Minutes of ILCC/HCRC Staff Meeting

Friday 26th September, 3.30pm.

Attendance
Steve Renals (Chair), Johanna Moore, Caroline Hastings, Rob Clark, Lexi Birch, Ron Petrick, Robin Hill, Mirella Lapata, Mark Steedman, Alex Lascarides, Colin Matheson, Henry Thomson, Matthew Aylett, Sharon Goldwater, Maria Wolters, Simon King, Shay Cohen, Bonnie Webber, Korin Richmond, Kira Mourao, Vasilis Karaiskos, Matthias Huck, Lea Frermann, Chris Lucas, Gustav Henter, Ewan Klein, Hiroshi Shimodaira, Anda Nicolson

Apologies were received from Jon Oberlander, Helen Pain and Charles Sutton.

1. Update on school/institute changes

Philipp Koehn has now left, as has Miles Osborne.

Adam Lopez will be joining as the Reader In Machine Translation starting this semester. He will be teaching from January 2015.

Maria MacKenzie will be leaving on October 21st. A six month secondment has been advertised to cover this and this vacancy closes at the end of September.

Appleton Tower upper floors will be closing in summer 2015 for refurbishment.

Seventy more desks are being utilised in the Forum and more desks have been added to visitor rooms. Type B offices are also going to be converted to type C offices in the coming months.

2. Update on grants

ILCC got five projects granted in the first round of H2020, all in Machine Translation. Steve commented that this is linked to the use of open source software, enabling more progress.

Caroline reminded everyone that Portfolio Managers should be given advance notice of any upcoming grant applications.

3. Postgraduate Students

Henry provided an update on the students following the review meeting on 19/9/14. He will be producing a summary report shortly. There are 50 postgraduate students in ILCC at present. As some have still not arrived, there are plans to complete the rapid-fire intros in November.

4. ILCC Research Direction

Discussion of directions that could be expanded, areas we could add focus to and a "wishlist" of research groups. The top two agreed priorities were:

- NLP in a big data context, processing large streams of data (especially since Miles has left)
- Human-robot interaction, taking advantage of the robotarium, etc.

There was also support for HCI/visualization and for ensuring our presence in parsing and semantics remains.

In Linguistics, speech and hearing technology is an agreed future priority.

It was agreed that more internal seminars might also be a good way of sharing knowledge.

5. Any other business

Expected visitors in the coming semester are:

- Reut Tsarfaty (October)
- Merel Scholman (November)
- Fatemeh Torabi Asr (November)

Caroline highlighted that there is £120,000 committed to funding students in 2014/15.

6. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.