MINUTES OF MEETING of the RESEARCH COMMITTEE held on Monday, 2 April 2012 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Turing Room

Present:
Jacques Fleuriot (Chair), Jane Hillston, Jon Oberlander (for SR), Mike O’Boyle, Alan Smaill, Chris Williams, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Apologies:
Dave Robertson, Julie Young

Attending: Michael Rovatsos

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1 – Approval of Minutes of meeting of previous meeting
The Minutes of the meeting of 5 March 2012 were approved.

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)
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 6 February 2012)

Any other business
a)  Wenfei Fan is on the next panel which meets in March.
    Action
    JF to query Wenfei
    Actioned (National Importance was not treated as a primary criterion)
    Further Action
    The panel meets the week of 5 March so JF will get an update from Wenfei
    Actioned

a)  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.
    Further Action
    Michael Rovatsos will co-ordinate with Charles Sutton, Jim Bednar and Gudmund
    Grov and will report at the next meeting of the Research Committee
    Actioned

Item 2 – Matters arising (from meeting of 5 March 2012)

EPSRC Healthcare Technologies IRC pre-call (Paper A)
DR reviewed his meeting with Jonathan Seckl and discussion followed about the IRC
pre-call and the possibility of Informatics producing precise technical ideas. As the
next meeting with Jonathan is on 8 March at 2:30 pm, it was decided that those
interested would send DR brief details of their ideas prior to this deadline.
    Action
    Sethu will undertake imaging, decision making and delivery; Chris will undertake
    monitoring with Sethu; MOB will speak with Mahesh; those interested will look at
    large data
    Actioned (Sethu met with Jonathan Seckl et al; UoE is putting in a bid)
    Action
    All interested – email ideas to DR prior to 8 March, 2:30 pm
    Actioned

RCUK Research Outcomes system (ROS) Return
There was discussion as to who still had to enter outputs of Research Councils UK
(RCUK) funded projects that have ended since April 2006. JF indicated that Tamise
Totterdell will help those who still need to upload outputs. Tamise will require the
information prior to the deadline of 23 March. The subsets need to be clearly
indicated so there is no confusion with the REF system or any other ouputs that are
not related to RCUK grants.
    Action
    JF to check as to what constitutes “output”
    Actioned (“outputs” are workshops, etc)
    Action
    JF to check with Alan Bundy/Stratis Viglas as to status of PURE
Further Action

JF will speak to Stephen Gilmore re PURE; JF will speak to Stratis Viglas re Informatics Knowledge Management.

Report on recent Informatics research successes (Paper B)
Successes selected were:

DR, Leonid Libkin/Wenfei Fan and Austin Tate

Action
DR will send paragraph to JY
Actioned

Action
JY will get paragraphs from each of Leonid/Wenfei and Austin Tate
Actioned

Any other business
a) Liam Blackwell
DR stated that Liam Blackwell (EPSRC ICT Lead) will visit Informatics in May. It was suggested that it should be a strategic discussion and could be a possible tie-in with the Edinburgh visit that Kedar Pandya (EPSRC Engineering Lead) plans to make. Additional discussion included collaborations with others (e.g. Engineering), updating the previous strategy document and sending it to Liam prior to the visit. It was decided that interested parties should write half to one page that contains the idea, who is involved, and why it should be important to EPSRC.

Action
DoI to give half/one page to JF by Monday, 26 March
Actioned

Action
JF to circulate pages to Research Committee prior to next meeting
Actioned

b) Memorandum of Understanding (Japan)
SV indicated that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the National Institute of Informatics in Japan. There is internal funding for PhDs and PostDocs; each institute can apply for three per year.

Action
SV to circulate the list to the Research Committee
Actioned

d) Synergy Grant
SV put in a proposal for the Synergy Grant.

Action
JY will find out how many people there were from Informatics (there are two)
Actioned

Item 3 – Report on the EPSRC “working Together” event held in Birmingham (Paper A, M. Rovatsos)

MR highlighted various points in the report and this was followed by discussion including: ICT think there is redundancy and have indicated that they want people to work together more; expectations are for networks of excellence where all streams could benefit from each other and work together for mutual benefit; both sides need to
do original research; EPSRC’s view of working together is based on seven dimensions; the initial call is to get people talking; the timeline is call in early May, close in mid July, panel in November and funding decisions in December so people should apply immediately; “working together” will be part of every fellowship application.

Liam Blackwell will visit Informatics on 20 June and it is anticipated that discussion will be about working together and the fellowships.

**Action**

JF to ask JY about the status of fellowship applications

**Item 4 – Discussion of DTC pre-proposals (Papers already circulated)**

Included in the overall discussion about the pre-proposals were: possible combinations (commonalities and distinguishing parts), identifying areas where there is not already an incumbent, assistance from the College of Medicine re Bio-medical and Informatics, comments/input from EPSRC, strengths of Informatics, areas of strength across institutes, the number funded, should they be highly specialised, what are EPSRC theme areas, timescale for ideas (June?) and actual proposals, strategy document

**Action**

JF to ask Jim Bednar about overall picture of DTCs

**Action**

JF to ask for outline for correctness and verification

**Action**

Groups to produce overview document with one person having the authoring responsibility. Groups will be co-ordinated by: CW (data), MOB (responsible person for group), JH (to talk to Jim Bednar), AS (correctness and verification). Updated documents to be sent to JF one week before next meeting

**Action**

JF to discuss with DR a strategy document to be sent to LB by end of May

**Action**

DR to compare what we have now and identify any opportunities that have been missed

**Item 5 – Report on recent Informatics research successes (Paper B)**

**Action**

JF will ask Nigel Goddard for a paragraph which he will pass to Bob Fisher
Item 6 – Any other business

a) TSB Connected Digital Economy Catapult
Correspondence from Mark Parsons via Colin Adams. Different themes: healthcare and informatics, processor architecture, the creative side (eg large scale broadcasters, Disney), additional ideas?

**Action**
All – Colin wants articulation of material and information for the Catapult by Wednesday, 4 April

b) Panels

**Action**
JF will email research staff to ask them to email JF when they have been on panels

Item 7 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 7 May 2012, 12:00 pm in the Turing Room.