
Meeting
IPAB STAFF MEETING

Date
Thursday 16th January 2014

Attendees

(SV) Sethu Vijayakumar
(BF) Bob Fisher
(BW) Barbara Webb
(VF) Vittorio Ferrari
(NM) Neil McGillivray
(MH) Michael Herrmann
(TK) Taku Komura
(EE) Elizabeth Elliot
(DR) David Robertson
(JM) Johanna Moore
(SW) Stephen Ewing
(MN) Magda Nowak – minutes

Apologies

(SR) Subamanian Ramamoorthy

Place
Room 4.02

Time
12:30 – 15:00

Minutes of last meeting

All agreed that the minutes from the last meeting gave a true and accurate account of the discussions that took place.

1. Robotics and Autonomous System CDT:

Issues: timelines, admin roles, HWU interface and next steps forward.

Sethu asked for some help with running of CDT.

Suggestion was for Barbara to take over CDT Directorship on her return from sabbatical (to be clarified and discussed with new HoS) and Michael Hermann to be Deputy Director of CDT, with immediate effect.

Specific roles that were agreed:

Michael Hermann – Deputy Director (RAS CDT)—BoS and coursework approval, all the elements of CDT recruitment

Barbara Webb – CDT Curriculum and help with Graduate School related CDT issues

Ram – to initially help out with all aspects of setting up, liaison and outward facing communication (e. g., webpages) [this was discussed out with the meeting since Ram could not attend]

Heriot Watt has been pushed to make progress with CDT setup. - Dave Robertson prompt to Heriot Watt and Steve McLaughlin.

DR

2. Robotarium:

Issues: Procurement challenges, equipment maintenance and usage.

SV is dealing with multiple companies for procurement; SSJ as well as IP related stuff with help from Vlad. Humanoids procurement is proving tricky due to Google takeover of BDI. Some other procurement going to plan. Action on SV to continue pursuing this with procurement office.

Ram will coordinate overall running of Robotarium. He will/is also dealing with other procurement.

Official Admin Role: Coordinator- Robotarium

3. Teaching:

Ensuring staffing of all core courses (related to 1).

There are courses with no staff for teaching. There were propositions how to fill the gap, one being for a teaching fellow to teach all vision related courses. School of Informatics is able to support teaching and this position could be advertised.

IAR will be suspended. Graphics and Animation course is likely to be suspended for one year unless we find somebody to teach it. Impact on IVR to be discussed.

Overall CDT related course offering to be reviewed.

NM

NM and JM to discuss and come back with some suggestions.

[Update: Since BF has decided to postpone his sabbatical and teach the 10pts worth of R:SS vision element]

4. Sabbaticals: Time-lines and Impact (related to 1 and 3).

Taku Komura – 1 year (2014-15)

Bob Fisher - 1 year (2014-15)

Barbara Webb – 1 year (2014-15)

[Update: RB has decided to postpone sabbatical]

5. New Hires:

Two new academic staff are on chancellor fellowship next year.

Margerita Chli (arriving late March 2014)

Maurice Fallon (arriving Jan 2015)

There was some discussion on how to ease them in to teaching sooner than later with some possibility of credit for teaching earlier offset against lighter load later. DR to discuss with MC and MF.

DR

6. Liaison with Industry: IP, events, PhD sponsorships (related to 1 and 2).

Industry negotiations are ongoing and time consuming. Event being planned

for kickoff of Robotarium and CDT. SE helping out with this and industry liaison. Will update all as things progress.

SE

Date of next meeting

Doodle poll to be circulated to establish date for next meeting late March/April 2014. Another CDT/Robotarium meeting may become necessary.