School of Informatics

General Meeting

2nd February 2017
Agenda

• Welcome and new staff introductions  Stuart
• School Strategy and Plan 2017-20  Martin
• Workload model revisions  Bjoern
• Staff recruitment update  Stuart
• Appleton Tower update  Martin
• Graduate School update  Bob
• Equality and diversity update  Kami
• Closing remarks  Stuart
Welcome and new staff introductions
Dorota Glowacka
Lecturer in Machine Learning
1 June 2017

Walid Magdy
Lecturer in Multimedia Information Retrieval
28 Oct 16

Benjamin Bach
Lecturer in Design Informatics and Visualisation
10 Apr 17

Ivan Titov
Reader in Natural Language Processing
1 Mar 17

Pramod Bhatotia
Sen Lecturer in Computer Systems Architecture
31 Oct 16
Student Services

- Robert Armitage – Teaching Organisation Secretary
- Alexandra Welsh – Teaching Support Administrator
- Vicky MacTaggart – Studentships and Teaching Support Manager
- Stacey Rudkin – Recruitment Administrator (IGS) 20 Feb

Administration and Research Services

- Nicola Drago-Ferrante – Institute Administrator
- Alistair Hill – Research Data Manager
- Julie Laidlaw – Finance Administrator
Facilities and Technical Services

• Carol Marini – Facilities Secretary

Communications

• Kasia Kokowska – Communications and Outreach Manager
• Ségolène Gallus – Web and Social Media Co-ordinator

Staff transferring from fixed term to open ended contracts

• Carrie McNamee – Portfolio Manager
• Khush Joshi – Finance Administrator
• Samantha Black – Senior Administrative Assistant (HR)
School Strategy and Plan 2017-20
School Strategy and Plan 2017-20

- Refresh of 2016-19 Strategy and Plan
- Explicit recognition of ‘People’ as a key enabler – greater emphasis on staff development
- Addition of separate section for ‘Research Training’ (previously a sub-set of ‘Research’)
- Addition of ‘SMART’ targets
Strategic objectives

• Promote Informatics as a coherent area of academic research, learning and innovation, encompassing the structure, the behaviour, and the interactions of natural and engineered computational systems.

• Further enhance our international leadership role in Informatics, including retaining the leading position in the UK.
Strategic Framework

Strategic priority: Greater Research Excellence

Key enabler: Strategic Engagement and Collaboration

Strategic priority: Demonstrable Impact
Key enabler: Income growth
Key enabler: People

Strategic priority: Enhance Student Experience
Targets (high level)

- Maintain UK leadership in Informatics and Computer Science Research in REF2021.
- Maintain Athena SWAN Silver Award at next renewal in 2020 as part of the School’s commitment to equality and diversity.
- Achieve results higher than the overall University of Edinburgh average in student surveys.
- Increase research funding whilst also increasing the diversity of funding, so that no one funder accounts for more than one third over a three-year rolling average.
- Increase the number and scope of strategic engagements with academic collaborators, industry, third sector and public sector bodies.
Revision of the Teaching and Admin Workload Model
Motivation and Goals

• **No significant change** to current approach – time or points based systems rejected

• Objective is **fairness** and **transparency**

• Needed updating to address **increased student cohorts** and changes to course **credit point values**

• Main updates are additional **clarifications**, rather than changes to model
Guiding Principles

- **Collective responsibility** of the body of academic staff to carry the teaching and admin load

- All academic staff contribute to *both teaching and admin*

- Duty allocation will be undertaken in a *fair* and *transparent* manner

- Staff with exceptionally heavy or light research loads may have their duty allocation adjusted to *compensate* accordingly

- ...
Transparency

- Honours and Masters **project supervision** are now recorded as duties in Theon.

