

Minutes of ICCS/HCRC Staff Meeting

15th April 2009, 1PM, 4.31/4.33

1. Attendance

Present: Ron Petrick, Sharon Goldwater, Caroline Hastings, Henry Thompson, Alex Lascarides, Oliver Lemon, Hiroshi Shimodaira, Steve Renals, Claire Grover, Mirella Lapata, Johanna Moore, Frederick Max-Lino, Mirella Lapata, Miles Osborne, Frank Hotel, Kurt Krebsbach, Mary Ellen Foster, Amit Dubey, Ben Allison, Jean Carletta.

Apologies: Simon King, Victor Lavrenko, Mark Steedman

2. Minutes/Actions of Last Meeting

- HCRC Anniversary: ACTION: David Dougal to schedule a date for this with Johanna Moore
- It was noted that if anybody wanted to know specific figures regarding applications through EUCLID, that they should contact Hiroshi Shimodaira.

The minutes of the last meeting were passed.

3. Review of the Cognitive Science Curriculum

It was suggested that there may be a need to set up a small working party to bring forward a curriculum review of Cognitive Science. It was agreed that ultimately the Board of Studies is responsible for this but it was thought that it would be good to have some involvement in an advisory capacity as there is cross over between both Institutes & Schools including PPLS and IANC.

It was suggested that all those currently teaching courses within the cognitive science curriculum should be invited to participate. Frank Keller, Sharon Goldwater and Johanna Moore expressed interest in being involved.

4. Funding opportunities, applications & awards

Frederick Max-Lino has been sending emails about funding opportunities and the meeting discussed the list showing recent submissions and awards which was distributed to the meeting (see appendix A).

Questions were raised about how the current hit rate for ICCS/HCRC grant proposals compares with previous hit rates. In conversation with Research Grants, it would seem that awards have dropped for Science & Engineering overall. There are concerns that researchers are under pressure to submit more applications but it is not clear whether this will lead to an increased hit rate. It was also noted that the problems with the reduced hit rate don't appear to be unique to ICCS/Edinburgh.

Concerns were also raised over the criterion for becoming ineligible to apply for EPSRC grants. The meeting agreed that it would be good to get clarification on the EPSRC's "three strikes and you are out" system which it believes to be random and unfair.

ACTION: Max to produce statistics showing the hit rate for grant applications over the last 3 years.

5. New Staff & Visitors

New Staff: Apr-09 Mary Ellen Foster
Apr-09 Amit Dubey

Current Visitors: Mari-Sanna Paukkeri (Helsinki University of Technology)
Emily Morgan (The University of Amsterdam)
Sebastian Germesin – AMIDA Trainee (DFKI)
Kurt Krebsbach (Lawrence University)
Silvia Pareti (University of Pavia)
Freidrich Faubel (Saarland University)

Future Visitors: Frank Wood (University College London)
Sayaka Shiota (Nagoya Institute of Technology)
Keiichiro Oura (Nagoya Institute of Technology)
Georgiana Dinu (Saarland University)
Divakaran Govind (Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati)
S. Prasanna (Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati)

Frank Keller introduced Amit Dubey and Ben Allison and Mary Ellen Foster was welcomed back.
Chris Geib introduced Kurt Krebsbach to the meeting.

6. AOB

The meeting discussed the Erasmus Mundus Programme for joint/multiple PhD degrees that we were asked by Saarbrücken to join. It was noted that multiple degrees appear to be easier to set up than joint degrees. ICCS would receive funds from participating in this scheme which could be used to fund our students. One problem is that multiple degrees are less attractive to both us and to the students but it was thought that it might be worth getting involved in the multiple degrees now and then try to set up the joint degree in the future. Bonnie Webber is thought to be dealing with this matter.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place at 1pm on Wednesday 3rd June.

Appendix A

Submissions since Feb-09

1. NIH: MRA grant (Hartswood) Feb-09
2. Personal Adaptive Listeners (PALS) (Moore, Wolters, Dzikovska) Feb-09
3. Bayesian Word Sense Discrimination in Real World Applications (Lapata) Feb-09
4. Audiodidact: self-learning speech recognition (EPSRC follow-on fund) (Renals, Aylett) Feb-09
5. GeoCrossWalk (Grover) Mar-09
6. Audiodidact: self-learning speech recognition (POC) (Renals, Aylett) Mar-09
7. Modelling Intelligent Interaction in Dialogue (Lascarides, Lemon) Mar-09
8. EU: SHADOW (Moore, Dzikovska) Apr-09
9. EU: Peacog (Keller, Koehn) Apr-09
10. EU: surPHER (Koehn) Apr-09
11. EU: Plyglot (Koehn) Apr-09
12. EU: Experience (Steedman, Gieb) Apr-09
13. EU: AHEADIO (Renals, Carletta) Apr-09
14. EU: NECS (Renals, Carletta) Apr-09
15. EU: Help4Mood (Webber, Lemon) Apr-09
16. EU: Organic Machine translation (Osborne, Koehn) Apr-09
17. EU: cObalt (Matheson, Oberlander, Lascarides) Apr-09
18. EU: GRAMPLUS (Steedman) Apr-09
19. EPSRC : Speaking Phonics (Clark, King) Apr-09

Awards since Feb 2009

1. ESRC Probabilistic Logic as a Model of Human semantic Processing (Keller, Dubey) Jan-09
£307,090
2. SE - Scalable development environment for spoken Dialogue systems (Lemon) Jan-09
£9,920
3. EU : EuromatrixPlus - Bringing Machine Translation for European languages to the User (Koehn) Jan-09 £730,345
4. GeoCrossWalk (Grover) Mar-09 £38,684