Minutes of ICCS/HCRC Staff Meeting
4th February 2009, 1PM, 4.31/4.33

1. Attendance

Present: Mark Steedman, Bonnie Webber, Colin Matheson, Ron Petrick, Sharon Goldwater, Caroline Hastings, Victor Lavrenko, Henry Thompson, Alex Lascarides, Oliver Lemon, Hiroshi Shimodaira, Simon King, Steve Renals, Jon Oberlander, Claire Grover, Mirella Lapata. Johanna Moore, Philipp Koehn, Mark McConville, Frederick Max-Lino, Mirella Lapata

Apologies: Steve Renals, Helen Pain

2. Minutes/Actions of Last Meeting

Text was prepared for the FP7 briefing London 11th December
Hiroshi Shimodaira is currently in the process of updating the ICCS webpages to reflect the changes to PhD administration and the new monitoring structure.

The minutes of the last meeting were passed.

3. FP7 Luxembourg Debriefing

A separate meeting was held on Thursday 22nd January to discuss the FP7 Meeting which took place in Luxembourg. In summary, it was thought that there was funding for machine translation, particularly delivery of multilingual content on the web, but little else that matches with ICCS's current research interests.

4. Funding opportunities, applications & awards

A list showing submissions and awards since the last meeting was distributed to the meeting (see appendix A)

A call by the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) was discussed. It was noted that a meeting is being held tomorrow (5th February 2009) at 12:30 regarding this call. The TSB used to be part of the DTI and it was thought that they are going to have an increasingly important role in future, although applications to the TSB have to be industry-led.

A JISC funded call in connection with Johns Hopkins, entitled "Digging for Data" was discussed. It was noted that there is a meeting this afternoon with the Digital Curation Centre (DCC).

The meeting discussed a new Digital Economy Call/Sandbox and people are being asked to attend a meeting. This is concerned with how your working space/environment shape the research you are doing.

It was also noted that there is an upcoming call from the European Institute for Technology which is looking for industry focussed hubs with multi-party, multi-country involvements. It was thought that this was more focussed on applications but that there might also be opportunities for research.

5. New Staff & Visitors

New Staff: Jan-09 Ben Allison
      Jan-09 Jingying Chen (ECHOES)
      Mar-09 Amit Dubey
      Mar-09 Christian Woodsend (GLIS)
      Apr-09 Mary Ellen Foster (ECHOES)

Current Visitors: Akira Otani (Osaka Gakuin University)
      Roberto Navigli (University of Rome)
      Mark Buckley (Saarland University)
      Olga Uryupina (Russian Academy of Science)
      Mari-Sanna Paukkeri (Helsinki University of Technology)
      Emily Morgan (The University of Amsterdam)
      Sebastian Germesin – AMIDA Trainee (DFKI)
      Chris Dyer (University of Maryland)

Future Visitors: Alexander Gruenstein (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
      Kurt Krebsbach (Lawrence University)
      Silvia Pareti (University of Pavia)
      Freidrich Faubel (Saarland University)

Max (Frederick Max-Lino) was welcomed to the meeting as the new Institute Manager.

6. AOB

The meeting discussed the upcoming anniversary of HCRC, a date for which is still to be confirmed. It was thought that it would be a good idea to invite Keith Stenning, who has recently retired, to this event.

Ways to encourage student participation in meeting with seminar speakers was discussed. It was decided that students should be encouraged to either arrange joint meetings with the speakers where more than one student is involved, or encouraged to come along for lunch. The meeting decided that, where possible, lunches with the seminar speaker should consist of the speaker, host and some students.

The 3 Colleges are working to position the University to be able to effectively respond from cross-council calls as these are now becoming more common. There will be a series of meetings which are due to be advertised in the near future covering the following topics: Living with Environmental Change; Aging, Health and Wellbeing; Energy; Global Security and Risk. The purpose of these meetings is to find groups around the University that are doing work in these areas so that the University can respond to these calls.

It was noted that the ESRC is reorganising the bulk of it's funding (e.g. 3+1 funding) into what they are terming Doctoral Training Centres (DTC's). 10 outlets are being turned into a DTC, which may be cross-University. There will be a call for this in December 2009.

Further the item on PhD recruitment in the last meeting, the meeting raised concerns about the web pages that students hit when they are looking for a PhD in Informatics. It was thought that the problem is more with EUCLID and that a large number of work-arounds are going on and that this

is taking up lots of time. Staff were also concerned that the research directory web page has not been updated with staff research interests despite repeated emails to the graduate school. It was thought that this would need to be raised at a higher level as it is deemed to be very important for PhD recruitment. It was noted that PhD recruitment is falling and the institute needs to look at why this is happening.

ACTION: Hiroshi to check with Don Sannella how many people have applied and how many have TRIED to apply through EUCLID.

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was discussed that the ICCS/HCRC Staff Meeting should be taking place on a more regular basis. It was agreed that in future, meetings would be scheduled to take place every two months. The next meeting is therefore scheduled to take place at 1pm on Wednesday 1st April.

Appendix A

Submissions since Nov 2008
1. Informatics Digital Economy Applications Laboratory – Idea Lab   Fourman, Williams, McLaughlin, Buneman, Robertson, Glasspool, Moore
2. ESRC: Prediction in Sentence Processing   Keller, Arai
3. EPSRC: Scaling up Statistical Dialogue Systems for real user goals using automatic belief state compression   Lemon
4. EPSRC: Ecologically Valid Evaluation of speech synthesis   King, Fernanda Ferreira, Clark, Mayo
5. ESRC Follow on Fund: Increasing the Impact of Multimodal Annotation Tools – Carletta
6. Royal Society: Helen Hastie Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship   Hastie
7. EU: STREP - LLiD   Lemon
8. Royal Society: Cassie Mayo Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship   Cassie Mayo
9. Royal Society: Newton International Fellowship   Steedman
10. Royal Society: Y Seng Chan Newton International Fellowship   Lapata
11. ESRC Fellowship - F Wilson   Webber

Awards since Nov 2008
1. TXR RDA contract   Roebuck
2. ONR ETUDE Beetle Yr 2   Moore