**Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Research**

The group listed positives and negatives around doing this kind of research, looking both at the work itself and the institutional scaffolding (and inhibitors). The discussion identified a number of possible opportunities for doing more, and better, interdisciplinary research.

Note: X2, X3 etc. indicate that the point was raised in more or less the same form by more than one person. While that's important, we were particularly keen to capture the diversity of views.

**Positives**

- In a crowded area, a different perspective gains attention
- Different perspectives can find better solutions (look at the moon)
- X2 Boundaries are where the action is
- Most socially important problems don't fit into disciplines
- Novelty is good
- Collaborators will value the research – even if it is not "novel"
- X3 You learn stuff from other people
- UoE has a good framework
- UoE recognises and rewards
- X4 UoE/City is big and broad, open and close: It's good to talk – openness seeds opportunity
- X3 UoE seed funding is easy to find – more is needed
- UoE has people who like to listen
- UoE welcomes Informatics expertise
- In a small country, good access to government.
- X2 UoE Colliders, AIM days good for collaboration/partnering
- Across informatics, seminars attract broad, not narrow, attendance

**Negatives**

- X3 "Just application": Framing the contribution – not just application (who owns the result?)
- X2 The right journal can be hard to find – differing expectations on impact.
- X2 REF makes us publish in normal high impact venues.
- Reviewers can have problems getting it. Targetting them with the right keywords.
- X3 Jack of all trades: Difficulty in recruiting PhDs and PDRs (perceived risk; ID crisis)
- Hard to build when there's e.g. a big mathematical gap
- X3 Common language (and goals) can be hard to find (learning curve to appreciate other domain): interdisciplinary can be the solution to the multidisciplinary problem
- Impact can be slower to achieve – it's not incremental research

- X2 Knowing who has interesting data – is there a marketplace? Who does what?
- X2 Can we create more opportunities for collaboration? (Bring people into Inf) – early network creation
- Co-creation with third sector is hard – they don't have cash to bring, but they have rich problems.
- Seed funding easy. Big bids OK but hard work. Middle size is hard to fund.
- X2 There isn't always a good route to follow up to hackathons, etc.
- Always limited time
- Short deadline calls – and late preparation of proposals
- Reaction to calls – not proactive development
- Poor communication between multi-unit teams
- Need to double up the RSO support across units.

## Opportunities

1. Research in a nutshell
2. Part timers who would like to bridge between areas
3. More informatics-led events – Pairwise with other schools; data dating
4. Research programmes help – but can we get a greater sense of "belonging" in Informatics?
5. Distinguished lectures – big draw – find more interdisciplinary lecturers
6. Firbush away days
7. Address time limits with the less stressed people: 50% teaching fellow, 50% interdisciplinary fellow – building the community, not just doing their own work.
8. More coordinated cross-School coffee breaks – like the firealarms, perhaps sabotage the (other) machines? – e.g. every Thursday at 3.
9. Chart the collaboration networks across the UoE (and beyond) – Rik has an intern; Benjamin would visualise: PURE/CV/Scholar mashup
10. MSc/UG4 projects – invite other UoE researchers to pitch.