ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS

Minutes of the 16th. meeting held on 25th. May 1992


Excused: B.Nellen, C.Rubbia, G.Theodosiou, J.Wotschack

INTRODUCTION

D.Toet, in his first meeting as Chairman, opened the meeting welcoming the new members of ACCU representing Italy and Norway.

NEWS FROM THE CERN MANAGEMENT

P.Darriulat speaking on behalf of the Director General welcomed the new Chairman and new Members of ACCU, and wished them every success.

CERN had called upon the Member States to assist in the Eurolep payment, and some additional contributions have been promised. These will not cover the full amount (100MSF), and some repercussions are expected to the scientific programme (eg. stopping LEP and the SPS in late November). Other possible actions are yet to be defined.

Concern had been expressed at the last Fellows and Associates Selection Committee that there were insufficient Fellowships available, that fewer particle physics Fellows are being appointed nowadays, but that more applied physics Fellows were. A small sub-committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of E.Quercigh to investigate.

The accession of Hungary to CERN is on the agenda for the June Council Meeting.

S.L.Wu, supported by T.Kobayashi, suggested that the guidelines for selection of scientists under the non-Member States Associates Programme discriminated against young post-doctorate physicists who should be treated equally whether or not they are from Member States. In reply, P.Darriulat said that the incriminated guidelines were mainly concerned with the selection of established scientists to implement the agreed policy that non-Member States should in principle find the resources to support their teams participating in the experimental programme. The very few post-doc positions were given in priority to free-lance candidates, the prime selection criteria being scientific quality. He agreed to provide ACCU with a copy of the guidelines.
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING
J.J. Thresher followed up the question raised in the previous meeting about technical staff no longer being on-call. To his knowledge the situation has not changed for many years, and there are technical staff on-call at weekends etc. However, R. Voss pointed out that these people are on-call for first line interventions, not necessarily for major repair work as for the situation cited.

RESULTS OF THE CRECHE SURVEY
M. Borghini, President of the Staff Association presented the results of the questionnaire which had been published in the Weekly Bulletin. He mentioned that there were about 100 children above the age of 3 years in the Nursery School which is run by the Staff Association and is self-financing. There had been 82 replies to the questionnaire, representing 111 children, of which 23 already attend a crèche. The conclusion is that the need for a crèche is as great as for the Nursery School, but that CERN cannot start one by itself. The Association is contacting firms faced with the same problems in the Meyrin/Cointrin region, and who are studying the possibility of opening one, to see if and under what conditions CERN could be associated with the project. It will then make a formal request to the CERN Management.

M. Borghini admitted that costs are high in the Geneva area for crèches, but apparently people are willing to pay, and that it should be available for all ages. W. Blum noted that ACCU should recognise the importance of such an enterprise, as it allows mothers to continue with their professional lives. J. Hernández thought that the 82 replies to the questionnaire were only a lower limit, and that many more people would be interested. ACCU supports the Staff Association in its deliberations.

ACADEMIC TRAINING COMMITTEE
J. Schacher described the results of replies to questionnaires concerning Academic Training lectures and the Post Graduate lectures. The three topics polling the most number of votes for Academic Training lectures were 'Prospects for future energy supplies, General Relativity and Neural Networks in Physics'. The Post Graduate replies showed overwhelming satisfaction with the programme, and half the replies indicated that there should be a change of most lecturers each year. The future preferred topics were 'General Relativity, Symmetry & Symmetry Breaking and Strings'. It was noted that there has been very little feedback on the utility of this programme to universities.

In the ensuing discussion only two universities were stated to have incorporated, or were considering so doing, this programme as part of their own coursework. In general, satisfaction was expressed concerning the production of videos, although C. Bricman would prefer to have lectures written up rather than distributed on video or copies of transparencies. It was suggested that the lecturer could be superposed in the corner of the screen rather than have the camera move from the speaker to the projected transparency and back. Difficulties in the reproduction and distribution of videotapes were noted and should be resolved.
USERS' OFFICE NEWS
As a follow up to the previous meeting, the Users' Office sent a letter to the Heads of all Member State Institutes bringing, amongst other matters, the whole question of insurance to their notice.
The Finance Committee has approved the construction and method of financing the proposed new physics building subject to certain conditions being met. Detailed finalizing of the plans are to be made in June. The plans for a new hostel will be presented to the June Finance Committee meeting.
As stated previously, CERN Identity Cards will become standard issue from 1 July 1992, and their date of expiry will be linked to that of the individual's CERN documents. Holders of these cards will find advantages rather than inconveniences, like suddenly no longer having access to LEP pits, provided that they re-register before the expiry date.

