

Statement of Quentin Ingram

(Collaboration Board Chair Election 2010)

CMS is starting its first long data taking period. This will be exciting and rewarding, but will also bring new challenges in simultaneously running the experiment, understanding the detector performance in detail and producing and publishing reliable physics results efficiently. It will also bring the fulfilment of many years of hard work with a huge physics output. In 2011 this will continue to be demanding, while the need to prepare for the following shutdown will also require serious attention. Our computing resources must be kept competitive, the TDR high luminosity detector must be made a reality, and the work for upgrades carried forward. The need to secure the necessary finances and manpower will continue. The collaboration will be becoming more unified, but nevertheless keeping the expertise needed to run and maintain each sub-detector and the computing and software. All participants must benefit from the fruits of our investment in CMS. The Collaboration Board has an important role in addressing these challenges while fostering a constructive culture, and the Chair has the responsibility to enable it to do so.

I see my main jobs as CB Chair are to run its business in a way ensuring the Collaboration's motivation and cohesion, and to help the CMS management while taking the institutional interests into account, but all within the paramount goal of ensuring the success of CMS. My style is to try to present issues clearly, and then build consensus but without losing sight of the essentials. The Collaboration Board discusses and addresses a wide variety of issues, sometimes difficult ones, but its decisions must finally be guided by our first priority: producing good physics.

The CMS collaboration must work with opportunities open to all, and with obligations and rewards fairly distributed throughout. Further, its members must feel this to be so. A good atmosphere and high motivation are major factors contributing to success. This is particularly important for our young members, but the needs of all in terms of recognition must not be overlooked. The recent initiative collecting statistical information about the demographic diversity of the collaboration will be a helpful way of indicating potential problems, whether related to gender, age or geography. Any member of CMS must have open access to all data. The issue of how to present different analyses of the same data is now upon us and will need continuing attention. The MoA service obligations must be carefully applied and monitored. Attention to the needs of those not resident at CERN must be maintained. The good reputation of CMS within the member Institutes distributed around the globe (as well as within CERN), is important to help them gain the resources they need, and to attract new collaborators and students. New Institutes are welcome, but the conditions of membership need careful and firm attention. In all these matters the CB Chair plays an important role.

The Collaboration Board oversees the running of CMS, and takes the final decision in all important matters. It is the forum through which the interests of the participating Institutes are expressed, and where issues of concern can be raised. The Chair must ensure its effective functioning. From my experience in helping run the business of the CB, and also as Chair of the ECAL Institution Board, I have a wide understanding of how this should be done. Nevertheless the tasks of the CB and how it works must adapt to changing needs. I would keep the Board's workings transparent and open. When important issues arise the CB should be informed properly and early enough for it to be able to react in a considered way. I would endeavour to convey the opinions of the Board and of its members to the CMS Management effectively.

CB Standing Committees. The work of the Conference and Publication Committees and of the Authorship Board is important and sensitive. As CB Chair I would attach high priority to my responsibility to ensure that these bodies function properly and in the interest of the whole Collaboration - and also be seen to do so. Outreach and publicity in general is an area of growing sensitivity, of direct concern to the CB. The Awards schemes have been successful and should continue. Those who take heavy responsibilities in these areas must be supported and their work recognised.

CB as IB for Physics and for Computing. This function needs clarifying. More effort should be made to bring important issues, such as strategic plans, allocation of resources and personnel, as well as internal organisation, to the Board for endorsement. The CB Institutes must also provide resources in these areas and so must understand the needs.

CMS Management. The Chair of the CB represents it in all important matters in the CMS Management, and in meetings with CERN Management, and in turn brings relevant issues to the CB. I would be closely engaged. It is important that nominations of persons to positions, from Conveners to Deputy Spokespersons, are made after appropriate wide consultation to find the most suitable candidates; I would monitor this carefully. The two-year terms for most positions in CMS allow renewal and opportunity, but good continuity is also essential.

CB meetings could be more effective with circulation of documents and notice of upcoming decisions sufficiently in advance. I would look for ways to make the meetings themselves somewhat shorter without losing effectiveness or the chance for real discussion. Where appropriate, presentations may be moved to CMS plenary sessions.

If you give me the opportunity I will do my best to enable the Collaboration Board to carry out its work and to help make CMS a successful and exciting discovery enterprise.

I would have no other significant commitments.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss these ideas, or any issues you feel are missing.