MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
RESEARCH COMMITTEE
held on
Monday, 3 March 2014
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:
Jacques Fleuriot (Chair), Murray Cole (for Mike O’Boyle), Elizabeth Elliot, Nigel Goddard, Marcus Guhe, Jane Hillston, Steve Renals, Alan Smaill, Tamise Totterdell, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Attending: Stephen Gilmore

Apologies: Neil McGillivray, Jon Oberlander, Mike O’Boyle, Dave Robertson, Sethu Vijayakumar

AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 1 – Approval of Minutes of previous meeting
The Minutes of the meeting of 13 January 2014 were approved.

ITEM 2 – Matters arising (from meeting of 4 November 2013)
New action on DR to act via College Research Committee to regularize ECDF funding.

Action
DR via College
Actioned

ITEM 2 – Matters arising (from meeting of 2 December 2013)

Item 4 – Management of confidential data
SOA paper circulated prior to meeting. The committee supported set up of a small working group for more thorough consideration of the issues. Group to report back to Research Committee.

Action
SOA/JF on working group formation

Item 5 – H2020 Preparations
BF will circulate ‘ideal’ person specification for ERC fellowship (starter, consolidator). JEH volunteered informal advice on ERC Advanced fellowship drafts.

BF highlighted Industrial Support topic – noting that requirement that such are industry led should not prevent Informatics from flagging to relevant industry links.

Also discussion on Societal Challenges pillar; 2014 and 2015 topics already announced, 600-800 range. BF already done preliminary mapping but this analysis will be refined.
ITEM 2 – Matters arising (from meeting of 13 January 2014)

Item 3 – Recruitment of EPSRC Strategy Advisory Bodies (Steve Renals)
There was discussion about the Strategy Advisory Bodies and nominations/self-nominations for the various panels. It was thought that Dave is on the ICT SAT panel.

Action
SV to speak with DR re nomination request for Engineering
Actioned

Action
SR to speak with Mike Fourman re Digital Economy Advisory Group
Actioned

Item 4 – Discussion on Standard Charges added to grant proposals (Paper A, Jane Hillston)
After discussion it was determined that the School should contribute as much as possible so that the grant is ‘balanced’.

Action
EE to speak with DR re the School’s contribution then email answer to Committee
Actioned (approved by Strategy Committee)

Item 5 – Report on recent informatics research successes (Paper B)
Discussion of options as per Paper A

Action
EE to verify with DR the background to the EK grant
Actioned

Action
EE to inform College
Actioned

Item 6 – Any other business
PURE
There was clarification about the status of PURE in relation to staff profiles.

Action
TT will resend the PURE instruction email
Actioned (to LFCS; to every this week)
ITEM 3 – Discussion regarding REF 2020

a) REF 2013
Stephen Gilmore presented an outline of the best aspects and biggest problems of the REF. Pointers included understanding the jargon, large amount of paperwork, receiving inconsistent advice, requirement for fact checking, fact checking for impact case studies, definition of an excellent 100 word statement, staff engagement with the process, timeliness of staff responses, inadequate and superficial reviews, lack of plan/vision, benefits of a small team.

Action
SG to circulate sides to Committee

b) REF 2020
SG said that it is not too soon to begin preparation for REF 2020 and that a REF czar should be appointed in the very near future.

Action
EE to talk to DR and Johanna Moore about academic staffing

ITEM 4 – Update on research data management project

The University has a data management policy. At the moment individuals can only pool half of their space. It is expected that it will devolve to the School and Institutes. There was discussion about data management plans in research grant proposals. The roll out of the data store for Informatics is over the summer. There will be data management training for PGR students.

Action
TT to ask the Data Management Policy contact person to attend the next Research Committee meeting

Action
EE to ask Alastair Scobie to attend the next Research Committee meeting

ITEM 5 – Report on recent informatics research successes (Paper A)

There was discussion of options as to Paper A.

Action
EE to inform College
ITEM 6 – Any other business

a) ECDF funding
EE reported that there will be a working group to revise the charging model for ECDF

b) 3D printer
There was a question about the School purchasing a 3D printer. It was reported that such a printer is on the IPAB wish list.

c) Data projectors
There are problems with the data projectors in 4.31/4.33 and MF2.

Action
EE will speak with the technicians

Action
JH to ask for new projector in MF2 and for technicians to look at wiring (put in a ticket)

d) Horizon 2020
Switzerland is a non-associated country so there is no EU funding.

ITEM 7 – Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday, 7 April 2014, 12:00 pm in the Turing Room.