MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
RESEARCH COMMITTEE
held on
Monday, 7 May 2012
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:
Jacques Fleuriot (Chair), Jane Hillston, Jon Oberlander, Steve Renals, Alan Smaill,
Sethu Vijayakumar, Chris Williams, Julie Young, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Apologies:
Dave Robertson

Attending: Jim Bednar

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1 – Approval of Minutes of meeting of previous meeting
The Minutes of the meeting of 2 April 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
couraged and suggestions would be welcome.

Action
DR to add paper (Code of Practice) to website, JO to provide cover text; ongoing
Actioned (JO emailed Liz Elliot and JF)
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
(JO spoke to Victoria Adams and she will do something)

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

**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 outputs that are not related to RCUK grants.

**Action**
JF to check with Alan Bundy/Stratis Viglas as to status of PURE
*Actioned* (consultation phase)

**Further Action**
JF will speak to Stephen Gilmore re PURE; JF will speak to Stratis Viglas re Informatics Knowledge Management.
*Actioned* (JF sent email to Stratis)

**Action**
JF to arrange meeting with Stratis

**Item 2 – Matters arising (from meeting of 2 April 2012)**

**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
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
Actioned

Action
JF to ask for outline for correctness and verification
Actioned

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
Actioned

Action
JF to discuss with DR a strategy document to be sent to LB by end of May
Actioned (JF will circulate document)

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

Action
(DR sent a list of extra topics that could be discussed when EPSRC visits)

Report on recent Informatics research successes (Paper B)

Action
JF will ask Nigel Goddard for a paragraph which he will pass to Bob Fisher
Actioned

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
Actioned
a) Panels

**Action**

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

**Actioned** (over 20 responses)

**Action**

JF will send reminder and will collate responses

**Item 3 – Report on Science Festival and Late/Lab (Jon Oberlander)**

Included in JO’s report on the Science Festival and Late/Lab were:

Sethu Vijayakumar and DK Arvind were involved in the National Museums of Scotland InMotion exhibit with the dancing Nao robots (BBC TV and online coverage).

LateLab, sited in Inspace was "a creative, social and participatory programme for adults where they can make, do and interact with art, science and technology." (1,000 people over twelve nights).

Inspace hosted The Stitch Lounge, Electric Bookshop and Dialogues, special Science Festival offerings on music and dance technologies, and on food science, as well as T100 (prize giving for our TwitTest schools contest, led by Chris Speed and Jon Oberlander - Stephen Fry donated celebrity tweets for the competition), Upgrade! (DK Arvind, Ram Ramamoorthy, and Design Informatics artists in residence ~ in the fields), and Encounters (featuring colleagues from PPLS and ECA, along with Richard Wiseman).

JO commented that arrangements seemed more effective and less disruptive than in previous years' hosting of the adults talks series in the Forum - thanks to the excellent new deputy director of the Science Festival, Amanda Tyndall.

**Item 4 – Discussion of CDT pre-proposals (Papers CDT 1 and CD 2, etc)**

Jim Bednar talked about DTCs/CDTs: what it’s like to run a DTC; the various groupings and councils; preparing bids; hands on/active programme; coherent programme; lots of student issues; need for very strong faculty members in the DTC area and big pool of supervisors; need to work together at all levels; commonality in area; shared courses.

Calls for new DTCs (Expected dates: Call out in February 2013/Closing June 2013/Announcements in October 2013); EPSRC is expected to fund around 60 DTCs. Existing successful DTCs will have a slight advantage because of the recognised start-up costs. Landscape does not officially apply to DTC. EPSRC are interested in us telling them our priorities.

**Action**

JF to ask Dave about balance re DTG

**Action**

JB to circulate document as to how DTC were evaluated
There was discussion about engagement with industry, etc; the need for an industry/user group; the community of interest; companies to host interns. It was determined that entrepreneurship can apply to any of our DTC bids; Keith Edwards is a contact for this (Design Informatics).

The various DTC pre-proposal documents were discussed:

CDT 1
Possibly a little too broad; include the provenance aspect; need to include information about infrastructure, number of faculty, relevant course work that one would expect people to take.

CDT 2
Intellectual excitement is there but there is an issue about sufficient personnel; need more LFCS people (e.g. to incorporate concurrency aspects).

Action
JF to query Murray Cole (cc to MOB) re the comment about concurrency

CDT 3
Not clear who would be the PI on a renewal of the DTC; D. Willshaw is retiring and there are no obvious Professors in this area to replace him (though Barbara Webb and Douglas Armstrong could be possibilities). Topics covered by this DTC have moved away from software systems and into health-related areas such as brain imaging, and so a collaborative approach will be needed.

CDT 4
Focus too narrow? Obvious area for Informatics; lots of good people; could be a problem finding courses at MSc level. Document needs more work; make links more explicit. Should give proposal a new title. Explore links to security. What about biological verification techniques?

We need to make a good case for the DTC.

Action
All – One paragraph summary for Dave (for EPSRC meeting) by 21 May at latest

Action
All – Updated CDT proposals to be sent to JF one week before next meeting (4 June)

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

Action
JY will ask Miles Osborne for a paragraph

Success stories are needed in advance of the next meeting so that they are sent to College on time.
Item 6 – Any other business

a) Outreach
Jon Oberlander is the outreach liaising person.

b) Dux Awards
Informatics is representing the College of Science and Engineering and hosting the Dux Awards (top school students visiting a Russell Group University) 22, 25 June 2012 - workshops involving Informatics, Law, and Medicine.

c) Royal Society Summer Exhibition
Ram Ramamoorthy is participating in the Royal Society Summer Exhibition, a week long event.

d) Kedar Pandya, possible visit
It was suggested that DR write to Kedar Pandya and invite him to visit Informatics at the same time as the visit of Liam Blackwell (20 June).

Action
DR will contact Kedar Pandya

e) Sabbaticals
It was noted that Chris Williams and Jon Oberlander will be on sabbatical in 2012-2013 and that Chris will not be leading CDT1, if we go ahead with it.

Item 7 Date of next meeting
The date of the next meeting is Monday, 11 June 2012, 12:00 pm in the Turing Room.