

Minutes of ILCC/HCRC Staff Meeting

Thursday, 1st February 2018, at 12.00pm in room G.07A

In Attendance

Frank Keller (Chairman), David Wilmot, Simon King, Walid Magdy, Rico Sennrich, Caroline Hastings, Claire Grover, Bea Alex, Kami Vaniea, Henry Thompson, Kenneth Heafield, John Lee, Alex Lascarides, Robin Hill, Ivan Titov, Mirella Lapata, Sharon Goldwater, Mark Steedman and Lexi Birch Mayne.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Arlene Casey, Korin Richmond, Helen New, Adam Lopez, Johanna Moore, Helen Pain, Steve Renals, Uli Germann and Maria Wolters.

Frank welcomed all staff and informed the meeting that he was now the ILCC Director.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Approved.

Matters Arising

Item 2.2 from the previous meeting, relating to the feedback from the postgraduate students in relation to teaching support funding has been carried forward to the next meeting.

3. Finance and funding – Caroline Hastings

CH reported that since the previous meeting in November, research income was healthy and thanked everyone on all the successful applications. CH reported that the first round of funding on the IARPA grant had been agreed, with further funding to follow. CH reminded staff to submit applications well in advance of the deadline dates.

4. Director's Report – Frank Keller

FK reported on the following items from the Strategy Committee meeting:

- FK reported on the new proposal by Stuart Anderson for duty allocation on teaching in the curriculum. FK summarised the proposal based on the new 'student points' system. Any courses with more than 170 students on course would now be organised centrally.

Following discussion, staff were keen to support the 'dry run' proposed by Stuart Anderson and FK would report comments on the proposed allocation mechanism back to the Strategy Committee.

Action: FK to collect ILCC feedback on the duty allocation proposal.

- SG to circulate a document on the UG curriculum changes with a 'review form' which staff will be asked to return. Based on the feedback, she would take this back to the Strategy committee. ILCC would support SG in the process of the proposal.
- It was reported that a new tranche of 30 Chancellor's Fellowships would be advertised across the University, to be attached to the Bayes Centre, Usher Institute and Edinburgh

Futures Institute. They have been advertised centrally, and will be recruited from a central pool, which will include the area on 'digital technology'.

- FK requested ideas for the next Research day and lunch and would report them to Jane Hilston. Staff were also encouraged to attend the future lunches.
- FK reported on the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, which issues frequent calls, often with very short deadlines. Among the priority areas are AI and robotics.
- FK reported on the new University initiative on 'Scaled online learning courses' (replacing MOOCs). These courses would be based on Coursera and led by EFI and Bayes.

FK reported that the equipment bid had been approved by College.

- ILCC expects to hire an academic staff member at the lecturer/senior lecturer/reader level to replace Ewan Klein. In the medium term, we also expect to replace Jon Oberlander. Staff were to think about names and areas for these posts and report back to the next meeting.

Action: FK will create a Google document to collect ideas for the replacement posts.

FK asked the meeting to look at a way of commemorating Jon. It was agreed that a small sub-committee be formed comprising of RH, JL, WM and FK to look at ways of doing this.

Action: FK to meet with the sub-committee to come up with ideas on how to commemorate Jon Oberlander and report back at the next meeting.

5. CDT in NLP planning – Mirella Lapata

ML reported that the CDT proposal was nearly complete and ready for submission to College.

ML spoke on the criteria and processes involved in the decision making. ML and CH to work on the budget prior to the final submission to College. ML urged staff to return the feedback form that AL (Lopez) had previously circulated as not all teaching staff had received it. ML reported that ILCC had a strong case, but she would liaise with JH on the case.

Action: ML to email JH with the CDT proposal and to report back at the next ILCC meeting

7. DONM – 28th March at 12.00 in room 4.31/4.33