September 27, 2017: minutes of the meeting

Present: Aude Billard (president), Simone Deparis, Sacha Friedli, Georg Fantner, Carlotta Guiducci, Cécile Hébert, Christof Holliger, Silvia Hostettler, Olivier Lévèque, Félix Naef, Paule Soubeyrand, Jamila Sam, Donna Testermann, Irène Vogel Chevroulet, Robert West, Jacques E. Moser, Daniel Gattica-Perez, Christopher Plummer, Giovanni Boero.

Excused: Volker Gass, Hans-Jörg Ruppen, Nicolas Monod

Agenda of the meeting:

1) Approval of the agenda
2) Election of the president
3) Election of the board
4) Consultation "Convention d'Objectifs 2017-2020" (http://ae.epfl.ch/2017ConventionObjectifs)
5) General assembly with Prof. Sarah Springman, rector ETHZ, Nov. 6
6) Dates for the next CCE meetings
7) Varia

Minutes:

The meeting is opened by Aude Billard at 1:15 PM.

1) The agenda is approved.

2) Cécile Hébert is candidate for the presidency: she is elected unanimously with one abstention. The representatives congratulate Cécile. The new president thanks in particular Aude Billard for her work.

3) The president proposes 3 candidates for the board: Volker Gass, Silvia Hostettler, Olivier Lévèque. They are elected unanimously.

4) Silvia H. already sent some remarks. Olivier L. proposes that we focus on the teaching part (objective 1). There is a short discussion following this. The conclusion is that the CCE will focus on the teaching part, specifying that the remarks made are only on the teaching part. If needed, for the following consultations, the CCE should also take positions on other matters.

A discussion follows about the text regarding the Objectives' Convention 2017-2018. Here is a summary of the suggestions made. These suggestions will be implemented in the official comment of the CCE, and circulated along the members. The deadline is 17th of October:
- The fact that teaching is put forward as the objective number 1 of the school is highly appreciated by all members present.

- Some objectives are (too?) vague: like in objective 2.2, e.g., the notion of “computational thinking”. In objective 3.2, it should be mentioned what is precisely meant by “adapting to the digital revolution”.

- Objective 3.5: The quality of teaching is mentioned for the evaluation for promotion. Why it is stated like something not in place? Isn’t this already the case? What should be changed (or maintained) should be stated clearly.

- Objective 3.6: suggestion to replace “make … attractive”, by “make … more attractive”, as studying at EPFL is already quite attractive...

- About the scheduled strategic initiatives (second part of the table): why only mention those which have already been done and not any of those still under development? E.g., the masters in digital humanities and data science have already started this fall, but why not mention the master in robotics? The list should be more open to new initiatives.

- About the monitoring of the objectives (in the appendix): the criterion regarding the satisfaction of the students should be changed, for two reasons: a) it is dangerous to ask for a constant or augmenting level of satisfaction. b) satisfaction of industry and alumni should also be part of this criterion (with a question remaining about how to quantify and weigh these 3 criterions).

5) Here is the proposed schedule for the GA with Sarah Springman:

Time and place: Nov 6, 11:45 AM, CE 6
Schedule:

- 11:45-12:15: apero (sandwiches)
- 12:15-12:20: short intro by the CCE president
- 12:20-12:40: speech
- 12:40-13:30: discussion

The GA will be video recorded.

Because she will be travelling the night before and might therefore be delayed, Cécile asks for someone to potentially replace her for the intro and the moderation of the discussion. This is to be decided still, as well as the precise theme of the GA. Addendum: Cécile could rearrange her travel, hence she will be present.

6) A doodle will be sent to check if there is a preferred/unwanted option for a given weekday. If not, the meetings will be simply spread over all weekdays during the semester. The attendance of the Vice-President for Education is also expected for the meetings.

7) Working groups: The CCE will engage in the working groups of the school. For example in the newly created group for the TA activities of the PhD students. Georg Fantner and Jamila Sam are volunteering for this group.
For the next meeting, Olivier L. suggests that members should get the opportunity to introduce themselves. Name tags would also be welcome. Members of the Board will take turns regarding the minutes of the CCE meetings.

OL/29.9.2017