MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
RESEARCH COMMITTEE
held on
Monday, 6 February 2012
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:
Jacques Fleuriot (Chair), Jon Oberlander (for SR), Mike O’Boyle, Stratis Viglas, Chris Williams, Julie Young, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Attending: Carolyn Brock

Absent: Jane Hillston, Steve Renals, Alan Smaill, Julie Young, Sethu Vijayakumar

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1 – Approval of Minutes of meeting of previous meeting
The Minutes of the meeting of 16 January 2012 were adopted without correction.

Item 2 – Matters arising (from meeting of 3 October 2011)
Discussion on remit and membership of Research Committee

Action
DR to find out about the availability of the information ERI compiles between schools, etc; ongoing

Item 2 – Matters arising (from meeting of 7 November 2011)
EPSRC Proposals: “National Importance” as a primary assessment criterion (Papers A & B)

Action
JF to contact Stephen Gilmore for feedback from EPSRC meeting; judged by reviewers (completed).
JF to ask Bob Fisher about college level plans; completed

Discussion and agreement on process for peer reviewing of research proposals (Paper C)

JO has circulated document. CW advised some concerns were raised. It was agreed that the process should be characterised as a code of practice rather than “Policy”. May be referred to if necessary but PI is ultimately responsible. Feedback is encouraged and suggestions would be welcome.

Action
DR to add paper (Code of Practice) to website, JO to provide cover text; ongoing
Discussion and agreement on plans for workshops on writing for researchers (Paper D)

Final workshop is most relevant as it is associated with a publication.

Action
JO to send handouts to JF and provide info on publication; ongoing
Further Action
JO to talk to Victoria Adams and ask her to supply a rubric for each handout
JO to talk to Victoria Adams re further workshop re area of impact

Item 2 – Matters arising (from meeting of 16 January 2012)

EPSRC commitment plan for grants over the Delivery Plan period 2011/12 – 2014/15
This appears to be ‘flat cash’ but there is a distortion as apportionment is different from previously. Text seems to imply ‘renewal’ of Doctoral Training Centres in 2013/14. DR is meeting with EPSRC.

Action
DR will ask for clarification

Actioned
(DR talked with Liam Blackwell and indications are that there will be lower funding for DTC and it is important to get the ‘landscaping straight’) Informatics “Research Success” stories
Bob Fisher would like to exchange information through a College research committee. Agreed that JY will gather notable information monthly from PM’s to be relayed to the secretary of the research committee, therefore a recurring administrative task.

Action
JY to gather notable information for future meetings

Actioned
Further Action
DR to mail Academics to talk to DoIs re early career/established career and DR to copy JY who will forward to PMs

Item 3- College’s Pathways to Impact activity (Carolyn Brock, Impact Manager, ERI)

Carolyn introduced herself and explained her present position. She emphasised that she is a resource for Informatics with applications and talked about generic activities such as best practice, real examples from grants, research materials on the web, engagement with industry, national importance as a primary criterion and pathways to impact statements as a secondary criterion for EPSRC grants. It was indicated that there would be three to four workshops on writing pathways to impact statements. The materials should be ready at end of February/early March and the workshops at the end of April/May. It is important to exploit the (College-level) creative writer in residence.

Action
JO to send guidance document to Carolyn
Item 4- Report on recent Informatics Research Successes (Paper A)

The Committee were asked to review the list of Informatics Research Successes and select a few which should be on the list that will be sent to College. Selected were AspeKT (Colin Adams), JISC (Ewan Klein), Epigene Informatics (G. Schweikert), Machine learning approaches to epigenomic research (G. Schweikert), Network of Excellence (Mob). It was noted that the Austin Tate “Machine learning and adaptation of domain models …” has been approved by EPSRC but that funding beyond the first 3 months is contingent upon an industrial collaboration agreement being signed.

Action

MOB to send information on his success to JY

Item 5- Any other business

a) Wenfei Fan is on the next panel which meets in March.

Action

JF to query Wenfei

b) Discussion about TICs – becoming catapults; will crystallize quickly; physical centres; themes are digital economy (1st one, end of February), future cities and transport; executive centre with CEO for each; small group and it will have partnerships; partnerships can be bid for; open call and Informatics can express interest; John Murray is a potential transport catapult

Possibilities from Informatics:
    Mahesh – mobile networks (MOB to tell Mahesh)
    JO – connection to transport

c) Two post docs (Chris Geib and Myroslava Dzikovska) are representing Informatics on a College Committee.

d) MOB is giving a talk in Birmingham on 19 March 2012 (multicore).

e) Michael Rovatsos on behalf of the Informatics, Gudmund Grov (representing Informatics RAs), Jim Bednar (for the DTC), and possibly Charles Sutton are involved with the EPSRC Working Together event on 21 March in Birmingham. Michael will report on Working Together at the 2 April meeting of the Research Committee. The Centre for Systems Biology did not put forward any representative.

Action

JF to ask Charles Sutton if he is going and ask Michale Rovatsos to co-ordinate

f) Peter Buneman is the ‘Awards Czar’.

g) There was discussion about the Leverhulme Trust; less than 75% is to go to DR and Liz Elliot for approval.
Item 6 – Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 5 March 2012, at 12:00 pm in the Turing Room.