MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
RESEARCH COMMITTEE
held on
Monday, 11 June 2012
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:
Jacques Fleuriot (Chair), Jon Oberlander (for Steve Renals), Mike O’Boyle, Alan Smaill, Stratis Viglas (for Jane Hillston), Chris Williams, Julie Young, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Apologies:
Jane Hillston, Steve Renals, Dave Robertson

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1 – Approval of Minutes of meeting of previous meeting
The Minutes of the meeting of 7 May 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 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)
Actioned (to be discussed at next meeting)

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 arrange meeting with Stratis

**Actioned**

**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

**Actioned**

**Any other business**

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

**Actioned**

**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

**Action**

JB to circulate document as to how DTC were evaluated

**Actioned**

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 CDT bids; Keith Edwards is a contact for this (Design Informatics).

The various CDT 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

**Actioned**

**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

**Actioned**

**Action**

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

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

Action
JY will ask Miles Osborne for a paragraph
Actioned

Success stories are needed in advance of the next meeting so that they are sent to College on time.

Item 6 – Any other business
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
Actioned (Kedar Pandya is unable to attend)

ITEM 3 – DISCUSSION OF CDT PRE-PROPOSALS (Papers CDT 2, 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
Action
AS will update his pre-proposal and send it to JF

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
Action
JF to send Paper A to Vincent Danos

ITEM 4 – DISCUSSION OF FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS (Paper already circulated)

The application list was reviewed. It was suggested that HoS should identify good candidates and either speak with them personally or during PGR.
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

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

ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

ITEM 8 – NEXT MEETING DATE

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 3 September 2012, 12:00 pm in the Turing Room.