

Minutes of ILCC/HCRC Staff Meeting

Wednesday, 3rd May 2017, 1pm in room 4.31/4.33

In Attendance

Jon Oberlander (Chairman), Elaine Farrow, Sharon Goldwater, Kami Vaniea, Ivan Titov, Kenneth Heafield, Benjamin Bach, Chris Lucas, Frank Keller, Adam Lopez, Caroline Hastings, Helen New, Rico Sennrich, Bonnie Webber, Walid Magdy, Steve Renals, Mark Steedman and Seona Wharrie (Minutes)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Uli Germann, Robin Hill, Simon King, Alex Lascarides, Helen Pain, Oliver Watts and Henry Thompson

2. Minutes of last meeting

Item 2.1 from the previous Minutes. Replace Nigel Topham's name for Bob Fisher. Otherwise approved.

Matters Arising

- 2.1 WM reported that his new course proposal had been approved, but is not yet official.
- 2.2 JO had met with Bob Fisher and reported that although there was no resolution to the tier 4 visa matter yet, it was still being dealt with.
- 2.3 SW reported that staff could book meeting rooms in the Wilkie Building through the level 3 admin office.
- 2.4 CDT in Natural Language Processing – JO reported that he had met with Liam Blackwell. JO wanted to identify possible themes and if there was broad support, to start pre-preparation. A proposal could be 'cross College'.

Frank Keller, Adam Lopaz, Ivan Titov and Mirella Lapata agreed to serve on a CDT Working Group.

3. Funding Update – Caroline Hastings

Caroline reported on the latest grant applications and the successful sizeable awards given. CH also reported that there were 7 new Research Assistant posts with further posts currently being advertised.

JO congratulated the staff who were successful in receiving funding awards since the last meeting.

JO reported that there would be an EPSRC call for a cross-disciplinary and co-creation projects. JO reported that there was likely to be increased funding from the EPSRC for more studentships and fellowships in the NLP area.

SR reported on the success rate of call and responsive panels.

FK reported that a 'human like computing' call had been released and that he and CL would organise a pitching session in June. FK outlined the requirements, but CL would circulate the relevant documents on what would be required once they get the official go ahead.

4. PhD Admissions – Adam Lopez

AL reported on the following PhD matters:

- AL had followed up the first and final year students and reported that they were all on track.

- Ten new applications had been accepted.
- AL reported that IGS were receiving more money in their budget, but he would confirm this at the next meeting.
- AL had put new PhD students in touch with already existing students.

5. Director's Report – Jon Oberlander

JO reported on the following items from the Research Committee Meeting:

- Research Grants - JO noted the successful outcomes.
- PURE – Staff are reminded to submit their publications to David Beamish within the 12 week deadline if they wanted them to appear in PURE.
- KPI – JO reported that the research income was looking promising and based on successful grant outcomes, this should have a good knock-on for overhead recovery.
- Public Engagement – JO reported on the College Engagement team presentation.
- REF Impact Case Studies - SR outlined the current approach and that staff should start gathering cases now that may have possible impact. JO spoke on the various CSTR/ILCC Impact cases. The duration of time of impact for the REF was from 2014-2020.
- Research Screen at reception – Discussion took place on what could replace the information currently on the screen at reception and staff were to contact JO if they had any ideas.
- Blavatnik Award – JO outlined the details on this yearly award and reported that the University had already submitted a candidate for this year's award.
- Assessment of Teaching Ability at Recruitment - JO reported that other Universities had an assessment of teaching ability with mock lectures and tutorials and noted that this University is moving in this direction.

Action: JO to feed back to MW on mock lecture topics for the teaching ability assessment.

JO reported on the following items from the Strategy Committee Meeting:

- Degree rationalisation – SG reported that she was starting to engage in the Curriculum review and would be in touch with staff. There is a proposal to review some of the main AI degrees as they may no longer be required, but to retain some combination of AI and Computing Science degrees.
- Staff were to contact Sharon if they had any items for next Board of Studies meeting.
- Teaching Allocation Model – JO reported that 'load' has been dropped from 'workload'.

JO welcomed two new members of staff in Informatics: Benjamin Bach and Ivan Titov, who introduced themselves.

6. AOCB/DONM

Discussion took place on the responsibility of the partial and incomplete lists of Alumni in Informatics.

Action: JO to speak to Jane Hillston and explore the possibility of hiring someone to update the Alumni lists.

Date of next meeting – was to be 5th July; however, in view of clashes and summer break, next meeting will be September, date to be confirmed.