## Research Committee Minutes

**12pm, 7th September 2016, Turing Room, Informatics Forum**

**Attendees:** Jane Hillston (Chair), David Aspinal, Chris Banks, Murray Cole, Jon Oberlander, Don Sannella, Amos Storkey, Barbara Webb, Martin Wright, Julie Young, Anda Nicolson (secretary)

**Apologies:** Nigel Goddard, Johanna Moore, Steve Renals, Michael Rovatsos, Pim Totterdell

### Summary

<table>
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<th>ACTION</th>
<th>1. Approval of previous minutes</th>
<th>Minutes from the meeting held on 30th May 2016 were approved.</th>
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<td>1. Matters Arising from previous meeting</td>
<td>1. GCRF Funding. Action from last meeting against NG to speak with Colin Adams around engagement with UNICEF. <strong>Action:</strong> JH to speak with NG for an update on this action, with a view to NG potentially speaking at the upcoming GCRF workshop.</td>
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<td>2. Points for information</td>
<td>1. A GCRF workshop will be held on 19th September in the Forum, focussing on the November deadline for the EPSRC call. 2. Research lunches will be held monthly and will have a different theme each month, the first being Research Data Management. People will also be invited to talk about their recent grant successes to share not only success but best practice. 3. European Funding Team. Angela Noble has moved on to a new role. Anything that had previously been sent to her should now be sent to Alan Kennedy.</td>
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<td>2. Items for information</td>
<td>1. Research KPIs 2015/16 We have secured £12.4m in grants against £11.5m in the previous year, but this is from 53 applications against 39 in the previous year. This shows that the average grant value has fallen. There are concerns that the pipeline is lower than 12 months ago. Last year we did see some large awards for CDTs, programme grants and significant fellowships, which could explain this. A breakdown of applications by institute should be available by the next meeting of this committee.</td>
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<td>2. Success stories</td>
<td>The success stories paper covers the summer period. Three successes have been submitted to College: • Simon King’s Enrich project, total award of €546,575 • Amos Storkey’s H2020 grant, total award of £469,570 • Charles Sutton’s EPSRC grant, total award of £383,408</td>
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<td>2. Open access statistics</td>
<td>The statistics for our compliance with the UoE open access policy are good. We are performing well in comparison to other schools.</td>
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<td>3. Research planning and the role of Institutes/DoIs</td>
<td>JH has asked for detail on the grant portfolio of each institute to help with planning of future grant applications. This would help to identify synergies between institutes</td>
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and reduce duplicated effort, potentially triaging applications at institute level where there are likely to be a large volume of applications from the School as was seen with the recent Royal Academy of Engineering Fellowship applications.

Dols can help to identify potential rising stars in their institutes who could be coached to successful applications for fellowships. A fellowship workshop will be held later this year to help to facilitate this approach.

JO reported on meetings held in ILCC in 2015, where an “institute PDR” was held to consider areas of strength and weakness in the institute. They held a meeting with all academic and research staff in June and in October followed this up with a meeting of the professoriate to use the outputs to drive forward planning activities. They also held a grant writing workshop in April with a focus on EPSRC as their grant income from EPSRC has been declining. JO highlighted the value of targeted activities such as this for the institute and the School as a whole.

4. **Process for the 2017/18 Research Plan**

MJW discussed the intention for a single-issue meeting to be held on 28th September at 12pm to review the Research section of the current School Plan. The outputs of this meeting will feed into the draft School Plan for the coming year which will then be presented to this committee at our next meeting.

MJW will also need to be informed of any highlights for the Research section of the plan. **Action:** Dols to send any highlights from their Institute to MJW.

The current recruitment priorities show a focus on interdisciplinary posts. We will be informed this month about the funding being released by College for new hires, with further funding likely to be released in early 2017.

In comments submitted by email by MR highlighted the breadth of research activity in the School and suggested that this be explicitly mentioned in the Plan. He also suggested that we look to cultivate the relationship between Informatics and the new DTI.

5. **REF preparation**

The Stern Review indicated possible changes to the process for the next REF. We anticipate that these will be confirmed by the end of 2016 with consultation process and final information in 2017, but this is speculative. We anticipate more visibility in the next REF for interdisciplinary work, and environmental narrative and some impact case studies to be largely handled at the institutional level.

The Research Lunch on 24th October will be led by Steve Renals and will brief attendees on the REF plan.

Work is being undertaken to identify potential Impact cases.

JH proposed that each institute should nominate a champion for Impact within their institute. They should maintain awareness of work which could have Impact and create a one-page document for each potential impact case study which has links to relevant papers. **Action:** SR to speak to Dols about REF and provide support and mentoring.

6. **Relationship with EPCC**
We are keen as a School to broaden and strengthen our relationship with EPCC. Their focus in the past has been on high-performance computing, whereas they are now focussing more closely on high-performance data analytics. There are also opportunities to work with them on data centres, cloud computing and security.

Mark Parsons from EPCC will talk at the Research Lunch scheduled for 28th November.

There has been a proposal to hold a “speed dating” session for EPCC and Informatics staff to allow an exchange of information about what each area does. **Action:** Dols to send JH a list of possible attendees.  
**Action:** MC to organise this event alongside JH. This event would be held in December, following Mark Parsons speaking at the November Research Lunch.

| 7. | **ACE CSR – Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research**  
The application for this is a REF-like process which is evidence-based. We need to have five academic staff for the application and ten PhDs who have completed as well as ten who are ongoing. This has been problematic as we have trouble securing strong PhD candidates in the field as there is a lack of reliable funding.  
There are opportunities for us to do more in this area. We could have a broader reach if different institutes looked at security in more depth – it is mainly being done in LFCS at the moment. In addition, clearer advertising of available studentships and topics relating to cyber security and privacy would increase visibility and drive interest. |
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| 8. | **Any other business**  
**Grant applications**  
These are generally peer-reviewed but it was suggested that this could be formalised with the introduction of a peer review panel, staffed by volunteers. **Action:** To be added to the agenda for the next meeting. |
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| 9. | **Date of next meeting**  
12pm Wednesday November 2016, Turing Room |