

Minutes of the CHAPS meeting held in Bern on Monday March 4, 2013

College of Helvetic Astronomy ProfessorS (CHAPS)

1) Call to Order

The chair, G. Meylan, calls the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Attendance at the meeting :

Present (12 members) : W. Benz (UniBE), B. Binggeli (UniBas), R. Durrer (UniGE), P. Jetzer (UniZH), M. Meyer (ETHZ), G. Meylan (EPFL, chair), G. Meynet (UniGE), P. Saha (UniZH), T. Schildknecht (UniBE), S. Udry (UniGE).

Excused (17 members) : S. Antusch (UniBas), L. Baudis (UniZH), M. Carollo (ETHZ), C. Charbonnel (UniGE), Th. Courvoisier (UniGE), A. Jäggi (UniBE), G. Lake (UniZH), S. Lilly (ETHZ), B. Moore (UniZH), F. Pepe (UniGE), D. Pfenniger (UniGE), D. Queloz (UniGE), A. Refregier (ETHZ), D. Schaerer (UniGE), W. Schmutz (PMOD/WRC), M. Shaposhnikov (EPFL), M. Steinacher (observer from SERI), F.-K. Thielemann (UniBas), N. Thomas (UniBE), R. von Steiger (UniBE), P. Wurz (UniBE).

2) A Set of Roadmap Update Editors (RUE)

During its teleconference on Feb. 12, 2013, the SCFA discussed various possibilities to have five editors in order to prepare a new document which will be the update to our Roadmap. In setting up this group, the SCFA considered three constraints --- (i) representation of the five main astronomical institutes in Switzerland, EPFL, ETHZ, UniBE, UniGE, UniZH, (ii) the balance between the main research fields, and (iii) a small number of editors. It turned out that these constraints are virtually impossible to meet simultaneously.

In the end, the SCFA has proposed the following five names to be approved by CHAPS: (i) W. Benz (UniBE) as chair, (ii) M. Meyer (ETHZ), (iii) F. Pepe (UniGE), (iv) B. Moore (UniZH), and (v) G. Meylan (EPFL).

Through various email exchanges and oral conversations, it appeared clearly and quickly that this proposal was not meeting CHAPS approval. Several weaknesses were perceived by CHAPS members, in particular an overrepresentation of the exoplanet field, the lack of representations of other fields (e.g. stellar physics, high-energy physics), and a lack of gender balance.

In response to these comments, CHAPS and the SCFA searched for a new solution that would address at least some of the weaknesses pointed out. After a 50-minute discussion, during which all kinds of solutions were explored, CHAPS converged towards the following proposal :

(i) W. Benz (UniBE) as chair, (ii) M. Meyer (ETHZ), (iii) C. Charbonnel (UniGE), (iv) B. Moore (UniZH), and (v) G. Meylan (EPFL),

Acknowledging that even this group of people does not cover all fields of astrophysics, CHAPS was convinced that they could be trusted to work in the best interest of the community. CHAPS stresses the importance of community input to the process in order to insure an appropriate coverage in depth and breadth of all activities carried out in the country.

In order to further clarify the duties of the Update Writing Committee (UWC), CHAPS renamed the UWC to “Roadmap Update Editors” (RUE). This new name should make clear that the task of this committee is to edit the update from the input received (see below) from the whole astronomical community in Switzerland.

3) The terms of reference of the RUE

The terms of reference proposed by the SCFA are accepted with the small correction of UWC changed into RUE. See annexe below.

CHAPS having appointed RUE, the latter is taking over the responsibility for organizing the process by which the draft of the Update will be written. The draft will have to be approved by CHAPS before being published.

4) A call for a “Request for Input” (RFI)

In order to obtain input from the community, RUE will issue a “Request For Input” (RFI) call. This call will be broadly distributed through the SSAA and CHAPS email lists (some people are members of CHAPS, but not of the SSAA). All members of CHAPS will be asked to advertise this call in their own institutions, e.g., to scientific collaborators and postdocs not members of the SSAA.

Regarding RFI call, CHAPS and the SCFA would like to obtain information about the following four topics:

(i) A RFI describing the **recent achievements** in relation to projects described in the existing Roadmap (max. 2 pages + figures)

(ii) A RFI describing the status of **current projects** in relation to projects described in the existing Roadmap (max. 2 pages + figures). .

(iii) A RFI describing the **new projects** (instruments and/or science) which have emerged since the publication of the existing Roadmap and that are of a sufficient size and importance to figure in the Update.

iv) A RFI describing any **issue/suggestion** that is relevant to the Swiss astronomy community at large and that does not fit in any of the above categories (max 2 pages + figures).

Any member of the Swiss astronomy community is encouraged to answer this call and submit input (no limits on the number that can be submitted but one input should address one topic only). The Update will essentially be based on these inputs. It is the responsibility of the community to submit the appropriate input in due time.

5) Exchange of observers between CHIPP and CHAPS

Klaus Kirch, the current chair of CHIPP has recently contacted the chair of CHAPS in order to suggest exchange of observers between CHIPP and CHAPS, which would be a simple way to transmit information. CHAPS reaches a consensus on the fact that information could be exchange via observers or via the transmission of minutes. The second suggestion to organize, before the submission of FLARE proposals, some CHIPP-CHAPS FLARE science meeting does not receive an immediate strong support.

6) Membership to CHAPS

The chair received a few days before this CHAPS meeting an email asking that three scientists from UniZH be included in the CHAPS member list. This was immediately done, in good trust, without any further checks, however, it turned out later that this was not in agreement with the new rules governing the CHAPS membership, written in the minutes of the CHAPS meeting on January 18, 2013. They read : “ CHAPS members are professors with a permanent position in Switzerland. This includes titular professors but excludes, e.g., SNSF and ERC professors. “. Consequently, PD, FNRS professors are excluded.

All directors of astronomy institutes in Switzerland are asked by the chair of the SCFA to send him via email, **spontaneously and at any time**, the names of any new CHAPS members. This should not be done in advance of the conclusion of the hiring process, but only after all the administration steps have been cleared.

7) The meeting is adjourned at 11:45 am.

TERMS of REFERENCE

for the production of an

Update of the Roadmap for Astronomy in Switzerland 2007 – 2016

**by the
Roadmap Update Editors
(RUE)**

The set of **Roadmap Update Editors (RUE)** has been appointed by CHAPS during its meeting on March 4, 2013. The RUE has the task to draft an update to the document entitled **Roadmap for Astronomy in Switzerland 2007-2016**. The goal of this document is to provide an updated overview of astronomy in Switzerland and its place within the international context. This document should be available in its final form by the end of 2013.

- The Update to the Roadmap should include :
 - a) a review of the achievements of the astronomy community in Switzerland since the issuing the Roadmap in 2007 :
 - b) an assessment of the status of the recommendations issued in the Roadmap,
 - c) an updated overview of the major ongoing projects,
 - d) a forward look into the major new projects appearing in the future,
 - e) a set of clear recommendations about priorities for astronomy in Switzerland.

- The RUE is expected to elaborate the update document through a bottom-up process. It should ensure that each entity of the astronomical community at large, in Switzerland, has opportunities to provide inputs.

- During the drafting of the update document, the RUE will remain in close contact with CHAPS to whom it will reports, during regular ad hoc meetings.

- CHAPS has the final authority and responsibility on the content of the update document.