

Minutes of the ICCS/HCRC Staff Meeting 04 May 2005

Present: Mark Steedman (Chair), Jean Carletta, Claire Grover, Caroline Hastings, Frank Keller, Ewan Klein, Oliver Lemon, Mirella Lapata, Alex Lascarides, Jon Oberlander, Miles Osborne, Steve Renals, Henry Thomson, Bonnie Webber, Weiqun Xu, David Dougal (minutes)

Apologies: John Lee, Fiona McGregor, Johanna Moore, Helen Pain, Keith Stenning

1. Minutes of the previous meeting ([09 March 2005](#))

There were no corrections to the previous minutes

2. PhD Recruitment

It was noted that there seems to be a problem with PhD recruitment this year, especially for ICCS.

Concern was raised that there appears to be a decline in both the number and quality of applicants

Informatics only had one candidate to put forward for ESRC 1+3 (ie MSc and PhD funding). It was thought that ICCS could have had another grant if a suitable candidate had been put forward.

Only two CSTR candidates were selected for ORS by Don Sanella. Only one survived the University-wide selection (they were also awarded a Wolfson Scholarship). No ICCS candidates were selected. For Informatics as a whole there were fewer ORS candidates. It was agreed that the people put forward for ORS funding this year were not as strong as those put forward last year and it was noted that there has been more PhD applications recently, but these were received too late to be able to apply for ORS funding.

As of April 26, there are 54 applications, of which 11 are EU, 5 UK and the rest overseas. Of the UK applicants, the best two originally applied for a CSTR grant.

3. Research Funding

A list of recent [grant submissions and awards](#) can be found by following the link.

B Webber noted that the Wellcome Trust VIP Grants currently had a call out for bridging funds (R Shillcock had a successful application last year). The deadline for applications is Monday 14 March 2005 and the award has to be spent before September 2005.

4. Visitors

Upcoming Visitors:

- Ingmar Steiner (Saarland University) from 01-Jun-05 to 01-Oct-06 (Clark)
- Simon Levy (Washington & Lee University) from 01-Jul-05 to 30-Jun-06 (Steedman)
- Stephen Wan (Macquarie University) from 01-Jul-05 to 30-Sep-05 (Lapata)
- Regina Barzilay (MIT) from 02-Jul-05 to 20-Jul-05 (Lapata)
- Igor Malioutof (MIT) from 02-Jul-05 to 20-Jul-05 (Lapata)
- Kevin Simler (MIT) from 02-Jul-05 to 20-Jul-05 (Lapata)
- Gabriel Saccak (MIT) from 02-Jul-05 to 20-Jul-05 (Lapata)
- Matthew Stone (Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey) from 18-Jul-05 to 31-May-06 (Webber)

It was also noted that Kevin Knight will be coming to IJCAI and so will be around in August

5. AOB

It was noted that Informatics are sending 18 students to ESLI

M Lapata has encouraged a number of students for apply to attend IJCAI

The procedure for funding students to attend workshops and conferences was discussed. It was generally agreed that students should not submit papers unless they already have approval for the travel and associated costs. Students should initially approach their advisor, who should see whether they could pay for the trip from their own funds. If the advisor does not have such funds available then the student and advisor can then approach the Graduate School and as a last resort the advisor can approach the institute, although students should be made aware that this money comes from extremely limited institute funds. In the situation where students say that they will fund the trip themselves, advisors should make sure that the student is aware of how much it will realistically cost them, and there should not be a subsequent approach for institutional funding. All applications for institute funding for students must come via the advisor. It was also noted

that if there are two comparable workshops/conferences, then the one which is easier to get to should be favoured.

6. Date of next meeting

The next ICCS/HCRC staff meeting will take place on Wednesday 8th June at 12:30pm. Note that meetings will take place on a monthly basis unless it is felt that insufficient items on the agenda, although they are likely to be less frequent over the summer period. More information about past and future meetings can be found [here](#).

Minutes by David Dougal

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