

Strategy Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 27th June 2018



Attendees: Jane Hillston (Chair), Stuart Anderson, Murray Cole, Kousha Etessami, Jacques Fleuriot, Vashti Galpin, John McAleese (for Jim Ashe), Nigel Topham, Martin Wright, Lorna Adams (secretary).

Apologies: Johanna D Moore, Nigel Goddard, Frank Keller, Jim Ashe, Barbara Webb

	Summary	ACTION
1.	PREVIOUS MEETING	
1.1	Approval of previous meeting minutes Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no changes.	
1.2	<p>Matters arising from previous meeting</p> <p>Allocation of Teaching Duties – SOA is still to circulate the document on the proposed new model. LA to remind SOA to do this.</p> <p>Vacancy for Distance Education Co-ordinator – We still need to fill this role and would be grateful for suggestions from the Committee for a suitable person to take on this role.</p> <p>International student recruitment priorities – JM was to communicate this to Director of Internationalisation. LA will check with JM on her return to find out if that has been done.</p> <p>EPSRC Funded Equipment audit – MW has briefly discussed this with Alastair Scobie and Julie Young, however this is a task that will be undertaken over the summer, when we can dedicate more time to it.</p> <p>Bayes Knowledge Exchange – Meeting took place on 13th June.</p> <p>GDPR online training – Everyone has to complete this by end of this month! JH stressed that SC members should set an example for others.</p>	<p>SOA/LA</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>JM</p> <p>ALL</p>
2.	HEAD OF SCHOOL'S BUSINESS	
2.1	Report from Head of School In JM's absence, JH and MW provided an update as follows.	
2.2	<p>The City Deal</p> <p>JH gave a brief update on the City Deal, or as it should be now known The Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Region Deal. The deal commits £1.1bn to drive investment and economic growth in the area. A substantial amount of money, i.e. £300m, will be coming to the University with the University also providing match funding. This funding will be utilised to fulfil the aim of making Edinburgh the Data Capital of Europe, by creating world leading data innovation centres. It is expected that this £300m budget will be going into the three buildings, i.e. Usher Institute; Edinburgh Futures Institute and Bayes. We are now trying to find out how we can access some of the funding for projects that will contribute to the achievement of City Deal KPIs.</p> <p>It is anticipated that approximately 100,000 people will be trained in Data Science – these will not all be University students, but which will also include CPD; courses in schools etc.</p>	
2.3	<p>Academic Recruitment Update</p> <p>MW briefly update the Committee on current academic recruitment as below:</p> <p>L in Robotics L in Security and IoT L in Security & Privacy</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mohsen Khadem - SD 1 Nov 2018 Tariq Elahi - SD 1 Aug 2018 Vesselin Velichkov - SD 1 Feb 2019</p>	

	<p>L in Machine Learning & AI L in Database Systems L/SL/R in Computational Biology (run by SBS, will be based in Informatics) Chancellor's Fellow – Digital Technologies Chancellor's Fellow – Robotics University Teacher L/SL Business Application of Informatics Professor of Computer Science</p> <p>MW advised that we will review our recruitment plans at the Strategy Committee meeting on 22nd August.</p> <p>Action: MW will aim to get a paper out to DoI's two or three weeks ahead of the meeting. If they are unable to attend, they are to ensure that they nominate a stand-in and ensure they are fully briefed for the meeting.</p> <p>JH stated that, as we have a few vacant Chair positions, we would like to set up search committees to assist with filling these posts. Given the level of these roles, we want to be strategic in our approach and it would be helpful to have recommendations on who we would want to sound out.</p> <p>2.4 Service Excellence Programme JH reported that the Heads of School within CSE will be meeting with the SEP Programme Director to relay their issues with SEP and the impact it will have on academic staff back to the University. There is a general feeling that the SEP is making judgements without any context or understanding of the impact it will have within Schools.</p>	<p>Offer out Milos Nikolic - SD 1 Sep 2018 Diego Oyarzun - SD 28 Jan 2019 (recruitment run by SBS, will be based in Informatics) Petros Papanagiotou - SD 1 Jan 2019 Yang Cao - SD 1 Sept 2018 Offer out Heather Yorston - SD 1 Aug 2018 Aurora Constantin - SD 1 July 2018 Interviews on 2 + 3 August Ursula Martin - SD 1 July</p> <p>MW / DoI's</p>
<p>3. 3.1 3.1.1 3.1.2</p>	<p>RESEARCH BUSINESS Report from Director of Research</p> <p>The Mock REF exercise is now complete and JH extended her thanks to all who were on panel. We are still working on the Impact Case Studies. We were able to extend our submission deadline with College and these will be submitted by Monday 2nd July. JH advised that she was very proud of the fact that this exercise has shown that there is a lot of great research taking place in the School.</p> <p>Steve Renals will provide individual feedback in due course.</p> <p>Future Leader Fellowships (FLS) – These are new research fellowships, which are provided on tapered funding over a period of seven years and are initially fully funded by UKRI. At the end of the fellowship, it is expected that those appointed will be eligible to apply for permanent positions.</p> <p>College were over ambitious with the number of applicants they submitted, with only a small amount being accepted - the initial round only awarded 50 fellowships. A further round in the autumn has been announced, so those who did not go in this time, could be submitted during this next round. However, there has been push back on this plan from all the Schools to College, as there are more people who are interested in applying. It has been suggested that a selection panel should be convened to identify suitable candidates to apply for the FLS.</p>	