TELEPHONE BILLING
H-F. Hoffmann reminded the meeting of the improvements made to the telephone system since the introduction of the STK system in July 1990. Many direct lines became available at this time, and so far 450 have been allocated. By increasing this to 800, it is expected that >90% of calls currently made via the operator will go direct. PIN codes, intended to protect the individual, will be allocated on request to allow direct dialling. Each telephone can be attributed specific areas available by direct dialling. "Call Accounting" will be introduced on 1 August 1992, following a test run in June/July, and a detailed breakdown for each telephone in a Group can be made available. Teams will receive 'voice communication funds' made available to Divisions from a central budget. Direct dialling should not increase the cost to users or their Groups. It is emphasized that the use of direct dialling is the responsibility of the individual owning a PIN code.
W. Blum considers that better equipment than before is now installed, and that the proposed system has several advantages: it will no longer be necessary to wait for an operator to make the connection, proper billing can be made. However, clearly the staffing of the telephone exchange can not be reduced to zero: incoming calls. The distribution of the 'voice communication fund' will not be an easy task for PPE Division, but past statistics can help.
Y. Sacquin asked whether a certain number of lines could be made available to some institutes without the need for a PIN code. H-F. Hoffmann replied that he would not like to see too many exceptions or variants. Replying to a question about the telephones in the hostel, he said that calls made from there would be via the exchange. Nor did he envisage having more than one PIN code per telephone.
P. Bordalo stated that official calls could no longer be made at night. In reply H-F. Hoffmann said that a PIN code could be made available within a couple of days. The use of telephones in experiments counting rooms was the responsibility of the Group or Collaboration.
P. Schmid should be asked to present the technical implications at the next meeting.
INSURANCE
ACCU Members reported on enquiries made in their own countries about the insurance coverage of people sent to work at CERN (cf Appendix). In general most people seem to be covered for accidents leading to disability or death, but a number of grey areas still remain. Where individuals take out a travel insurance to cover their stay at CERN, they should ensure that they are in fact covered for accidents whilst working at CERN. Inform the insurance agent of the nature of work carried out at CERN.
Further work is still needed in the area of insurance.

THE EVIAN LHC MEETING
W. Hoogland summarized the Evian LHC Meeting, at which 12 presentations covering pp detectors, Beauty physics, Heavy Ions and neutrino physics were made. Clear boundary conditions for the initial experimental programme indicate that there could be two main pp detectors, one general ion facility (plus ion physics with the pp detectors), and one or maybe two non-mainstream experiments. The tentative timetable would call for letters of intent by 1 October 1992, followed by open presentations in November. The first definition of the experimental programme would be made in December '92, and technical proposals would be presented in December '93. A "portable Evian" will visit Russia, Canada, Japan and China.

RESTAURANT SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT
B. Nellen and D. Toet are the ACCU representatives on this committee. J-L. van Elslande, Chairman, said that no money is budgetted for major renewal of equipment, some of which is known to be unsatisfactory. Most restaurants are normally modernised at frequent intervals. The meeting was reminded that CERN provides the infrastructure, and therefore it is the responsibility of CERN, and not of the restaurateur, to make improvements. Since this is not normally allowed for in the budget, ACCU considers that the contractual terms should be reviewed.
Proposed plans for an extension to Restaurant No.1 will be shown to the Restaurant Supervisory Committee.
ACCU expressed concern at the state of certain equipment in the restaurants.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS
It was pointed out that new safety legislation in the UK clearly places the onus of responsibility for safety on the employer, and it was suggested that safety become a regular feature of the ACCU agenda. Further discussion covered the lack of sports facilities, lack of bicycle sheds, and micro-computer upgrades.
It being his last ACCU meeting as a Research Director, J.J. Thresher was thanked for his conscientious and constructive participation in the workings of ACCU.

DATE AND AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING
The next meeting will be on 7 SEPTEMBER 1992 starting at 10 a.m., and will continue in the afternoon. Items for discussion would include: Safety at CERN, Fellows and Associates service, use of CERN cars, Academic Training, Telephone billing etc.

Bryan Pattison
APPENDIX

INSURANCE

AUSTRIA: No problems. Applies to students provided the University knows.

BELGIUM: No problems. Physicists sent to CERN are covered for death and disability. Students would not be insured for death and disability if sent to CERN. Not normal that students sent to CERN.

CZECH & SLOVAK: Maybe not a problem. In Czech law, the institute is responsible whether working at home or away.

DENMARK: Fully insured provided that paid partially or fully for travel plus a per diem.

FINLAND: Two types of Unpaid Associates:  
a) With a contract in the home institute: covered, but must take out an insurance for free time,  
b) No contract in home institute, but only with CERN: must take out a private insurance (eg long term travel insurance).

FRANCE: Not really a problem as unpaid students do not exist. Are there still grey areas?

GERMANY: Problem cases were students. University must show that students have an activity at CERN, and are attached to a supervisor. Suggest that Group Leader signs that individual is insured, and should announce student's presence.

GREECE: No reply.

ITALY: All members of INFN are insured including students. Therefore must check that they are associated with INFN.

NETHERLANDS: No problem, all are covered.

NORWAY: Confusion!

POLAND: No definite reply due to transition in legislation in Poland. Has been alright in the past, but not clear today. Students are not covered!

PORTUGAL: Covered if inform the authorities that people coming to CERN. Not best solution. Laboratories considering taking out insurance.

SPAIN: Paid staff and students with grants covered. Team leaders for other categories should now be aware of the situation.

SWEDEN: All answers are not yet available. Questions concerning some categories of students.
SWITZERLAND: Everybody, including students, linked to a University with a mandate to work at CERN are covered for death and disability. Health insurance is not compulsory in Switzerland, but most people have one.

UNITED KINGDOM: Staff members of national laboratories are covered, but have to inform when travelling to work at CERN. Post-Docs. might have to contribute to a superannuation scheme for a minimum time before benefitting. Students are still a problem. Some Universities take out an insurance, but must assume that there some who are not covered. Concerning the CERN Document, there are parts which need further clarification (Para 8; 3rd party liability etc.)

NON-MEMBER STATES:
a) USA: Post Docs. covered. Graduate students not normally covered.
b) JAPAN: Staff members of University of Tokyo all covered. Students are not covered by the university and must take out a private insurance.