CAP
Particle Physics Division
Business Meeting

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Outline

• 2015 CAP Congress
• Thesis award
• Other conference sponsorships
• Webpage and LinkedIn page
• Membership and budget status
• PPD executives: old and new
• Preparation for 2016 congress
2015 CAP Congress schedule (I)

• 19 sessions in total
  • Note: 20 sessions in 2014

• Continued close collaboration with the Divisions of Nuclear Physics (DNP), Theoretical Physics (DTP) and Instrumentation and Measurement Physics (DIMP)
  • Joint sessions: 7 with DNP, 9 with DTP and 4 with DIMP

• As discussed at previous PPD business meetings, scheduled sessions mixing up theory and experimental invited talks with contributed talks (including students’ talks)
  • 24 invited talks
  • 31 contributed talks (17 students in competition)
  • 6 posters (only one in competition, not enough for PPD prize)

• PPD plenary speaker: Francis Halzen (Wisconsin-Madison) on IceCube
2015 CAP Congress schedule (II)

• Sessions topics:
  • Energy frontier (5)
  • Dark matter (3)
  • Neutrinos (3)
  • Testing fundamental symmetries (3)
  • Cosmology (2)
  • Experimental and detector advances (2)

• **Big thanks to all the speakers, judges and session conveners for their excellent work and collaboration!**

• Possible future improvements to the schedule
  • Because of students’ prize constraints, only one session was scheduled after Thursday morning → try to have more sessions without students’ talks that can be scheduled after Thursday morning
  • Do not appoint judges as session conveners
  • Other suggestions?
PPD Ph.D. thesis award

- We were supposed to have our first thesis award this year
  - $500 award, an invited talk at congress, seminar at TRIUMF and two-pages article in Physics in Canada
  - More information can be found on our PPD webpage: http://www.cap.ca/en/div/ppd/theses
  - A jury is put together which is headed by the PPD vice-chair
  - Announcements of the award competition were sent to all PPD members and experiment’s PIs
- But we received 4 nominations and decided a priori for a minimum of 5 to hold a competition
- The 4 nominations will be included in the 2015 competition
- Possible improvements:
  - Should we always hold the competition every two years?
  - Remove as requirement: "A letter from the Department Head (or University Dean) indicating that the thesis has been formally accepted by the University."
  - We could also have a M.Sc. award in the future? Or a postdoc award (suggested before). But we propose to first have a complete cycle of the Ph.D. thesis award competition before deciding on this
Sponsorship of conferences

• It was agreed in past PPD business meetings to sponsor prizes for the best student talk at a few Canadian conferences:
  • Winter Nuclear and Particle Physics Conference (WNPPC): $250 (joint with DNP, $500 total)
  • Symposium on Symmetries in Subatomic Physics (SSP): $250 (joint with DNP, $500 total)
  • Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference (CUPC): $200

• Judges are handled locally by the conference organizers

• We had a few issues in this first experience:
  • Had several iterations with the CUPC organizers prior to the conference, but we never received an invoice for the award…
  • WNPPC: due to a mis-communication with conference organizers and past-chair, this was not already set up as anticipated.
    • Despite this the student’s prize has been awarded in the name of PPD and DNP (from the conference account). Currently investigating if we can reimburse the amount.
  • SSP: this worked well, the prize will be awarded and we received an invoice to pay for it

• Future improvement:
  • Really need to follow-up closely with the conference organizers
PPD webpage and LinkedIn

• Normal webpage
  • Maintained by François Corriveau
  • Contains all sort of PPD info like previous award winners, thesis award info, slides of previous PPD business meetings, etc

• LinkedIn page
  • Started one year ago with the aim “to improve communication in the canadian HEP community”
  • Have posted Canadian HEP job announcements or HEP news
  • Currently have 50 members
  • Is it useful?
• The purple band is for undergraduate students. We see a continuous slight increase because of them since the last few years
2014 budget

- We have access to full revenues and expenses for cycles between January 1st to December 31st

