Agenda

• Introduction
  – Welcome to new staff
    Johanna

• Admissions
  – Student admissions 2018/19 – PGR
    Nigel
  – Student Admissions 2018/19 – UG and PGT
    Stuart

• Teaching and student support
  – Student support
    Stuart
  – Allocation of duties
    Stuart

• Research and REF update
  – Research News
    Jane
  – Mock REF
    Jane
  – CDT (Centres for Doctoral Training) bids
    Jane

• Building projects
  – Bayes Centre occupancy plans
    Jane
  – Informatics Forum – further works
    Jane
  – Appleton Tower – tutorial rooms and teaching studio
    Neil

• Jane Hillston
  Jane

• School Jamboree
  Jane
New staff

Johanna
New academic staff - 2017/18 starts

• Visiting Professor Ursula Martin 1 Jan
• Senior Lecturer in Security and Privacy Vassilis Zikas 3 Jan
• Senior Lecturer in Security and Privacy Markulf Kohlweiss 8 Jan
• Reader in Business Applications of Informatics Tiejun Ma 1 Feb
• Senior Laboratory Manager Robin Hill 1 Mar
• Reader in AI & Human Machine Collaboration Kobi Gal 30 Mar
• Lecturer in Biological Informatics Ian Simpson 30 Mar
• Image and Vision Computing Laura Seville Lara 1 Sep
New support staff

- Senior Secretary (PA to Head of School) Lorna Adams 1 Nov
- Research Data Officer Victoria Lindstrom 5 Jan
- IGS-Recruitment Administrator April Cunliffe 5 Jan
- Finance Administrator (IV) Magdalena Mazurczak 8 Jan
- Marketing & Comms Manager (IV) Jane Kennedy 8 Jan
- Business Development Executive Cristian Novotny 22 Jan
- Chief Data Technologist (Bayes) Jasmina Lazic 1 Feb
- Student Support Officer Katey Lee 1 Feb
- Student Support Officer Karen Davidson 5 Feb
- Learning Technologist Alex Burford 5 Feb
# New support staff

- **Business Development Manager (Bayes)**  Simon Marr  12 Feb
- **Teaching Organisation Administrator (PGT)**  Sam Stewart  1 Mar
- **Secretary (School Office)**  Angela Sturniolo  15 Mar
- **Senior Administrative Secretary (BTL)**  Colette McColl  19 Mar
- **Facilities Supervisor**  Carol Marini  1 Apr
- **Senior Data Scientist**  Sohan Seth  2 Apr
- **Teaching Organisation Administrator (Y3)**  Lisa Branney  2 Apr
- **Institute Admin Secretary (Level 4)**  Belinda Hough  12 Apr
- **ECR Administrator**  Ashley Harper  16 Apr
- **CDT Administrator PPar**  Ekaterina Churkina  23 Apr
Student Admissions – PGR

Nigel
Funding and Scholarships

• Increased School PGR funding for 2018-19
• Modest additional funding from NPIF likely

• Two new PhD scholarships introduced this year
  – Enlightenment Scholarship
  – Informatics Global PhD Scholarship

• Existing scholarship streams continuing
  – Principals Career Development (PCDS)
  – Edinburgh Global (EGRS)
  – IGS partial scholarships (funding top-ups)
  – EPSRC Doctoral Training Awards
Application status

• Applications up 17%, compared to same point last year
• Improving gender balance
  – 25% increase in PhD applications from women
  – 14% increase in PhD applications from men
• Shift in geographical location of applicants
  – 9% reduction in applications from EU/EEA
  – 8% increase in overseas (non-EU/EEA) applications
  – 1.4% increase in UK applications
• Expecting to exceed 2017-18 recruitment by 5-10% for 2018-19
  – Offers of admission currently underway
  – Many more offers to make
  – Bayes expected to relieve pressure on PGR desk space
Student Admissions – UGT

Stuart
Undergraduate Applications

Line Chart - Applications (YTD)

Applications

2,500

2,000

1,500

1,000

500

0

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23 25 27 29 31 33 35 37 39 41 43 45

Departments

2016

2017

2018
## Undergraduate Admissions

### Table 1 - Decisions by Gender

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<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Replies</th>
<th>Pending/Outstanding</th>
<th>Decline/Unsuccessful</th>
<th>Cancelled/Withdrawn</th>
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### Table 3 - Decisions by Domicile

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Student Admissions – PGT

Stuart
Current State

![Graph showing applications, offers, UFs, and enrolments for All Subjects - Informatics over different entry sessions from 2013/4 to 2018/9.](image-url)
Year to Date

All Subjects - Informatics
Gender - All, Fee Status - All, In year to 20 Mar

- Applications
- Offers
- UFs
- Enrolments

Count


Entry Session
Student Support

Stuart
Student Support Coordinators

• Appointed February:
  – Karen Davidson
  – Katey Lee

• Redesigning student support mechanisms
  – Transition (widening participation)
  – Pastoral care
  – Developing – responsibilities clearer as we redesign processes
  – Some issues because SC and Extensions are being redesigned and the final design
National Student Survey

NSS 2018 response rate by School
Week 6

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<th>Current response rate</th>
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Allocation of duties

Stuart
Allocation

- Provisional allocation done for all course with over 70 students – confirming this week.
- Consider allocation to smaller courses this week and will contact staff.
- We have considerable more resource this academic year than last.
- Allocation is sensitive to class sizes
- We are considering project supervision loads
- Looking at redesigning the specification and recruitment process for TAs, Tutors, Demonstrators and Markers
- Considering how to extend course administration for large classes
Strike Impact on Examinations

• University Guidance:
  – How will my courses be assessed if any of my lectures/seminars/tutorials/laboratory sessions etc are cancelled?
  • Where scheduled teaching time is cancelled, steps will be taken to ensure that subsequent assessment for the affected courses (e.g. coursework, exams) does not address topics or issues which would have been covered by the missed teaching.
  • Boards of Examiners who make decisions regarding your performance will be aware of any impact the industrial action has had upon your learning, assessment and feedback, and will be able to take this into account when deciding upon your course results.
Research and REF Update

Jane
Research News

• Ian Simpson has taken on the role of Deputy Director of Research.

