



## DBE General Assembly: Minutes

Wednesday, 11 November 2020, 17:00 – 19:30

Zoom

### Participants with right to vote:

Group I (22 of 31 Professors / Research Group Leaders):

Oliver Bieri, Michael Bornstein, Philippe Cattin (PhC), Edgar Delgado-Eckert, Cristina Granziera, Raphael Guzman, Ludwig Kappos, Srinivas Madduri, Andreas Müller, Bert Müller (BM), Annegret Mündermann, Alexander Navarini, Georg Rauter, Najat Salameh, Mathieu Sarracanie, Arnaud Scherberich, Eva Scheurer, Pablo Sinues, Florian Thieringer, Carlalberta Verna, Jens Würfel, Azhar Zam

Group II (Collaborators with teaching assignment): Niklaus Friederich

Group III (Postdocs and PhD-Students): Manuela Eugster

Group IV (Collaborators without teaching assignment): Constanze Pfeiffer

Group V (Master Students): Julius Klaas

### Participants without right to vote:

Junior Group Leaders: Christoph Jud, Olivier Braissant, Georg Schulz

Managing Director: Daniela Vavrecka (minutes)

### Excused:

Reinald Brunner, Urs Frey, Carol Claudius Hasler, Daniel Kalbermatten, Ivan Martin, Elmar Merkle, Marios Psychogios, Elke Viehweger, Hans-Florian Zeilhofer

Abbreviations: IN = Information, DI = Discussion, DE = Decision

Attachments: SAB\_Report\_2020\_Department.pdf (sent with agenda)  
2020-11-11\_DBE-Assembly-Presentation.pdf

	Item	Form
1	PhC: <b>Welcome</b> <b>Check of Quorum:</b> reached with 22 of 31 group leaders (11 necessary) – 26 people with right to vote present.	IN
2	<b>Welcome</b> to Raphael Guzman (Neurosurgery USB), Michael Bornstein (Head of Research at University Dental Clinics UZB), Andreas Müller (Cleft Lip, Jaws & Palate USB), Mathieu Sarracanie (AMT-Center, Uni Basel), Elke Viehweger (Orthopedics UKBB) as new group leaders at the DBE. The first four introduced themselves shortly.	IN
3	PhC: Information on <b>Personnel, structural and third-party funding 2020/2021</b> , see 2020-11-11_DBE-Assembly-Presentation.pdf. Note: more than 2/3 of the financial means of the DBE (@Uni Basel) are 3 <sup>rd</sup> -party funding, also contributing 20% of all research support tasks (1.2 FTEs).	IN
4	<b>Reports on tasks given by the Assembly 2019 and SAB 2019</b> , see 2020-11-11_DBE-Assembly-Presentation.pdf <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PhD-Day – postponed to 2021 due to first wave of Corona.</li> <li>• Visibility &amp; <a href="#">annual report (see online)</a></li> <li>• Strategy &amp; planning of structural positions</li> <li>• DBE @GRID</li> <li>• Master of Science in BME: The Assembly would like to have numbers on how many students continued in academia and how many went to industry: This information is not known, so far we didn't track alumni. The progress is only tracked as below:</li> </ul>	IN, DI

		2018	2019	2020	
		admitted	20	26	31
		matriculated	16	21	23
		<b>Progress of matriculated students in November 2020</b>			
		in semester 1/2			22
		in semester 3/4		10	
		in semester 5	1		
		working on masterthesis	4	9	
		received diploma	7	0	
		did quit	4	2	1
5	<p><b>The Scientific Advisory Board's report for the DBE</b>, see 2020-11-11_DBE-Assembly-Presentation.pdf and SAB_Report_2020_Department.pdf. The SAB notes a positive development of the DBE and recommends to finalize strategic planning, i.e. define scientific strengths, professorship planning in core areas, and secure core figures as permanent professors.</p> <p>For 2021 SAB expected the Master Program and the AMT-Lab to be (re-)evaluated, but Profs Salameh &amp; Sarracanie asked for postponement to 2022 due to Corona (delayed start) and a task of conference organization in 2021.</p> <p>PhC will inform the SAB accordingly and the board will look for an alternative.</p>				IN
6	<p><b>"Standortgespräch"</b> (progress review) with the DBE-Council based on SAB-Report – suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentoring of Junior Faculty, see status of <a href="#">Junior Faculty Member Application</a> on DBE-website.</li> <li>• USP/Strengths of DBE → next steps Strategy Group</li> </ul>				IN
7	<p><b>Information on adaptation of the DBE-regulations:</b> waiting for information on next steps from the Medical Faculty due to faculty-wide homogenization.</p>				IN
8	<p><b>Elections:</b></p> <p>a) <b>new member of the DBE's executive board:</b> Florian Thieringer, Raphael Guzman and Alexander Navarini presented themselves and stood for election. With 9 votes Raphael Guzman won the election just 1 vote ahead of A. Navarini, who got 8 votes – also only one vote ahead of F. Thieringer with 7 votes (2 abstentions).</p> <p>PhC welcomed the new board member R. Guzman and thanked the other two candidates for standing for election. He then acknowledged Reinald Brunner's engaged contribution to this board and also thanked him with virtual flowers and a voucher for a dinner for two.</p> <p>b) Since Reinald Brunner also was deputy head, a <b>new deputy head of the DBE</b> had to be elected: Ludwig Kappos, Professor of Neurology and new director of the Research Center Clinical Neuroimmunology and Neuroscience Basel (RC2NB) stood for election and was elected with 15 positive votes (2 no, 9 abstentions). Congratulations and thanks for taking over this task!</p>				
9	<p><b>Planning for 2021 – Important Dates</b></p> <p>→ Virtual New Year Apéro: 12 January 2021 at 5pm!</p> <p>→ PhD-Day: 19 or 26 March 2021</p> <p>→ Medical Robotics Week: 7 – 11 June 2021 (hybrid)</p> <p>→ Research Day &amp; SAB-Visit: 7 / 8 September 2021</p> <p>→ General Assembly: 17 November 2021</p>				DI, DE
10	<p><b>Miscellaneous – Graduate School Health Science</b> see 2020-11-11_DBE-Assembly-Presentation.pdf. A. Mündermann asked, whether the current students will be able</p>				IN

