MINUTES OF MEETING of the RESEARCH COMMITTEE held on Monday, 5 November 2012 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Turing Room

Present: Jacques Fleuriot (Chair), Liz Elliot, Nigel Goddard, Jane Hillston, Neil McGillivray, Mike O’Boyle, Steve Renals, Alan Smaill, Tamise Totterdell, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Visiting: Stuart Anderson, Barbara Webb

Apologies: Dave Robertson

AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 1 – Approval of Minutes of meeting of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting of 3 September 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

Passed to LE for Action

Actioned (no longer available; new system is being set up which will allow similar information to become available in future via HoS and DoResearch)

ITEM 2 - Matters arising (from meeting of 3 September 2012)

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; ongoing

Actioned (JF spoke with Tim Colles; it’s unclear to the COs why the system is broken)

Action

JF to find out if the portal can work with PURE; ongoing

Actioned

Passed to LE for Further Action

LE to speak with Alastair Scobie with a view to possibly drafting a project paper
ITEM 2 - Matters arising (from meeting of 1 October 2012)

Item 3 – Digital Healthcare CDT plans (Stuart Anderson, Paper A)

SA is currently working on a proposal but was unable to attend the meeting to provide his report. This item is carried forward to the next meeting when more information should be available regarding funding.

Action
SA to provide report at next meeting

Actioned

Item 4 – Update on other CDT plans

MOB - reported that Murray Cole is willing to lead the bid. MOB is willing to put himself forward as Director if no other volunteers come forward. Heriot Watt has approached ICSA (Signal Processing) but this has been declined.

SV – not in attendance; plans not clear.

Action
SV to provide update at next meeting

Actioned (SV is not involved at present)

AS – working on pre-proposal and will report back at the next meeting

Action
AS to provide update at next meeting

Actioned

Item 5 - Teaching and PGR training implications of grant proposals (Paper B)

Michael Rovatsos, Deputy Director of Teaching, put forward a proposal for discussion by the committee.

He proposes that the approval process for any grant that is submitted through Informatics contains the following information:

- Does the proposal involve any formal teaching or research training components? YES/NO
- If the answer is YES, do you have approval from Head of Teaching and/or Head of Graduate School that these elements of the proposal have been appropriately designed and resourced? YES/NO

The aim is to help address potential problems whereby students arrive with an unsupported expectation of participation in a programme of study. If there is a teaching aspect then Board of Studies would have to approve. It was agreed that it would be sensible to raise awareness at the proposal stage although it was likely to have limited effect. It was stressed that Portfolio Managers should not have responsibility for this information.

Action
LE to talk to Michael Rovatsos, ERI and Portfolio Managers with a view to including tick boxes on the IRG forms

Actioned
JH proposed that it would be helpful to offer training to new academic staff to advise ways in which Portfolio Managers can provide assistance.

**Action**  
LE to investigate  
**Actioned** (light touch induction will be channelled via Athena Swan)

**Item – 6** Short discussion on outcome documents for workshops on “Writing for Researchers” (Paper C)

JF invited suggestions for utilising the materials produced by this workshop.

NM suggested that the slides may be useful to students. Alex Lascarides, Deputy Director of the Graduate School, is working with Neil Brown to set up a repository for this type of resource.

**Action**  
JF to send material to NM to check suitability for this repository  
**Actioned**

**Item 7 – Report on recent Informatics research successes (Paper D)**

It was requested that publication of information relating to the following was put on hold, to be discussed further at the next meeting:

- Christophe Dubach, Early Career Faculty Honour Award (Intel)  
- James Cheney, Research Support (AFOSR/EOARD)  

**Action**  
To be discussed at next meeting  
**Actioned**

Approval was given for:

- Peggy Series, NARSAD Young Investigator Award (Brain and Behaviour Research Foundations)  
- Nigel Goddard, Research in the Wild (EPSRC)

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

**ITEM 3 – DIGITAL HEALTHCARE CDT PLANS (Stuart Anderson, Paper A)**

Stuart Anderson reported on the status of the Digital Health Centre for Doctoral Training and responded to questions and comments from the Committee.

**ITEM 4 – NEUROINFORMATICS DTC CONTINUATION PLANS (Barbara Webb)**

BW discussed the proposal (ie., an extension of Informatics DTC which builds on the strengths of the present DTC; leverage on excellent reviews from EPSRC; connects with a number of EPSRC areas; keep direction open; align to EPSRC bid; possibly bring in Engineering a little more; involve databases; involve ICSA?; robotics and skills gap are
possible negatives). Still to be decided is who will lead and what it should look like. BW will coordinate with Sethu. Extra data is needed.

**ITEM 5 – UPDATE ON OTHER CDT PLANS**

AS presented the proposal for a Pervasive Parallelism DTC. There are strategic implications; priority area of EPSRC; appears to be lots of activity around this.

**Action**

JF to invite Sethu to present his proposal to the Research Committee; proposal needs to engage with teaching and training

**Action**

JF to invite Chris Williams to present his proposal to the Research Committee

**Action**

JF to contact Jon Oberlander for an update on Design Informatics proposal

**ITEM 6 – CDT BID STRUCTURES (Paper B)**

Neil McGillivray presented a paper on CDT Bid Structures which indicated that the bids should conform to the structure from the Board of Studies.

**ITEM 7 - ADMIN SUPPORT FOR CDT BIDS (Nigel Goddard)**

NG questioned the availability of Admin Support for the CDT bids. LE explained that there would be a paper going to Strategy Committee about Admin Support.

**ITEM 8 – FORMAT AND PRESENTATION OF THE SCHOOL RESEARCH INSTITUTE WEBSITES (Neil McGillivray)**

Neil McGillivray indicated that ILCC has a good structure. The Grad School links to ILCC and LFCS and it was suggested that this should be done for the other Institutes.

**ITEM 9 – REPORT ON RECENT INFORMATICS RESEARCH SUCCESSES (Paper C)**

Success stories selected were those for Christophe Dubach and Vincent Danos.

**Action**

LE to advise College (via Julie Young)

**ITEM 10 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

JF reported that there is a MOD call for Future Digital Systems which closes on 6 December 2012.
ITEM 11 – Date of Next Meeting

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