Minutes of the 68th meeting held on June 8th, 2005


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* part time

Agenda

1. Chairman's remarks
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Minutes of the previous meeting
4. Matters arising
5. Open Access Publishing
6. Reports from ACCU representatives on other committees
7. Users' Office news
8. News from the CERN Management
9. Any Other Business
10. Agenda for the next meeting
DRAFT Agenda for the meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 7\textsuperscript{th}, 2005

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2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Minutes of the previous meeting
4. Matters arising
5. News from the CERN Management
6. Logistics at CERN
7. The CERN web pages
8. Reports from ACCU representatives on other committees
9. Users’ Office news
10. Any Other Business
11. Agenda for the next meeting
1. **CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS**

   F. Navarria, Chairman, opened the meeting and commented that it was unfortunate that it had been necessary to re-arrange the agenda and postpone the logistics talk. He hoped that CERN management would make more effort to ensure that they are present for future ACCU meetings. He will write to the management about this. He commented that this shows the lack of response to Users in general.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

   The agenda was adopted as published.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

   The Minutes of the 67th meeting were adopted as a correct record.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

   a. **ACTION ITEMS**

   ACCU delegates

   - Delegates to give better estimates of the demand for hostel and apartment accommodation from 2007 (March 2005)
     - Updates had been received from France, Denmark, Japan, and Portugal, hence 19 member states have now responded. Statistics show that the refusals rate is still ~42%. There is a clear need for a new hostel.
   - Discuss the implications of the open access publishing proposal with the institutes and funding agencies (March 2005)
     - Comments received by delegates were in general positive.

   ACCU representatives

   - Inquire about the availability of support and help for users having older computing platforms and/or coming to CERN from time to time, in view of the rapid necessary changes of software (March 2005)
     - The chairman had received several complaints at the time of the CERN LINUX 7.3 change to SLC3. More details of these will be sent to the ACCU DTF representatives so that they can be raised at a future DTF meeting.
5. OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

G. Altarelli presented the CERN policy on scientific publishing as spelled out in two recent SIPB documents. The policy is fully endorsed by the CERN management. It needs to be endorsed by the User community. Most High Energy Physics papers are already Open Access publications as they are on the web or in the electronic archiving system arXiv, but CERN also produces applied physics and technical papers which are not yet completely so. There are few Open Access journals and most are only open to their subscribers.

The goal of the Open Access movement is to make scientific information freely available on the web, in all fields, by gradually removing all barriers. There are now 61 signatories of the Berlin declaration on Open Access. In order to implement this Declaration, institutions should implement a policy to require their researchers to deposit a copy of all their published articles in an Open Access repository and encourage them to publish their articles in suitable open access journals. They should provide the support to enable that to happen. The first point is already the official position of CERN since November 2003 and the second point is covered in the SIPB document of March 2005. Today, only 5% of papers are on OA and 15% are sent to electronic archives. Approximately 65% of CERN publications of the last 10 years are already on the web, although the fraction of recent publications is now 90%. We should ensure that all papers by CERN users are posted on a relevant OA web archive. Sending them to the CERN library will ensure this. Given that there are e-archives, why do we need journals? The main reason is the peer review system, which gives quality control and leads to a permanent record of filtered articles. OA needs to shift to “author pays” rather than readers having to pay a subscription.

The Particle Physics community introduced a new model of scientific publishing, JHEP, started by SISSA in Trieste as an electronic journal with an automated peer review system. It now publishes a large number of papers per year with a formidable impact factor and low running costs. It was originally OA but is no longer for lack of financing, but charges a low-cost subscription. Ways to bring it back to full OA are proposed. The creation of new business models of publishing with both OA and low cost could, in the long run, help to stop the present trend of increasing costs for journals, which is particularly acute for the CERN library.

In conclusion, the SIPB invites ACCU delegates to spread the following messages: put all articles on a relevant e-server for OA; support OA journals (by publishing in them); be prepared to pay ‘author pays’ fees; support the start of new OA journals; and ask sponsoring agencies in each country to make a coordinated effort in order to financially support OA journals. In particular, ensure that JHEP becomes once again fully OA. The large experimental collaborations are vital in promoting OA.

G. Altarelli commented that there is an article by K. Peach on Open Access in the June edition of the CERN Courrier.

In the ensuing discussion, there was general support for OA, although it was mentioned that it is not clear if there will be dedicated research funds in some countries to face publication fees in an ‘author pays’ model. It will take time to change the mentality and will need more money to support both traditional journals and OA in the
short term. G. Altarelli commented that the cost of publishing is a minor part of the cost of research and shifting payment to the authors/institutes should not be a problem.

6. REPORTS FROM ACCU REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES

   o SIPB: F. Navarria reported on the migration of the CDS Agenda system to the new system InDiCo. He then reported that there have been further budget cuts for the library and a substantial downsizing in subscriptions is being prepared. G. Altarelli commented that the library is for the whole community, not just CERN, and asked for help to fight these cuts. F. Navarria will draft a memo on this. If subscriptions have to be cut, the User community will be asked for their input. On the CERN Yellow reports, there is a proposal to stabilise the team and to find additional resources in the short term to deal with the backlog by this time next year.

   o DTF: C. Onions presented very brief highlights from DTF meetings held since the last presentation in June 2004. The main points were: the proposed timescale for LINUX upgrades; Windows 2000 is no longer supported at CERN; security issues (VPN usage, privately hosted web sites); the listbox migration is almost complete; software licenses for home use and for MAC; and the desktop PC contract. ACCU was reminded that problems specific to a particular experiment should be reported to the DTF via the experiment representatives, of which there is one each for the LHC experiments and one for non-LHC experiments.

