed changes.

7. Echange avec Mme Françoise Bommensatt (Vice-présidente aux Finances de l'EPFL)

- Presentation of the vice-presidency – mission – activity report 2021 – objectives 2022 => details in the VPF Powerpoint presentation attached.

➤ Main Q/R:

- Financial reserves: What is the long-term vision for the levels of reserves to be held at the school levels and at central service?
 - Response: the plan is to keep a reasonable level of reserves for both (schools and central service). This plan will allow a healthy financial management while delivering on the 3 missions of EPFL. In 2022, after the exceptional period of the pandemic, labs and schools are encouraged to bring their level of reserves down. Labs and schools have access to financial information allowing them a careful monitoring of their budget.

If there is a risk known at lab level, it's better to highlight it to the Dean and the RFF in order to best anticipate the financial impact, while risks might not be known in advance. Any risk might be covered at the level of a school (via the finance person of the Dean), otherwise the school will report this risk to the Direction who's open to find and to provide solutions.

- How intend the Direction to spend the reserves?
 - Response: VPF and the Deans have initiated a collaborative review of the projects in the school to be funded by the reserves (the school will submit to VPF their reserves financial plans).
N.B. The STCC "SwissTech convention center" is managed by a dedicated team and the funding of the STCC is a completely different project from the project reserve management.

- Financial risks of EPFL are under the responsibility of VPF, precisely in the way of monitoring the contributions received from the Confederation and from third party funding, in collaboration with Deans and Direction.

The budget is allocated to the schools and to central services on an annual basis.

The VPF ensures the treasury management of the funds is in line with the treasury convention defined by the Domain. Receipts of funds and payments to suppliers are monitored daily.

The VPF has initiated an investment strategy with a small portfolio invested in ESG (Environmental, Social et Governance) sustainable investments.

=> VPF will get back to AE regarding the Labs reserves procedure.

Question of VPT if EPFL should consider to have similar model as ETH – to make investments though foundation? This model is currently not considered by EPFL Management.

- STCC: fees are much too high and impression to pay twice.
 - Response: VPF is working on it. EPFL needs to have its own prices (much lower) => VPF will keep us informed.
- Distribution of budgets: 60% is allocated to schools and 40% to central organization and structure. Distribution of reserves is split 50% with schools and 50% to central organization.
 - Response: EPFL structure became more and more complex over time and has often changed its structure, VPF objective is to improve the information on the allocation of the budget not only by structure (school vs central services) but also by mission Education, Research and innovation. This analysis will allow to better serve these 3 missions.

8. Divers et propositions individuelles

N/A