MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
RESEARCH COMMITTEE
held on
Monday, 3 September 2012
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:
Jacques Fleuriot (Chair), Jim Bednar, Liz Elliot, Nigel Goddard, Jane Hillston, Dave Robertson, Tamise Totterdell, Sethu Vijayakumar, Chris Williams, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Apologies:  Mike O’Boyle, Alan Smaill, Steve Renals

Attending:  David Aspinall, Andy Gordon, Neil McGillivray

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1 – Approval of Minutes of meeting of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting of 11 June 2012 were approved as corrected (Page 4, item 3 ‘Data Intensive Computing’ should read ‘data’; Page 4, item 4 ‘HoS’ should read ‘Hols’).

Item 2 – Matters arising (from meeting of 3 October 2011)

Discussion on remit and membership of Research Committee

Item 2 - Matters arising (from meeting of 7 May 2012)

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

**Action**

JF to ask Dave about balance re DTG

**Actioned** (about 50/50 DTA versus proposed CDT)

---

**Item 2 - Matters arising (from meeting of 7 May 2012)**

**Item 3 – Discussion of CDT pre-proposals (Papers CDT2, A)**

At present, there are CDT pre-proposals from Neuroinformatics, Multi-core Research, Data Intensive Computing, Verification and Concurrency, Social Computation and, possibly, Synthetic Biology. It was suggested that there could be one slide per person.

**Action**

JF to email DR re format for CDT part of EPSRC visit

**Actioned**

**Action**

AS will update his pre-proposal and send it to JF

**Actioned**

Paper A was discussed (including not subject based, cross disciplinary, number of courses, timing, University event in late August 2012, the number of CDTs across EPSRC and in ICT).

**Action**

CW to send Paper A to Neuroinformatics

**Actioned**

**Action**

JF to send Paper A to Vincent Danos

**Actioned**

**Item 5 – Discussion of EPSRC visit**

Notwithstanding that we want to give information to Liam (CDTs, significant investments with industry that are not necessarily via EPSRC), it is important to obtain feedback from Liam. We need a strategy document from DR. It is imperative that nothing falls through the cracks so Paper A would be a good check list during the visit.

**Action**

JF to ask DR for direction as to what he (DR) would like re asserting the research

**Actioned**

**Item 6 – Report on recent Informatics research successes (Paper B)**

It was suggested that the report should be more inclusive (eg best papers, awards, etc). It was decided that best paper and award announcements, etc. should be sent to the Level offices for forwarding to JY

**Action**

MOB – to send announcement of award for academic to JY

**Actioned**
ITEM 7 – Any other business
There was none.

ITEM 2 – MATTERS ARISING
There were none.

ITEM 3 – SUMMARY OF INFORMATICS PLANS REGARDING A CYBER-SECURITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN AUTOMATIC PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND VERIFICATION (DAVID ASPINALL)

David Aspinall reported on GCHQ funding: call for funding in mid-July; proposals due in one month’s time; separate projects; about 550K-1M to fund 3-6 of those; looking for host institution; reserve of 10% for hosting institution for running quarterly meetings and managing other research partners; must win project to be host. Discussion included: strong industrial backing; possible partners; McAfee, Contemplate; other applicants; source of datasets; mobile applications can draw on 10 years of security expertise. Andy Gordon is also involved in the Informatics proposal.

ITEM 4 – UPDATE ON THE CYBER-SECURITY CDT (ANDY GORDON)

Andy Gordon gave an update on the current situation. Chris Johnson of Glasgow is heading up the multi-site Scottish bid (Glasgow, Aberdeen, St Andrews, Edinburgh and Napier); distributed CDT; a few studentships per university; unique sociological side. Andy Gordon mentioned that he was currently uncertain about the prospects for this Scottish consortium.

ITEM 5 – UPDATE ON THE OTHER INFORMATICS PRE-PROPOSALS FOR CDTs

There was discussion about the CDT event run by Bob Fisher; Programming Languages CDT; work involved; who does the work; need for a figurehead. It may be appropriate to merge the three CDTs.

Action
DR to speak with MOB, Murray Cole and Alan Smaill

Action
JH to speak to Stratis

CW offered to form a team to look at the Data CDT prior to the end of December 2012 but is going on sabbatical in January 2013 so could only be the figurehead.

The Synthetic Biology CDT proposal is not going ahead.

There was discussion about the Neuroinformatics-related DTC. JB has a meeting scheduled for 28 November with stakeholders where they hope to identify willing
leaders. It was determined that ‘no leader(s)’ = ‘no bid’, which also applies to other CDT proposals.

SV provided an update on Robotics: There will be a meeting with David Willetts at the beginning of September. There is a possible CDT bid; desire to share expertise across the board (Oxford, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt); Masters in one institute/PhD in another; pockets of strength, driven by BIS; Sethu will be a partner but not lead it.

Sethu talked about apprenticeships with companies; problem driven degrees.

**ITEM 6 – TRAINING AND BOARD OF STUDIES IMPLICATIONS OF CDTs (NEIL McGILLIVRAY)**

Neil spoke of the implications of the content and structure of individual bids and the fit or otherwise with the shape of current training and assessments. Discussions included: a requirement to engage with BoS; people who can assist with workshops; use of existing courses; delivery and creation of new courses; need evidence that we have thought of training to develop courses; timeline of call in February, bids June and results in November 2013.

There was also a discussion about the possibility of introducing a 4-year PhD programme option. There would be a need for concerted action across College in order to make a strong case to the University, if there is a consensus about the need for such an option.

**ITEM 7 – RESEARCH OUTPUT REPORTING (LIZ ELLIOT)**

EE reported that RCUK wants to know about outputs. This is politically mandatory. PURE is to be used to report (key findings and impact summaries), not ROS.

**Action**

EE to email DoIs re UK outputs; institute specific breakdown

**ITEM 8 – DISCUSSION OF INFORMATICS PUBLICATIONS REPOSITORIES**

There was discussion about the repositories and what works and doesn’t work.

**Action**

JF to find out why the local portal to submit technical reports is not working

**Action**

JF to find out if the portal can work with PURE
ITEM 9 – REPORT ON RECENT INFORMATICS RESEARCH SUCCESSES (PAPER A)

Success stories selected were Matthias Henning, Guido Sanguinetti, Michael Rovatsos, Vittorio Ferrari, Jane Hillston, and Stratis Viglas.

Action
EE to forward details to College (via Julie Young)

ITEM 10 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion about various proposals:

• Digital Healthcare IC (24 not through; six through including Informatics; probably five chosen).

• Knowledge and Innovation Community (75% funding locally and 25% in knowledge transfer).

• Finland – possible opportunities.

• Co-location node for ICT KIC

• Research leader workshop

   Action
   All – send names to JF

• NII International Internship programme – PhD students funding

   Action
   Sethu – to JF for circulation to HoIs

Item 11 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 1 October 2012, 12:00 pm in the Turing Room.