

Minutes of ILCC/HCRC Staff Meeting

Monday, 27th August 2018 at 12.30pm in room 4.31/4.33

In Attendance

Frank Keller (Chairman), Benjamin Bach, Lexi Birch Mayne, Uli Germann, Dorota Glowacka, Barry Haddow, Caroline Hastings, Kenneth Heafield, Robin Hill, Mirella Lapata, Alex Lascarides, John Lee, Adam Lopez, Chris Lucas, Yvegen Matusevych, Rico Sennrich, Hiroshi Shimodaira, Mark Steedman, Ivan Titov, Kami Vaniea and Maria Wolters.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Henry Thompson, Simon King, Steve Renals, Helen Pain, Walid Magdy, Korin Richmond and Bonnie Webber.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Approved.

Matters Arising

1.1 Item 2 – Alan Turing Institute Fellows. Action completed.

Action: MW to disseminate ATI-relevant information to ILCC as it becomes available.

1.2 Item 5 – CH had carried out her action.

1.3 Item 5 – **Action carried over:** FK to investigate whether ILCC labs can become a small research facility

3. Finance and Funding - Caroline Hastings

CH reported that there had been 5 successful EU grants awarded since the last meeting. FK congratulated all the successful applicants on their awards.

4. Director's Report - Frank Keller

FK reported on the following matters from the Strategy Committee:

- RH reported on the current status with the ongoing plans to commemorate the late Jon Oberlander. RH reported that there were plans to either name a student prize after Jon or possibly name a wing between the Bayes Centre and the Forum after him. Staff were keen to support both ideas. RH was meeting with the Development and Alumni team to discuss the further possibility of creating an endowment fund.
- JH would like the Institute to have an exhibition standing display and information in place ready for official visitors, politicians and the media. The exhibition materials would be stored in G.03.

Action: FK will meet with individuals regarding the task.

- FK spoke on the Future Leaders Fellowships and asked staff contact him if they wished to apply.
- FK has to report on the process of the SWAT Analysis by the end of October. FK will seek feedback at the next ILCC meeting, which he will feed back to the School Strategy Committee.

5. Recruitment update – Frank Keller

FK reported that the case for a Chancellors Fellow theme on speech technology submitted to College had been unsuccessful.

However, he presented two cases for support at the last Strategy Committee, for posts in speech recognition and computational social science, and these were received positively. He hopes that we will be able to recruit for these posts in the autumn this year.

The two other priority areas for ILCC recruitment that were previously identified are cognitive science and HCI.

Cognitive Science – CL is currently working on a case for support for this area in consultation with ANC. The case will be submitted to Strategy Committee for approval. Any cases will need to have REF, grants and teaching needs taken into account.

HCI -- A discussion follow on how to best proceed with an HCI post. FK reported that Jane Hillston as Head of School is keen to replace Jon Oberlander at the chair level. This job would have potentially a broad remit, but could include HCI. It was agreed to wait until the process for recruiting a chair in design informatics becomes clearer, and to then decide whether to bid for a separate post in HCI.

6. Bayes Institute donation – Frank Keller

FK reported on an email that he had received from Michael Rovatsos regarding a donation of 10K from the Bayes Centre to be spent in the area of AI. Following discussion on ideas on how to spend the donation, staff felt that it would be useful to create a 'demo' for Bayes involving current students. FK would work on the idea and have further talks with MR regarding this.

Action: FK to liaise with ILCC staff about putting together a proposal for a demo to be built with the Bayes donation.

7. Update on Curriculum – Sharon Goldwater

This item has been carried forward to the next meeting.

8. Overview of activities in Bayes – Michael Rovatsos

MR gave an in depth presentation on the new Bayes Centre. The Bayes Centre is one of the five hubs the University is establishing to deliver the objectives of the £300 million Data Driven Innovation Programme funded by CityDeal. The Bayes is run by CSE.

MR spoke on the three keys areas of the Bayes Centre and what it's function was - Data Science and AI is Bayes, Innovation Centre for Data Science and AI, Collaborative, multidisciplinary, disruptive and Research, Education and Innovation, and the connection it has with Informatics.

MR informed staff that Bayes would serve as the 'glue' between CityDeal and internal and external partners and reassured staff that any time spent involved with Bayes would be taken into account.

FK thanked MR for taking the time to present such an insight into the Centre.

MR spoke on themantic opportunities in the following areas;
Machine Learning, Speech, Dialogue Systems, Text and Social Media analysis, Recommender systems, Education Technology, NLP and HRI. Privacy and Security and HRI would also be added to the list.

Action: KV to meet with MR to discuss those areas in further detail.

FK needs to work with staff on engagement mechanisms and resourcing and needs to work on what is best for ILCC.

MR informed staff that 12 desks had been allocated to visitors and general space was available for visitors if it's relevant to Bayes.

9. AOCB/DONM

Date of next meeting – Wednesday, 24 October at 12.30 in room G.07A