

Report from the LSC Council meeting

Peter Saulson

- 0) Change from LIGO Thesis Prize to GWIC Thesis Prize
- 1) Votes on applications for membership
 - » UMass (Cadonati)
 - » Eotvos University (Frei)
 - » Northwestern (Shahriar)
 - » Montana State (Cornish)
- 2) Vote on blind injection challenge
- 3) Discussion of proposal to start data sharing with Virgo on 18 May 2007.

Stan Whitcomb reported on the new GWIC Thesis Prize. He proposed that we discontinue the separate LIGO Thesis Prize, and instead nominate our strong students for this prestigious honor. He also suggested that we ask GWIC to consider our one previous winner of the LIGO Thesis Prize, Rana Adhikari, as having won the equivalent of the GWIC Thesis Prize.

By a show of hands, the Council approved this proposal.

Votes on candidates for LSC membership

The applications of the Eotvos University, UMass, and Montana State groups were approved by secret ballot.

The Council declined to accept the application of Shahriar from Northwestern University. Instead, he is encouraged to discuss his ideas more extensively with LSC members, and is invited to submit another application for membership at a future time.

We congratulate the successful applicants, and welcome them to the LSC.

The Council discussed the proposed blind injection challenge, as presented by Rai Weiss, chair of the Detection Committee.

By a show of hands, the Council approved the proposal.

The joint Data Analysis Council and the joint Run Planning Committee presented the following motion:

"The LSC Council endorses the implementation of the data sharing provisions of our agreement with Virgo, starting on 18 May 2007. We look with favor on exchanges of data before then, for technical purposes.

The Council asks the joint Run Planning Committee to meet intensively in the coming weeks, and to present at the May Collaboration meeting a set of options for joint running of the Virgo, GEO, and LIGO interferometers over the next few years."

After lengthy discussion (first with Virgo guests Benoit Mours and Raffaele Flaminio present, and then after they had left), the Council voted to approve the resolution by a vote of 46-6.

A few final thoughts from the outgoing Spokesperson

It has been a very great honor to have been able to serve as LSC Spokesperson for the past four years. I thank everyone for their kind words last night.

We can all be very proud of our accomplishments.

As we look back, I think it is incumbent on the LSC to recognize the remarkably skillful and generous leadership provided by the LIGO Lab. We are only here today because of its efforts and the support of its wise leadership.

Barry Barish, Gary Sanders, Stan Whitcomb, and now Jay Marx and Albert Lazzarini deserve our heartfelt gratitude.

Together, and now in partnership with Virgo, we will continue to accomplish great things.