3.1.3	<p>These are highly prestigious fellowships and we need more senior academic staff to think about how we best approach this exercise.</p> <p>The next round of CDT bids is currently ongoing and, if successful, will mean that we will have a very full student cohort - we will be submitting four. We anticipate that half of next round of bids will be funded, across the whole portfolio. JH also advised that if you are not involved in a CDT bid, you may be called upon to be on the UKRI/EPSRC selection panel.</p>	
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p>TEACHING BUSINESS</p> <p>Report from Direct of Teaching</p> <p>SOA gave a brief verbal update as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have now hired 1½ University teachers – One of whom is more maths focussed and will be able to help with the first year transition. - Graduate apprenticeships – This is going ahead and we are starting to recruit to this course, which is due to start this autumn. SOA stated that, given the short lead-in, there are concerns about uptake for the first cohort. - ITO reorganisation – SOA advised that the intention is to align ITO with the revised academic teaching and learning management structures. This is still at a very early stage and SOA will update this committee in due course. - The new lecture capture system will operate on an opt-out basis. There is a feeling that the new tools are a bit clunky and it remains to be seen if this will make the process any easier. <p>Industry Academic Advisory Board</p> <p>The Dols were requested to provided suitable nominations for this board. SOA has produced a draft list and will recirculate to all Dols. It is intended that the Board would meet twice a year, in November and May, and will concentrate on three key areas, i.e. research, teaching, commercialisation.</p>	SOA
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p>GRADUATE SCHOOL BUSINESS</p> <p>Report from Director of Graduate School</p> <p>NT reported that there are still a few applications arriving, even though there is usually a lull at this time of year. He also advised that we are seeing a lot of applicants applying in-year who are getting a place within the same year.</p>	
<p>6.</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p>COMMERCIALISATION BUSINESS</p> <p>Report from Director of Commercialisation and Industry Engagement</p> <p>John McAleese reported that the WAYRA Accelerator will commence in September, which will be made up of a cohort of entrepreneurs who will be based in Bayes. The wider programme is run by Telefonica and this is the first time it has been run in Scotland. This is a significant achievement for Informatics and Bayes.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</p> <p>JH advised that we have now appointed Dorota Glowacka, as E&D Deputy Director. DG will concentrate on gender issues.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>STRATEGY AND PLANNING</p> <p>No business.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p>	

<p>9.1</p>	<p>Proposal for the Annual Oberlander Memorial Lecture</p> <p>A written report from Robin Hill, who has convened a group to look into memorials to Jon Oberlander, was tabled at the meeting. The group supports hosting a one off commemorative lecture with SICSA, which they would like to coincide with the Bayes opening. JH was keen to stress that this is now quite urgent, particularly as the Bayes opening is imminent and if we are going to invite a speaker, we need to act fast.</p> <p>It was also proposed that there could be an annual, high-profile, public lecture, which could be held in tandem with the Festival or BBC. However, the Strategy Committee felt that this would be a lot to organise and probably not something that we would be able to sustain. However, the SC did feel that hosting a smaller annual lecture, which could be part of Sol's schedule of Distinguished Lectures, would be more appropriate.</p> <p>The SC were in agreement that we need to organise a commemorative event soon, as time is marching on.</p> <p>A further suggestion was to commission a piece of commemorative artwork within the Bayes Centre, which could be paid for by subscription.</p>	
<p>9.2</p>	<p>Migration from Staffmail to Office365 (Paper 9.2)</p> <p>It was reported that the trial of Office365 by the pilot group of JH and SOA, was not a success. SOA has since met with the User Services team, who were responsible for the migration, to share his and JH's feedback of the experience. A further trial, successful, will be required before the School has the confidence to commit to a full migration.</p>	
<p>9.3</p>	<p>Principal's Visit – 20th June 2018 – JH expressed her thanks to everyone that was involved in the visit last week. The Principal seemed to enjoy his visit and was genuinely impressed with Sol, which he considers to be one of the biggest assets of the University of Edinburgh.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 22nd August 2018, 2pm, Turing Room</p>	