

CERN Academic Training: Flexible Expansion

Abstract

CERN's situation is almost unique in terms of accumulated cross-discipline knowledge, via visiting collaborators and on-site experts. This note proposes the expansion of the CERN Academic Training lectures to a more flexible planning scheme. This will allow lectures' scheduling at relatively short notice and a more agile follow-up of top priorities in the audience interest.

Situation

The current process to form the lectures' programme for a given Academic Year is:

1. The [Academic Training Committee](#) (ATC) HEP & Applied Physics Working Groups (WG) form a list of candidate lecture abstracts in spring.
2. The abstracts are presented for voting to all CERN staff, fellows, associates, students and users spending a significant amount of time at CERN, in a form of a questionnaire, early June. The voting period is two weeks.
3. The ATC meets early summer to analyse the votes. The committee selects the 4-5 lecture series from each WG that got top votes and decides on the approximate time they will take place during the coming Academic Year. [See the ATC meetings' [index](#) and Academic Training lectures' [index](#)].

Complication

Being loyal to this process prevents us from organising Academic Training lectures at short notice. For example, when good lecturers are at CERN for other reasons. Also, when *strategic* decisions require in depth understanding of the elements at hand, in a fully documented scientific evaluation, not just in meetings. Some of the lectures series will correspond to true mini-courses on a subject of current interest. Going beyond the standard three-hour presentation length.

Proposal

We are asking for CERN top-level management agreement to *extend* the amount of lectures organised per Academic Year as follows:

- The spring questionnaire will list both *specific* lecture abstracts and *domains* of science and technology. The voting results will show trends in the audience interest.
- The ATC members will prepare a lectures' schedule with a lecture series per month, as now, but will be able to add/swap/replace topics based on priorities and lecturers' availabilities.
- The room and recording booking will be permanent to ease the administrative effort.

