

# NOTES OF THE 35th JACoW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

## 25 February, 2021

Present: Board of Directors: Ivan Andrian, David Button, Regis Neuenschwander, Johan Olander, Christine Petit-Jean-Genaz

### 1. Approval of the Agenda, and Notes of JBoDM34 and Pending Actions

The Notes of JBoDM34 are approved without modification, together with the corrected Notes of JBoDM33.

### 2. JACoW Sustainability (LEAPS, etc.)

#### *Leaps*

Ivan reports on an informal report from the Elettra representative on LEAPS. At a meeting in January the LEAPS Accelerator Group agreed to explore how they might contribute to improving JACoW sustainability. There is so far nothing formal and no details, but there is at least a positive response to JACoW's call for support.

#### *IPACCC*

Ivan reports on two meetings of the Chairs of the IPAC'23 OC/LOC/SPC, together with Ivan as IPAC'23 Editor-in-Chief and JACoW Chair. The IPACCC has decided to create a Task Force to better understand and find solutions to JACoW issues, and in particular the tools required to manage IPAC events consequent to the move from SPMS to Indico.

The Task Force will be lead by Giovanni Bisoffi (IPAC'23 LOC co-chair), and be composed of two representatives of IPAC per region (not necessarily members of IPACCC).

The Task Force is expected to start work by next month (March). The IPACCC aim in particular to obtain agreement from the three regions to decide the use of only ONE tool (Indico) by the next IPACCC in May.

The Task Force will contact JACoW for the status of the SPMS-Indico merger.

Christine is disappointed that JACoW is not represented formally in the Task Force since it is the primary body concerned, and since JACoW serves the whole community, not only IPAC. Ivan responds that this might change after the first meeting of the Task Force. Concerning the IPACCC, he reports that while JACoW would NOT have a seat as proposed, the JACoW Chair will in future be invited to meetings for an item on JACoW.

#### *eeFact*

Ivan has learnt that eeFact'21 is officially moved to 2022.

#### *Support from German Laboratories*

The last development in JACoW's quest for more support is related to a meeting called by several representatives of German laboratories, led by Ati Meseck. The video discussion was written up by Christine and Ati, and distributed to the BoD by Christine a few days previously.

In order to look into the matter further, Ati asked JACoW to provide:

1. a clear idea of JACoW's tools
2. a specification of JACoW requirements for the organization of an event, including manpower.

We are thus tasked to provide a specification for the effort needed to drive a JACoW event, both tools and manpower.

Ivan asks whether David could find the time to prepare the above, based on existing documentation (Christine's Organizing IPACs, Todd's various presentations), as well as other presentations already published on jacow.org.

This summary might also be written with the IPACCC Task Force in mind.

***Action: David to write it a specification for the effort needed to drive a JACoW event, both tools and manpower.***

#### *SPMS Cause for Concern*

The withdrawal of FNAL support for the American Support Centre together with Matt Arena's contribution, and the consequent transfer of old and current US Instances to KEK, triggered JACoW's call for more support to guarantee its sustainability.

While not strictly speaking part of the current Agenda item, Christine explains the severe synchronization problems encountered over the last month or so during abstract submission between IPAC'21 and the Central Repository, as well as all other active instances (though perhaps not instances at CERN ...). As abstract submission got under way there were numerous calls for assistance to add co-authors without a JACoW profile. The user was transferred out of the abstract submission interface/add co-authors interface to the Central Repository to create the new profile, but the process hung

there. And it was found that synchronization kept breaking down so profiles were not transferred back to the original instance, and the co-authors could not be added. Christine spent several weeks trying to understand and quick fix the problems, sometimes able, often not.

Simultaneously, new affiliation requests were arriving in multiples, up to 6 or even 10, with identical time stamps.

Having ascertained that the problem was not only at IPAC'21, but that jobs were not running at all, or were failing and breaking in MEDSI, IBIC, ICALEPCS also, Christine contacted the usual people who are the only resource for such serious issues: Matt, Todd, Ronny, Takashi, ... She also informed all of the users of instances active at KEK of the problems since the authors were continually contacting them, and they were contacting Christine for help.

