

Minutes of ICCS/HCRC Staff Meeting

Wednesday 2nd September at 12.30pm

1. Attendance

Present: Mark Steedman (Chair), Henry Thompson, Chris Geib, Frederick Max-Lino, Caroline Hastings, Claire Grover, Hiroshi Shimodaira, Ron Petrick, Mary-Ellen Foster, Ewan Klein, Steve Renals, Mike Fourman, Bonnie Webber, Colin Mathison, Victor Lavrenko, Frank Keller, Alex Lascarides, Johanna Moore, Jean Carletta, David Dougal, Jenny Burness.

Apologies: Jon Oberlander, Simon King, John Lee

2. Staff Changes

Concerns were raised about high profile staff leaving, such as Oliver Lemon and Keith Stenning, the impending retirement of Mark Steedman and Bonnie Webber and the loss of reputation once these people leave/retire, in particular from positions that are not established Chairs. Mark assured that plans are in place and Mike Fourman added that it is a key strength of the university to keep the recognised high standard profile of the institute. Mark encouraged the members to discuss further what are the research needs and priorities. Alex Lascarides suggested arranging an informal meeting to discuss this. It was noted that advantage should be taken of SICSA Distinguished Visitors in the pursuit of attracting (and keeping) internationally renowned staff

3. HCRC Reunion

Johanna Moore has had a meeting and the proposed date will be in May 2010. People were asked to advise of important dates during May which could make any potential date unsuitable. A list of potential attendees has been formulated and staff were asked to identify interesting people and any errors on the list which was available from Jenny Burness. Bonnie Webber commented that alumni retirees may like to assist – people with particular skills to be highlighted. It was noted that the attendees list should be treated in confidence as there would be an issue with data protection. All people with a connection to HCRC should be considered, not just those in the last 21 years.

4. IDEA Lab

Mike Fourman briefed the meeting on 'IDEA Lab', which builds on foundations of the E-Science Community; and the proposal of an earmarked budget from the sustainability pot to be spent via the IDEA lab Proof-Of-Principle fund. It was noted that a 'bridging the gap' application was currently being prepared to EPSRC for the 16 September.

5. Any other business

Henry Thompson reported on going liaison with PPLS on joint degrees. It was noted that there was difficulty on managing students on joint degrees. And that there is going to be a further meeting to discuss this – if anyone is interested in being involved please let Henry know.

Funding

There was discussion regarding the charts and graphs showing the number of grant applications and the number of successful awards over the past 4 years. It was questioned whether it is worth applying for EPSRC grants, given the low success rate. It was stated that EPSRC bring lots of benefits and give Informatics more money than the EU overall. The group reported that Dave Robertson has been down to EPSRC to discuss anomalies due to EPSRC one-panel system. The group were encouraged to get engaged with applications as early as possible (planning stages and sandpits).

Incoming Students

It was reported that we are expecting 11 new PhD students – 5 of which are CSTR, with applications around the same as last year. 6 potential students declined offers this year. The number of MSc students has increased. ICCS offered more places than last year. It was also noted that there will be more ORS money this year so people are encouraged to put in ORS applications. It was highlighted that every Category A/PI should take on a PhD student.

New Staff

Charles Sutton – Lecturer – although he is not currently associated with ICCS

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 7th October at 12:30pm in 4.31/4.33

Submissions since Apr 2009

- 1) RSE Multiparty Interaction Capture, Analysis & Replay PI:Lincoln submitted Apr-09
- 2) JISC Rapid innovation PI: Lee submitted Apr-09
- 3) Leverhulme Optimising Multimodal Interaction for Personality & Emotion PIs: Hastie, Lemon submitted May-09
- 4) AHRC/EPSRC TROVE:Enriching site interpretation via virtual return of finds PI: Oberlander submitted May-09
- 5) Leverhulme Intelligent Cognitive Assistants for Older People PIs: Wolters, Moore submitted May-09
- 6) AHRC/EPSRC Exploring Heritage of Accents of British Isles thru Technology PIs: King, Renals submitted May-09
- 7) AHRC Acting the fool PI: Wright submitted May-09
- 8) Leverhulme Leverhulme Prize PI: J Yamagishi submitted May-09
- 9) FP7 - EC Architecture of Participation + Collaboration PI: P Koehn submitted Jun-09
- 10) FP7 - EC Platform for online sharing of training data PI:P Koehn submitted Jun-09
- 11) Leverhulme Visual Semantic Representation PI:M Lapata submitted Jun-09
- 12) IARPA Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity - Reynard PIs: Lavrenko, Moore submitted Jun-09
- 13) TSB Is it true - a fact verification system PIs: Lavrenko, Moore, Webber submitted Jun-09
- 14) EPSRC Investigating human speech perception using synthetic speech PIs: King, Mayo submitted Jul-09
- 15) EDINA/JISC Newsfilm OnLine PI: Grover submitted Jul-09
- 16) KTP Momenta Daxtra PI: Grover submitted Aug-09
- 17) ESRC Mid Career Fellowship 'Perceiving synthetic speech' PI: Mayo submitted Aug-09
- 18) ONR Beetle II extn PIs: Moore, Dzikovska submitted Aug-09

Awards since Apr 2009

- 1) Royal Acad Eng Robots @ InSpace PI: Oberlander awarded Jun-09 £29,852
- 2) EPSRC MultimemoHome: Multimodal Reminders Within the Home PI: Renals awarded Jun-09 £295,954
- 3) EDINA/JISC Newsfilm OnLine PI: Grover awarded Aug-09 £28,750