Minutes of ICSS/HCRC Staff Meeting

Thursday 8th March 2012, 12.30 pm

Attendance
Steve Renals (Chair), Kira Mourao, Chris Geib, Simon King, Fergus McInnes, Hiroshi Shimodaira, Bonnie Webber, Mirella Lapata, Robin Hill, Jon Oberlander, Nathaniel Smith, Henry Thomson, Mark Steedman, Sharon Goldwater, Charles Sutton, Ewan Klein, Victor Lavrenko, Alex Lascarides, Julie Laidlaw, Nicola Drago Ferrante

Apologies: F. Max-Lino, Caroline Hastings, Johanna Moore, Frank Keller, John Lee

1. Minutes of the last meeting
The Minutes of the last meeting were discussed. Steve Renals updated the group regarding point 3 of the Minutes - New Staff/visitors. The main change is that the Informatics policy regarding visitors, which was discussed at the last meeting, is non regulatory. However, all visiting PhD students (not obtaining credits) must pay a fixed fee of £675.

In relation to point 8, Any Other Business, Steve Renals confirmed that the open area on Level 4 of the Forum can be used for casual staff including transcribers.

2. Director's report
Swipe card access to the Dugald Stewart Building has now been activated. To obtain access, staff should email Liz or Dave Hamilton with a 1-2 sentence research justification to explain why they need access. You should also be affiliated with PPLS in some way.

3. Finance report
In the absence of Max, Steve reported that ILCC have been awarded 2 more EPSRC grants. This brings the total to 8, which is very positive compared to 2 years ago.

4. Research news/ opportunities (Steve)
It was reported that the research committee will be meeting next month. The amount of money available for research is expected to drop in 2013; however, there should be more money available for students. EPSRC have placed a high priority on "working together", which seeks to encourage collaboration between research areas in ICT and with other disciplines. A discussion took place as to how this can work in Informatics and an idea was put forward from Mark Steedman who suggested working with the database group.

There will be another visit by the EPSRC, led by Liam Blackwell in June.

There are several changes being made in the EU.

Update since the meeting: The EU reorganisation is announced on the web at
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/information_society/connect_en.htm

5.   Update on PhD applications and selection

Hiroshi reported that ILCC have one candidate (from Cornell) who has been successful for EGR + PCD scholarship and another one as a reserve if the former declines.

PCD – ILCC have no candidates for this

CSC – ILCC have no candidates for this.

SICSA – There will be approximately 5 places available for Edinburgh this year, one or two ILCC students will be short- listed, and the final decision will be made in mid May.

Update since the meeting: The Cornell candidate declined and the reserved student has been offered the funding and has accepted it.

6.   Update on Chancellor's Fellowships (Frank)

Frank Keller informed that group that there are 18 people on the short list. Talks have already started. The panel consists of Frank Keller, Mark Van Rossum, Jane Hilston and Sethu Vijayakumar.

7.   Any Other Business

Nathaniel Smith was welcomed to the Institute.

Sharon Goldwater Informed the group that REF would be the topic for discussion at the next strategy meeting on 16th March.

Bonnie Webber reminded the group about the Turing events on 10th and 11th May. There are free events on the Thursday including a panel in the afternoon on Women in Science and Technology in the George Square Theatre. For PhD students, SICSA are financing 50 places for students for the Friday events.

8.   Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting has been set for Wednesday 9th May at 12.30 in 4.31/4.33