Based on Christine's report of the behavior of SPMS, Todd and Ronny both took an informed look, and came up with some ideas as to the cause of the problem. In spite of continual job failures (sync.repo to synchronise between individual instances and the Central Repository), Todd was convinced that some synchronization was actually happening.

One technical problem seems to be related to the consistency of data because of integrity constraints. Matt is the only person who knows the structure of the database and can check the code and data.

Having passed on Todd and Ronny's findings to Matt, who reacts only rarely to calls for help, we are unaware of any diagnosis or cure, though it appears Matt now has access to the KEK installation.

The above underlines how dependent JACoW is on the Central Repository, and will continue to be since nothing is currently foreseen to replace it, even after Indico goes into production.

Christine would like to explore how to secure the continuation of at least some support from Matt from the FNAL Management. Ivan agrees, but feels that prior to doing so it is necessary to put together a report on the situation since all SPMS instances were moved from FNAL. He believes this report should first be directed to the IPACCC Task Force on JACoW (meeting in March), requesting they act on JACoW's behalf.

Ivan suggests Christine prepare the list of issues encountered since removing SPMS instances from FNAL to be forwarded to the IPACCC Task Force.

Included in the account should be the issues:

- a) Schedule of Transfer of Instances from FNAL to KEK
- b) Recent Synchronization issues between the Central Repository and Active SPMS instances at KEK

- c) The effort required to transfer old US SPMS instances from FNAL to KEK as extracted data (and not SPMS instances), requiring re-creation of SPMS instances to be able to re-run scripts with ISSNs, DOI's, ORCID IDs, etc.

*Action on Christine: Prepare an account of the above.*

### 3. Volker Schaa

Christine has had some contact with Volker. She can report that his meeting with Mei Bai was simply a goodbye upon her leaving GSI, and that she was unable to do anything for him to continue his contract with GSI. She felt he should try a different department.

Due to Lockdown he has been unable to enter GSI premises and knows nobody who might review his situation. Unfortunately he does not know the Technical Director personally, and does not wish to make a contact by mail.

JACoW has his agreement to follow up on the task of inserting ISSNs, DOIs, etc., into already published events. This requires re-running his scripts over old SPMS instances where they exist. While tricky because of the varying versions of SPMS and Volker's scripts, it should be possible to complete this task for European and Asian events without too many problems. But there will be a huge additional workload to unpack the extracts of old US events transferred from FNAL to KEK and importing the data into new SPMS instances, in order to be able to re-run the scripts.

Volker's website: <https://vrws.de> lists nearly all events with status, links, and other data. The old US instances to be moved from FNAL to KEK are marked "A→J". The ones in RED are offline. Two are yellow (NAPAC'19 and ICALEPCS'13) which means they work in principle, but with errors (tree missing, etc.).

In response to a question from Johan, Ivan will remind Volker next week about sending the latest version of JPSP to Github.

### 4. JFIC – JACoW Fake Indico Conference (Indico testing) Progress

Due to pressure of work on numerous other tasks, but in particular new profiles and affiliation creations in connection with IPAC'21 abstract submission, and in particular the problems with synchronization reported above), Christine was unable to make further progress on Indico testing.

Some progress has however been made to better understand the features of the new JACoW/Indico tool. Following Ivan's request last December for the Indico

Team to provide a summary of the new Indico features based on the 2016 specification, Ivan has received this, and has been working on a comparison between Indico and SPMS i.e. the missing SPMS features now in Indico, those not in Indico, and the features that need to be developed (JPSP, various plugins, etc.).

The Indico document is available from an open link, but the information is only partial and Ivan wants to work on his comparison before sharing further.

## **5. IPAC'21**

Regis reports on an announcement to recruit Editors to work on IPAC'21 proceedings production, as well as the layout of a "Proceedings Office" where the group will work.

## **6. AOB**

There is no other business.

## **7. Next BoD Meeting**

The next BoD meeting will take place on:

**Thursday, 25 March, 2021**

Notes prepared by Christine.