7. USERS’ OFFICE NEWS

   C. Onions reported that the Users’ Office had returned to the usual premises at the beginning of April, after having been relocated to building 2 for four months. The refurbished offices are more spacious. A signalling system has still to be introduced, hopefully before the end of the summer, to indicate more clearly to whom a user should go. Possible changes to the opening hours are to be discussed with the Users’ Office staff.

   Due to a software glitch, there was a problem in which some UPAS/USERs did not receive the e-mails which are normally sent to warn them of their contract end. Once the problem was discovered a special warning was sent to all those who had not received the warning. Apologies for any inconvenience suffered due to this.

   We are continually updating the Users’ Office web site to try to improve it. Recent changes are: a new page grouping together all the various forms; visa information has been re-structured; an index page was introduced some time ago to improve navigation. Your input on these changes, and further suggestions for improvement, are welcome.

   Discussions have started on the possible merging of the USER and UPAS statuses.
8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES (CONTINUED)

a. ACTION ITEMS

CERN management

- Request for Ci permits for spouses of CERN Users (March 1999)
  - No position has been taken yet by the Swiss authorities
- Investigate urgently the need for additional hostel capacity during LHC detector assembly and operation (June 2004)
  - A. Naudi announced that the Management has decided to propose the building of a 3rd hostel on site with 98 rooms, 109 beds. A round of applause greeted this welcome announcement. Using a cheaper, modular (but good quality) method of building, it will cost ~ 7 MCHF, to be financed through a loan to be repaid over 7 to 10 years. Detailed specifications are being prepared by TS, to be ready for September and proposed to the Finance Committee in December 2005 or March 2006. It will take 14 months to build so it could be ready in summer 2007. The cost of renting these rooms would be on a par with the current prices but the exact cost will be decided later. J.-L. Baldy then presented details of the project, showing the proposed location, layout and type of construction. When asked if it was necessary to go to tender, A. Naudi replied yes – the financial rules insist on this. The Polish delegate asked if there could be more of the cheaper, lower quality rooms. Given that the construction is modular, two floors could be later added on top of building 222 and cheaper rooms could be considered. A. Naudi commented that any lowering of standards would not be appropriate. A. Naudi also announced that wireless access will be installed in building 38 around September.

- A. Naudi to investigate the cost of block booking twenty rooms in Etap’Hotel and in Citadines (March 2005)
  - A. Naudi commented that he hadn’t seen any strong support for this at the last meeting. He warned that block booking of rooms would require the HFC to pay for all the rooms, even if not occupied, and could lead to an eventual increase in prices. This might jeopardise the hostel project. He will nevertheless investigate this further.

9. NEWS FROM THE CERN MANAGEMENT

A. Naudi briefly described the Medium Term Plan which was to be presented to Council next week, showing the scientific programme from 2006 to 2010. In this plan, contributions are to be kept constant. A new plan up to 2015 will be put forward in 2006. The CERN personnel reduction is dramatic and something must be done about it, CERN management will put forward their ideas to Council next year. Budget estimates for LHC and non-LHC activities were shown. When asked why LHC costs were shown up to 2010, A. Naudi replied that the budget provided by Council was insufficient and
loans were taken out, which need to be repaid by 2010, hence there is no leeway for anything new before 2010.

When asked about the QRL status, A. Naudi commented that it was progressing satisfactorily and there was no reason, at this stage, to believe that there would be any change to the schedule.

A question was raised about an on-site crèche. A. Naudi commented that many items were being reviewed in the five-yearly review, including a crèche. The situation is difficult and one idea is to have a partnership with the Commune of Meyrin, which is going to build a crèche for autumn 2006. It is not clear if such a partnership is possible. The cost of a crèche is high (~CHF 30,000 per annum per child). Another option would be in the Pays de Gex, where there is a project for a crèche to be proposed by the end of 2005, but which would take 4 to 5 years to build. The only option in the short term would be the Meyrin one.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A list of points was submitted and can be consulted on the ACCU presentations page. A few were discussed in the meeting and the others will be handled outside of the meeting. The decision to only publish a dual language version of the CERN Courrier was strongly criticised, since the French version is a good outreach publication for the local communities. A User complained that the cost of the CERN Kindergarten was too high and suggested that the cost should be linked to the salary, as is the case in a number of schools in the region. The Staff Association representative, M. Goossens, will raise this point with the Staff Association, which runs the school. The difficulty of obtaining cars from the PH car pool for users to rent was raised. A few weeks ago, nothing was available before September. PH has in the meantime taken steps to make available a few more cars in the short term and is looking into more long term solutions. The possibility of changing the route of the 28 bus was raised once again. So far, requests to the TPG have been unsuccessful but it will be raised again.

11. AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING (September 7th, 2005)

The agenda for the next meeting should include reports on logistics, on the CERN web pages, plus reports from ACCU representatives on other committees.
a. ACTION ITEMS

CERN management

- Request for Ci permits for spouses of CERN Users (March 1999)
- A. Naudi to investigate the cost of block booking twenty rooms in Etap’Hotel and in Citadines (June 2005)

ACCU representatives

- Inquire about the availability of support and help for users having older computing platforms and/or coming to CERN from time to time, in view of the rapid necessary changes of software (March 2005)

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June 8th, 2005

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Presentations from the meeting can be found with the minutes on the ACCU web site at http://cern.ch/ph-dep/ACCU/Minutes/