- **Balance as of January 1st, 2014: $8,632.46**

- **Revenues:**
  - 2014 PPD membership revenues: $1600.00
    - I.e. $10 PPD fees x 160 regular membership renewals or new regular members

- **Expenses:**
  - Congress PPD oral (1st and 2nd) and PPD poster: $500
  - 2014 congress invited speaker waivers: $333.33
  - Share of cost of CAP-NSERC Liaison dinner at 2014 Congress: $21.77

- **Balance as of December 31st, 2014: $9,477.36**
Future of the PPD finances (I)

- Let’s start with the assumption that the revenues will be approximately the same as 2014, i.e. around $1,600

- 2015 expected expenses:
  - Plenary speaker travel support (Francis Halzen): $1,500
    - This is an exceptional expense which should happen once every few years (Only 4 plenary speakers at the congress for 12 divisions)
    - This is the minimum travel support recommended by CAP for plenary speakers
  - Congress student prizes: $500
  - Conference sponsorship: $700

- We should expect to run a deficit of $1,000-$1,200 in 2015
  - This is to be expected from time to time, even encouraged by the CAP office since we have an accumulated reserve of $9,500
Future of the PPD finances (II)

• 2016 expected expenses: we should expect similar expenses as 2015 but:
  • Minus: no plenary speaker (potentially)
  • Plus: the thesis prize should be awarded for the first time ($500)

• In this scenario, we will have $1,700 expenses, so close to expected revenues (slight deficit)

• We can expect additional expenses from time to time like:
  • Plenary speaker (~$1,500)
  • Special issues of Physics in Canada dedicated to particle physics (~$1,000)

• Given our fairly large accumulated reserve, we propose to leave our fees to $10 for this year
  • Will eventually need to be increased in a few years
    • In particular if we have new awards like an M.Sc. or Postdoc award
    • Note: DNP plans to increase it to $12 next year, but they have less members and a $1,000 thesis prize (but not awarded every year)
PPD executives

- Christine Kraus (Laurentian U.) will now become PPD chair until the 2016 CAP congress in Ottawa
- JFA to become past-chair (replacing Anadi Canepa)
- François Corriveau to remain at Webmaster
- David Bailey would like to be replaced as PPD Secretary-Treasurer
  - In any case the finances have been typically handled by the chair in collaboration with the CAP office
  - But this position is required by the CAP rules, we need to have at least three members in the PPD executives
  - We propose that the past-chair combines the role of secretary-treasurer in addition to being past-chair
Procedure for CAP Particle Division Vice-Chair Nomination

- Previously, the new vice-chair was simply appointed by the chair
- As discussed at past PPD business meetings, we implemented a nomination and election procedure
  - Which by the way is done since a long time by DTP and DNP (and maybe all other divisions?)
- Sent an email to all PPD members on January 14 proposing the procedures and asking for feedback:
  - A call for nominations for the PPD vice-chair will be issued by the current PPD Chair (around February), with a deadline for nominations in the first week of May. Nominations must be accompanied by a short biography of the candidate (maximum 200 words). Nominees must agree to the nomination, in writing, before their name is submitted to the PPD executive.
  - Within a week of the close of nominations, PPD members will be invited to vote, via electronic means established by the CAP office, and will be given a minimum of 10 days in which to register their vote.
  - The CAP office will oversee the counting of the votes and will provide the results to the PPD executive within two working days of the close of voting.
  - The new vice-chair will be announced at the CAP PPD business meeting held during the upcoming Congress, and by email to the full PPD membership right after Congress.
- Received one comment: encourage explicitly self-nominations
New vice-chair

- The call for nominations was then sent to all PPD members (as well as one reminder)
- We received only one nomination (but fortunately an excellent one!) so no vote was necessary
- **The new vice-chair is:**
  - Steven Robertson from McGill U.
Preparation for 2016 CAP congress

• The 2016 congress will be at U. of Ottawa

• Hertzberg lecturer candidates are already being discussed
  • Any suggestions?

• Plenary speakers will be decided in October
  • Any suggestions?