- **New Theon report** summarises all teaching and admin duties for each member of staff with ‘notes’ field to explain variances – increases transparency.
Some details

- 20 credit points, two tutorials, Honours & MSc projects, Personal Tutor - Numbers may vary

- Project supervision by RAs doesn’t count towards PIs load

- Staff may adjust the balance between responsibility for tutorial groups, personal tutoring and project supervision, providing that an equivalent overall load is maintained

- A minimum of four hours per year of recruitment or outreach activity

- One medium load admin duty or two lesser load admin duties

- Staff undertaking heavy admin roles may be granted relief from some other duties
References

• Teaching and admin workload model:
  http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/admin/allocation-duties/policy-teaching-workload-model

• Combined Theon duties report:
  https://portal.theon.inf.ed.ac.uk/reports/duties/now/TP261_Duties_By_Person.shtml
Staff recruitment update
Previously approved posts

- Chair in Computer Science (LFCS) – re-advertised (closed)
- L/SL/R in Algorithms and Complexity (LFCS) – advertised (closed)
- L/SL/R in Image and Vision (IPAB) – re-advertised
- L/SL/R in Security and Privacy (LFCS) – advertised
- Senior Data Scientist – 2016/17 plan (on hold)
Interdisciplinary posts

- L/SL/R Human-Robot Interaction (IPAB/ILCC) - advertised
- L/SL/R Data Science for Life Sciences (ANC) - advertised
- L/SL/R Artificial Intelligence and Human-Machine Collaboration (CISA/ILCC) - advertised

New additional posts

- L/SL/R Artificial Intelligence (CISA) - advertised
- L/SL/R Systems for the Internet of Things (ICSA) – advertised
- SL/R in Business Applications of Informatics – advertised
- Chair in Software Engineering (LFCS) – approved by Court
- L/SL/R in Software Engineering (LFCS) – on hold pending Chair appointment
School Plan 2017/18
(subject to affordability and approval by College)

• L/SL/R Medical Imaging Analysis (IPAB)
• L/SL/R Hardware and Systems for Security and Privacy (ICSA)
• L/SL/R Human-Centric Artificial Intelligence (CISA)
• L/SL/R Post-Moore Computing (ICSA)
• Plus four additional unspecified L/SL/R posts
• Seven additional support posts

School Plan 2018/19
(subject to affordability and approval by College)

• Eight additional unspecified L/SL/R posts
• Three additional support posts
Appleton Tower update
Appleton internal works project

- £2.6m project approved by December 2016 Estates Committee
- Non-competitive procurement through existing contractor
- Start on site March 2017
- Phased handover – August to September 2017 (priority to teaching floors)
- Level five excluded from project to provide continuity of access to computer labs for Masters students
- Planned level five refurbishment in summer 2018
- It’s a tight schedule!!!
Appleton internal works project

• Improvements to student independent study and social areas
• LED screens in all tutorial rooms
• New 85 seat computer lab on level 6
• Enlarged Robotics lab on level 3
• Informatics Student Services moves to level six with new ‘shop front’ service desk
• Additional tutorial rooms/practical labs and meeting facilities on level 7
• Business incubators return to level 8
• New independent study suite on level 9
Level 9 – student independent study suite
Level 9 – student independent study suite
Graduate School update
Overview

- Numbers by institute
- Recruitment
- Completion statistics
- Training: VOX, SciComp
- Activities: Firbush, student families, pizza, ceilidh?
- Monitoring & Tier 4 Students
# PGR numbers by Institute

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<th>Institute</th>
<th>MScR</th>
<th>Y1</th>
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<th>Y3</th>
<th>Y4</th>
<th>Y5+</th>
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<td>54</td>
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Plus: 39 submitted and 8 interrupted

Total: 273
Recruitment 2017/18

- In progress
- More School funding available
- Expect about the same numbers (maybe a few more?)
Completion statistics by month

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<th>Month</th>
<th>≤36</th>
<th>37-42</th>
<th>43-48</th>
<th>49-54</th>
<th>55-60</th>
<th>61+</th>
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<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
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58% inside census period (month 48)

Two sad submissions at month 49

No news about penalty regime
Training

- VOX public speaking and engagement (May)
- Scientific Computing (May)
- Institute for Academic Development (continuous - c6 courses already this year)
Activities

• Firbush in autumn
• Student families welcome event (beer + pizza)
• Ceilidh (probably soon)
• Remind students about EUSA Societies and Sports
Monitoring and Tier 4 students

- Monthly monitoring: going well! Thanks!
- Leave of Absence: needed if student leaves Edinburgh for more than a few days
- From initial to final submission: still a student – needs monitoring, ≤20 hours paid work per week
- After final submission: not student, consult with International Office
- Open issue: internships
Equality and diversity update
Equality and diversity

• Athena Swan Silver renewal approved
• 24 February event to celebrate the renewal success
• New blog: blog.inf.ed.ac.uk/equalityanddiversity
• New library of equality and diversity books