

Staff-Student Liaison Meeting

Thursday 10th May 2012

Room AT-4:02 11:00am

Present

Alex Lascarides – Deputy Head of Graduate School (DHGS)

Kate Farrow – Informatics Graduate School Administration Staff (IGS)

Dominik Grewe - ICSA Representative (ICSA Rep)

Alireza Pourranjbar - LFCS Representative (LFCS Rep)

Apologies

Helen Ramsden - DTC Representative

Iain Whiteside - CISA Representative

Absent

Andrew McPherson - ICSA Representative

Susen Rabold - ICCS Representative

Representatives were reminded to contact their Institute members/students to notify them of upcoming Staff-Student Liaison Meetings so that any issues can be raised by the representatives.

LFCS raised the following points which the representative noted were also raised at their Institute meeting in the previous week:

1. Core Theory Topic Courses

The LFCS Rep showed interest in reintroduction of Core Theory Topics courses which were run around 10 years ago. There was concern that students do not always understand what is being discussed at external events such as workshops, poster presentations and conferences. The LFCS Rep said they have discussed having information on such core theory on their institute website to aid each others' understanding on topics. This will require contribution from other students.

The DHGS said there was no funding to reintroduce the courses but supported the idea of students sharing their knowledge via the Institute website.

2. Communication between departments

The LFCS Rep voiced concern over the lack of integration between students in the LFCS Institute. They suggested the Institute being based on several different levels in the Informatics Forum enabled different departments to integrate but some students are still not getting involved. The LFCS Rep suggested:

- Introducing photos of the members on the Institute website like other Institutes have so that people know who each other are; and,
- Holding poster sessions and asking students to present their research. The LFCS Rep announced they are planning on hosting a poster session around 26th June.

The DHGS also suggested encouraging supervisors to:

- link the Institute Homepage to their personal websites;
- link Research students' websites to their personal websites.

These should both help with PhD recruitment too.

The DHGS suggested having the poster sessions several times a year (perhaps 4 times) and encourage academics to present posters too. Providing food (such as pizza) also encourages attendance. The Language At Edinburgh poster sessions usually have around 10 posters (mostly student posters, but some from academics as well), with an average of 100 people attending the session. The DHGS confirmed that a budget has been sorted by the DHGS and Head of Institute for the June poster session. And the LFCS Rep should speak to Neil McGillivray in the Informatics Student Services regarding the invoices for expenses associated with the poster session.

The ICSA Rep said he would mention these ideas to his Institute too.

<p>Action LFCS Rep – email LFCS students about the upcoming poster session, inviting them to present a poster.</p>

3. Seminar Paper Reviews

The LFCS Rep announced they are organising a Seminar Paper Review which will last about 12 weeks. They will ask each supervisor to give 5 papers to be reviewed.

The DHGS suggested it could be organised through SICSA to reach the right people outside of the University of Edinburgh.

4. Replacement Representatives

The ICSA Rep and LFCS Rep both highlighted a requirement for more help with organising social events such as Furbush, Go-Karting and paint-balling. The LFCS Rep said they had gained a lot of research ideas from participating in the activities and it would be a shame for them to not go ahead in the future. There is a requirement for at least one second year to take on this task.

The DHGS Rep noted that such activities are financially supported by the Roberts Fund.