	<p>to switch to the new GSHS-Program or whether they have to stay in the old PhD Program. PhC: Those who started within the old one can choose because the # of ETCS will stay the same. The "Wegleitung" and "Studienordnung" have not yet been passed.</p>	
11	<p><b>Discussion – Prof. Bert Müller's Motion for Mentoring and Financial Support of Assistant Professors.</b> BM sent an e-mail with his motion attached to all representatives of the Assembly. Reason for this motion: Most University assistant professors are non-tenured and don't have a continuous financial support, i.e. these profs don't have a secured position even if they are excellent faculty. BM discussed this with the Dean Primo Schär to find a solution. Propositions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Mentoring system for assistant professors starting with their application as junior faculty members and throughout their time as assistant professors.</li> <li>2) Application to the Medical Faculty for transitional funding of assist. professors. BM considers such a transitional funding scheme more important than a further structural professorship at the DBE (University). Because there is a limited amount of money at the Med. Fac, it should rather support several non-tenured, not funded profs with 150 kSFR pa than 750 kSFR pa for one new professorship at DBE.</li> </ol> <p>PhC: Point 1 – mentoring – is mentioned already in <a href="#">the junior application procedure document</a>, but should be reinforced further by defining a framework (committee) for continued mentoring and networking in the executive board.</p> <p>Point 2) This is an ongoing discussion at the Faculty: Assistant Profs can apply only during the first 1.5 years for EU and SNSF funding, because they need to demonstrate an assured position throughout the proposed project. The deanery has assured that projects can be bridged and an according document is under review of the deanery. On the other hand, it is not up to the DBE to decide how to use money which has been dedicated by the Medical Faculty for a certain professorship – this is a strategic decision of the Medical Faculty. PhC considers BM's proposition difficult to implement.</p> <p>Alex Navarini: At the USB few don't have follow-up funding. If someone gets an SNSF grant, then this person is supported with 30% funding by the Hospital. PhC: This is different, as this support is just needed to buy free time for research – it is only applicable for clinicians as they have a permanent position at the hospital. Univ. departments can't proceed this way, because researchers need to demonstrate a full 100% employment by the University to get further SNSF-funding for research.</p> <p>BM asks the Assembly to make a statement for or against the points in his motion. The majority of the assembly votes for a <b>mentoring committee for assistant professors (22 pro, 2 contra, 3 abstain)</b>. BM offers to head this mentoring committee.</p> <p>PhC: Regarding the point b) Transitional Funding: There are clearly limits due to finances, but currently the Faculty speaks money for a PhD-student if someone gets an SNSF-funded professorship. This rule could be altered such that they could instead apply for an additional year of their own salary at the end of the non-tenured professorship.</p> <p>BM: Reminds the assembly that this matter is urgent because some assistant profs are in this situation soon. BM proposed to head a committee to phrase a motion to the dean. The assembly agreed that BM continues with this motion with support of the DBE board members.</p>	

	<p><b>Next steps:</b> Within two months this motion shall be submitted to the Dean: BM phrases a motion for financial support of non-tenured assistant professors in consultation with the DBE's executive board. The motion shall consider the limited means of the Medical Faculty, a definition of excellence of the assistant professors (which shall define who is eligible for such support), the conditions and duration for continued funding (e.g. submitted research proposals to SNSF, Eurostars, ERC etc.), the limitations (loss of the professor title if not yet habilitated) and tasks of such funded assistant professors (e.g. teaching). Then the DBE will seek support of the head of DBM (currently Radek Skoda, soon Ivan Martin) in order to submit the jointly signed motion to the dean.</p>	
	<p><b>Julius Klaas</b>, student representative (Group IV) <b>introduces himself</b>. He is master student at the DBE and already introduced a Q&amp;A system on Adam as a forum between students and lecturers.</p>	IN
	<p><b>Jens Würfel</b>, reminds the Assembly that within MIAC already a broad medical device certification experience exists and offers to advise other members of the DBE.</p>	

1.12.2020 – Daniela Vavrecka-Sidler