

Minutes of the SGN/SSDN General Assembly 2018

Date/Location : November 26, 2018, Paul Scherrer Institut
Start : 15:00
End : 17:30
Participants : 15 members of the society

1. Welcome

Henrik Ronnow, president of the Swiss Neutron Scattering Society, welcomes the participants to the general assembly 2018.

2. Minutes of the General Assembly 2017

The minutes of the general assembly of the SGN/SSDN from 3.11.2017, published in Swiss Neutron News #51 are accepted without objections.

3. Annual Report of the Chairman

H. Ronnow reports on the activities of the SGN/SSDN in the years 2017 and 2018:

- a) The fourth (2017) and fifth (2018) Young Scientist Prize of the SGN/SSDN sponsored by Swiss Neutronics have been awarded to Dr. Viviane Lutz-Bueno and Dr. Shang Gao, respectively.
- b) Two issues of Swiss Neutron News have appeared in April and October 2017 and another two have appeared in May and November 2018.
- c) The SGN/SSDN has 212 members at the time of the assembly.

4. Report of the Treasurer

The annual balance sheet 2017 is presented:

Assets SGN/SSDN on 1.1.2017:

SFr 5789.35

	Revenues [SFr]	Expenses [SFr]
Membership-fees (cash box)	60.00	
Membership-fees (postal check acc.)	340.00	
Donations	50.00	
Deposit prize money	1000.00	
Expenses Postfinance account		63.00
Payout prize money		1000.00
Total	1450.00	1063.00

Net earnings 2017: **SFr 387.00**

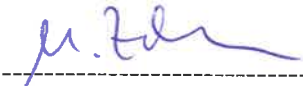

Balance sheet 2017:

	Assets [SFr]	Liabilities [SFr]
Postfinance account	4976.35	
Cash box	1200.00	
Assets on 31.12.2017	6176.35	

5. Report of the Auditors

Bericht der Revisoren

Die Rechnungsrevisoren haben die Belege, die Abrechnungen und die Bilanz für das Jahr 2017 geprüft und für in Ordnung befunden!

15.1.18		22.1.18	
Datum	Dr. M. Zolliker, PSI	Datum	Dr. K. Krämer, Uni Bern

Both Auditors (K. Krämer and M. Zolliker) have examined the bookkeeping and the balance 2017. They have accepted it without objection. The participants therefore unanimously vote for the release of the SGN/SSDN board.

6. Budget 2019

H. Ronnow presents the following proposal for the budget 2019:

	Receipts [SFr]	Expenditures [SFr]
member fees	500.00	
interest	0.00	
welcome reception		
fees PC account		63.00
Total	500.00	63.00
Total receipts 2019	437.00	
assets 31.12.2019	6613.35	

The participants accept the budget proposal unanimously. As in the general assembly 2017, the membership fees for students are discussed and it is again proposed that the membership for students could be free. A vote is taken, and free membership for students is accepted unanimously.

Christian Rüegg proposes that the SGN could sponsor an apéro at the SPS meeting linked to the session on neutron scattering to improve the visibility of the SGN.

Related to free membership for students, the bylaws of the SGN are discussed. There is a consensus that the bylaws should say clearly who has to pay membership fees and who has the right to take part in votes.

The idea of an on-line voting system is brought up, which would allow members to take part in votes without traveling to the general assembly. The board of SGN will prepare a proposal for clearer bylaws for the assembly in 2019, and a vote about any changes can be taken in 2019.

7. SGN board for the period 2019 - 2021

The term of the SGN board, Prof. Henrik Ronnow (president), Dr. Michel Kenzelmann, and PD Dr. Urs Gasser (secretary), ends in 2019. As announced at the general assembly in 2017, H. Ronnow and U. Gasser are willing to stay on the SGN board for another term (2019-2021), while Prof. Michel Kenzelmann resigns. The board of SGN proposes Prof. Markus Strobl and PD Dr. Karl Krämer as new board members. Prof. Markus Strobl and PD Dr. Karl Krämer are elected without a dissentient vote. U. Gasser and H. Ronnow are unanimously re-elected as board member (secretary) and president of the society, respectively.

8. News from ENSA (H. Ronnow)

- a) ENSA has participated as a partner in two proposals for EU funding for neutron sources in Europe. One of these, BrightnESS2, has been successful. ENSA will employ a coordinator for BrightnESS2.
- b) Since 2015, Christiane Alba-Simionesco (LLB, France) is the chairperson of ENSA, and Ferenc Mezei (ESS) is the vice-chairman. Their term has ended but was extended until new chair persons are elected. The elections of the vice-chair have been started in autumn 2018, and the new vice-chair is expected to take over from Ferenc Mezei in spring 2019. The chair elections take place half a year later, and the new chair person will take over from Christiane Alba-Simionesco in autumn 2019. Nominations for the new chair can still be made.
- c) H. Ronnow has been nominated for both the vice-chair and the chair of ENSA. If he is elected as the new chair of ENSA, SGN will have to find a new president. Other nominations for the chair are: Arantxa Arbe (Spain) and Laszlo Rosta (Hungary).

