Minutes of ICCS/HCRC Staff Meeting

Wednesday 02nd of December, 1:00pm

1.   Attendance

Present: Mark Steedman (Chair), Henry Thompson, Frederick Max-Lino, Caroline Hastings, Claire Grover, Hiroshi Shimodaira, Ron Petrick, Simon King, Kate Byrne, Helen Pain, Sharon Goldwater, Steve Renals, Bonnie Webber, Victor Lavrenko, Frank Keller, Alex Lascarides, Jenny Burness, Heather Frentz-Carothers.
Apologies: Jon Oberlander, Colin Mathison, Johanna Moore.

2.   Minutes of previous meeting agreed. There were no matters arising.

3.   State of the 4th floor library

Mark Steedman raised the issue of the 4th floor library. He feels that there needs to be a rationalisation of this facility and that old/out of use publications should be removed. He is to liaise with the LFCS with regard to their materials. A student is to be employed to alphabetise the library area.

4.   PPLS Degrees Review

Frank Keller briefed the group on the ongoing review of combined degrees which aim to bring PPLS and Informatics closer together. The Masters requirements are to be tidied up and a new first year course is to be introduced. Feedback surrounding this review has been positive and PPLS are enthusiastic. Henry Thompson also spoke about the review and that changes should be in place for the September 2010 prospectus in order to offer the course from autumn 2011. Frank is to present this to the Board of Studies on Wednesday the 9th of December and called for volunteers to accompany him and show support for the review. Henry has sent out an email to this effect as well.

5.   EC Update

Steve Renals briefed the group on a meeting he attended last week. Programme: Language Technology – Programme Leader: Roberto Cencioni. There are three areas involved: Machine Translation, Information Access/Extraction, and Natural Interaction. A wider email consultation will take place with regard to the work programme during December – this will be an important opportunity for input so please respond if you are consulted. The work programme will be finalised mid-February and the call for proposals will be at the end of 2010. The amount available for this work programme will be in the region of 100 million Euros.

6.   Funding opportunities, applications and awards

Max reviewed the funding submissions spreadsheet and updated the group on two applications. It was noted that LISTA is in negotiation and that Digital Economy in the Wild (Renals/Carletta) will not go ahead.

7.   New staff and visitors

It was raised that we currently lack a procedure for announcing visitors and letting people know who they are, what they are doing and where in the building they will be based. This will be worked into the current procedure for processing new staff and visitors and will be effective from December 2009.

8.   Any other business

Mark Steedman has been awarded an ERC Fellowship – "GramPlus". This fellowship will fund 80% of Mark; 20% will still be funded by the University and so he may still be able to be a Director and supervise students and postdocs. PRC will decide if we will get a replacement.

Steve Renals mentioned the SICSA-MMI General Meeting which will take place in the Forum on the 17th of December.

Henry Thompson briefly updated the group on the progress of the HCRC Reunion planning. If there are any further names to be added to the list of invitees please contact Jenny Burness. It was mentioned that this is not only the 25th anniversary of HCRC but is also the 40th anniversary of CogSci/Epistemics.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 03rd of February 2010 at 12:30pm in 4.31/4.33