• Chris Williams will take over the role of Director of Research from 1\textsuperscript{st} August 2018.

• EPSRC are visiting today – please attend the open staff forum this afternoon 1:30-2:30 to find out more about EPSRC future plans.

• Research Day will take place on Tuesday 24\textsuperscript{th} April.

• We continue to be very successful in research funding applications – please keep up the good work.
Mock REF

Jane
Mock REF

• Mock REF exercise will take place April – June 2018
• All academic staff with >20% contract and research staff at grade 8 or above are eligible
• All eligible staff are asked to submit 6 papers for consideration by the internal panel.
• The internal panel must select one paper per eligible member of staff + (1.5 x eligible staff additional papers)
• Additionally we will be preparing 12 impact case studies for assessment
• Deadline for submission (inc. 100 words): 30th April.
• We will have workshops at Research Day on preparing 100 word statements and impact case studies
CDT bids

Jane
CDT bids

- Original EPSRC call had deadline of 13\textsuperscript{th} March
- We submitted 4 outline bids: PPar-SESS, DSAI, RAS, CSP
- Additional RCUK AI call announced in early February with deadline 29\textsuperscript{th} March
- We will submit NLP and AI for Biomedicine
- DSAI has been transferred by EPSRC to the UKRI call
- We expect to know the outcome of the outline proposals in May with the deadline for full proposals in July.
- Thanks to everyone who helped (is helping) submitted this large number of competitive bids
Bayes occupancy

Jane
Bayes occupancy

- Occupancy end August 2018? - (possibly phased)
- Robotics – ground floor and level 1
- Wolfson Wing level 1 extension – PGR desks and Design Informatics offices
- Bayes level 2 – EPCC
- Bayes level 3 – Grad School, CDTs, Commercialisation (inc Informatics Ventures)
- Bayes level 4 – Data Lab and commercial tenants
- Bayes level 5 – Mathematics and ICMS
- Semester 2 - 2018/19 – Design Informatics move into extended former ‘InSpace’ (ground floor – Wolfson Wing)
Informatics Forum

Jane
Informatics Forum works

- All academic staff in (smaller) ‘type c’ offices for AY 2019/20
- Remaining ‘3for2’ conversions (east corridor L1 and L5)
- Other conversions on L2 and L3 (south corridors)
- IF2.33 reinstated as a meeting room with new A-V kit
- New additional A-V meeting rooms (2.02, 3.13, 4.13, 5.13)
- Acoustic ‘Skype’ meeting pods being investigated
- Retro-fit of sound proofing to some existing academic offices
- New carpet tiles on L1, L2 and L3
Appleton Tower

Neil
Appleton Tower: Update and planned works
Level 4

Convert existing 5 ‘flip desk’ tutorial rooms into updated desktop PC’s
Level 5 North Lab

Similar to the space on level 1 mezzanine AT
Level 5, 5.01 and South West Lab

South West lab to be same at North lab

5.01 to have nodal chairs and AV installed
Level 9 Study Suite

- DICE machines installed
- Artwork on North wall
- Students very satisfied

All staff cards access the space to go and have a look
Appleton Tower

- Level 9 now in use
  - UG4/5 independent study suite (PGT after Sem 2)
  - A-V meeting room (AT9.01)
- A-V installation in AT3.09 still to be done
- Summer 2018 works
  - Level 4 tutorial rooms – furniture renewal (and AT5.01)
  - Level 5 North Lab (AT5.04) – teaching studio reconfiguration (and possibly AT5.07)
  - Level 6 – new furniture installation (add centre aisle)
Jane Hillston
The adventure begins....

• I am honoured to be taking on the role of Head of School with effect from 1st August.
• Transition arrangements.
• I believe that we are fortunate to have such a wealth of opportunities.
• We cannot pursue them all, and I believe it is crucial to work with all of you to make wise decisions.
• I hope to see everyone have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.
School Jamboree

Jane
School Jamboree 2018

When? - Friday, 13th April from midday till late

Where? - Ground floor of the Informatics Forum: the Atrium, Cafe Area, G07, George Square Gardens

How do I attend? - Feel free to visit the stalls in the Atrium. For some of the other events, you will have to register.
School Jamboree 2018 – Programme (tbc)

- Silent disco
- Board games tables
- Bake competition
- Swing dance class provided by Informatics Swing Dancers
- Meet the alpacas (George Square Gardens) brought to you by Bowbridge Alpacas:
- Pub quiz with our quiz master, Neil Brown
- Ceilidh -music provided by the fantastic Science Ceilidh Band
School Jamboree 2018 – Calling for:

**Musicians:** we are trying to set up an Informatics band. Currently we have a fiddler and a drummer/bass player.

**Helpers:** we will need people to give us a hand with registrations, bake competition, crowd control for visiting alpacas and demos we'd like to present in the Atrium throughout the day

**Contact**
If you have any questions or are interested in helping us on the day, please get in touch with the Comms Team: [infcomms@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:infcomms@inf.ed.ac.uk)