9. News from ILL (Ch. Rüegg)

- a) The operation of ILL as a European neutron source has been extended until 2030. All member countries want to keep their membership for the next 5 years. Italy, however, has unresolved financial issues.
- b) There have been uncertainties about the fuel for the ILL reactor, but fuel is now secured for the next 10 years.
- c) The ILL has obtained 30 MEUR for new instrumentation to be realized in the MILLENNIUM and ENDURANCE programs.
- d) The user operation in 2017 was interrupted due to cancelled beam cycles, which has caused a lot of backlog experiments for 2018. In 2018, all planned cycles took place and the postponed and new experiments could be completed.
- e) The Swiss request for beam time in 2018 was again higher than the national balance for Switzerland. A few experiments were, therefore, shifted to the CRG instruments with Swiss participation.
- f) From middle 2019 until middle 2020, ILL will have a long shutdown, which is used to install new beam tubes. This overlaps with the long shutdown of SINQ.

10. News from ESS (Ch. Rüegg)

- a) First neutrons at ESS are planned for 2019. Delays in the construction, however, have pushed the commissioning of the first three instruments to 2023, this was previously planned for 2020/21. The user program is now planned to start in 2024, and ESS is planned to have 15 running instruments in 2029.
- b) A smooth transition from the ILL to ESS and continuous access to a very intense neutron source is of great interest for Swiss neutron users. It will be the task of SGN to do the lobbying for this in Berne.
- c) Switzerland is still involved in five instruments for ESS: ESTIA, BIFROST, HEIMDAL, ODIN and MAGIC. The reflectometer ESTIA (100% Swiss) is planned to be among the first instruments.
- d) Switzerland is represented at ESS by Dr. Marc Janoschek (PSI) in the group for instrumentation, and Henrik Ronnow has been nominated to be the Swiss member in the Scientific Advisory Board of ESS.

11. News from SINQ (M. Kenzelmann)

- a) Due to the long shutdown of SINQ until beginning of July 2018, there was only one call for proposals in Feb. 2018 for all instruments of SINQ. In addition, a second call for a few instruments was launched in summer 2018. Overall, a good number of proposals was received.
- b) The commissioning of the new spectrometer CAMEA was started in November 2018 with fast progress. CAMEA is planned to be fully operational before the shutdown in December 2018.

- c) The timeline of the SINQ upgrade remains unchanged. SINQ will be shut down in 2019 for the exchange of the neutron guides and work in the neutron bunker. The commissioning of the instruments with minor upgrade (FOCUS, TASP, SANS-I, Rita-2/CAMEA) is planned for January and February 2020. The second commissioning phase for AMOR, DMC, SANS-LLB and the instruments Orion and Narziss is planned to follow later in 2020.
- d) In addition to the previous plans for the SINQ upgrade, the spectrometer Morpheus is now also planned to be upgraded in collaboration with Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe to become a 3-axis instrument. It is not planned to include Morpheus in the user program.

12. Name change of the society

In 2016, it was proposed to change the name of the Swiss Neutron Scattering Society to Swiss Neutron Science Society to reflect the openness for all researchers using neutrons. At the general assembly 2017, a vote about the new name was postponed, because arguments against the new name had been brought forward.

The board has opened an online discussion board about the new name, which was used by only two members of the society. It was mentioned that all activities needing access to neutron sources should be included in our Society and that it should not be necessary that researchers with interests in science using neutrons need to join several organisations.

In a discussion about the new name, it is mentioned that the name should be given at least in English, German and French.

A vote is taken, and the new name “Swiss Neutron Science Society (SNSS)” / “Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Neutronenforschung (SGN)” / “Société Suisse de la Science Neutronique (SSSN)” is accepted without a dissentient vote.

13. Miscellaneous

The contents and format of the newsletter of the Society, Swiss Neutron News, is discussed. It is proposed that the printed Swiss Neutron News could be replaced with a newsletter that is circulated by email. A reduction from two to one issue per year is also discussed. M. Strobl and Ch. Rüegg mention that Swiss Neutron News is a good advertisement for the Society and that it should have two issues per year. H. Ronnow has the feeling that Swiss Neutron News in its paper form is read and that the printed format is an advantage against the many newsletters that are sent out by email.

The board agrees to discuss the format and contents of Swiss Neutron News, and all members are invited to give their input for changes of Swiss Neutron News.

U. Gasser
January 2019