

Minutes of ICCS/HCRC Staff Meeting

Thursday 03 March at 12.30 pm

Attendance

Steve Renals (Chair), Johanna Moore, Frank Keller, Frederick Max-Lino, Dominique Balharry, Henry Thomson, Chris Geib, Colin Matheson, Jon Oberlander, Hiroshi Shimodaira, Sharon Goldwater, Bea Alex, Myrosia Dzikovska, Ron Petrick, Peter Bell, Simon King, Mark Steedman, Bonnie Webber, Alex Lascarides, Jonathan Kilgour, Rob Clark, Ben Allison, Junichi , Victor Lavrenko, Miles Osborne, Yansong Feng, Micha Elsner, Charles Sutton, Nicola Drago Ferrante

Steve Renals informed the group that there was no formal agenda for the meeting as the main purpose was to discuss how future meetings should be run. It was also reported that whilst we have a much tighter budget this year, we are still able to meet all of our financial commitments.

1. Future Institute Meetings

Steve Renals recommended that institute meetings be held on a more regular basis, and that separate, more specialist meetings could be arranged to discuss issues such as computing.

Henry Thomson raised the issue about the lack of dialogue between staff within the institute. It was felt that more information about current projects or proposals should be more readily available. It was suggested that future meetings could open with 'news items' or a 'round robin' where staff would briefly talk for a couple of minutes about their current projects. This could also help for future collaborations within the institute. A discussion took place and it was agreed that this was a good idea.

2. PhD funding

Steve Renals reported that due to the budget cuts, we are unable to fund PhD students in the way we have previously and that they would need to seek funding from other sources. This also included funding for attendance at conferences. A lengthy discussion took place about where students could find alternative funding. It was felt that more information should be made available locally, in the form of a wiki or local access web page. Sharon Goldwater mentioned that PhDs could act as a student volunteer at conferences, which would give them free entry to some of the talks. Bonnie Webber indicated that students could also apply to funding councils for a 'case scholarship'. These are jointly funded through industry and research councils, and would provide an income of £22,000 over 3 years. It was felt that this is the way forward.

Henry Thomson mentioned that the rules for part time PhDs has changed recently and that it is now more feasible to have a remote PhD as the residency requirement is less strict. Henry has more information regarding this.

Bonnie Webber raised the issue regarding fees for non residential students and mentioned that even if a student is here for less than 6 months, they still have to pay fees.

Action point:

Steve Renals, F Max Lino and Dominique Balharry to discuss details for a local access page on the institute web page.

3. Research grant funding

F Max-Lino reported that since the last ILCC meeting, there had been 54 grant applications made. Of these, the portfolio managers (Dominique Balharry and F Max Lino) had prepared 21 EU applications and 18 were submitted. There had been 19 awards in total.

4. Computing

It was briefly mentioned that there needs to be more information about the role of DICE in the future. Steve suggested arranging a meeting between the institute and computer services to discuss this.

Action point:

Steve Renals to arrange