
Meeting
IPAB Staff Meeting

Date
Thursday, 23rd February 2023

Attendees:

Ram Ramamoorthy (RR) – chair
Ruta Bader (RB)
Hakan Bilen (HB)
Jodie Cameron (JC)
Bob Fisher (BF)
Michael Herrmann (MH)
Mohsen Khadem (MK)
Changjian Li (CLi)
Ruaridh Mon-Williams (RMW)
Cristian Novotny (CN)
Steph Smith (SS)
Steve Tonneau (ST)
Amir Vaxman (AV)
Sethu Vijayakumar (SV)

Apologies: Serena Lambley, Chris Lu, Barbara Webb,
Kartic Subr

Place
G.07(a), IF

Time
2pm

1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting were agreed as accurate.

2. Matters arising

Research Associate representation

It was noted that there is currently no RA representation at the staff meeting. The group were asked for suggestions as it is important to include RA's in our meetings, and in the broader activities of the institute. Barbara will ask one of her RA's if they wish to take on the role.

BW

3. Arrivals/Departures

Visitor

Dr Hachemi Guerrou - Higher National School of Computer
Science
Host: Bob Fisher

Intern

Antonin Bretagne

Host: Steve Tonneau

Leavers

Xin Du – Research Associate - TAS Node

4. New grants, proposals and research opportunities

Proposals/Expressions of interest

Ram:

- D2AIR CDT outline bid (as co-lead from Edinburgh), also Co-I in AI for Defence CDT outline bid from engineering (also Tim H, Stefano A are Co-I's)
- R&T AI Hubs (Leadership team of Cambridge-led proposal/C-I in York-led proposal)
- 3 x AI Hubs outline proposals (2 in the area of AI for engineering, 1 on AI for robotics – the latter with Sethu and Steve also as Co-I's, led from Bristol)

Sethu:

- UKRI AI Healthcare (expressions of interest window closes 27/02)

Steve:

- National Robotarium bid submitted, presenting next week (potential award of £500,000)

5. Budget and resources

P & M approvals

Ruta advised that approval requests received through the P & M system should always be re-assigned to finance administrators (e.g. Karolin Reh) – this allows them to keep the accounts and spend details accurate.

Internships

Ram hopes to make an announcement in the coming weeks regarding IPAB specific internship opportunities, depending on budget balance after recent travel requests.

6. Business Development

Cristian issued an invitation to faculty to arrange catch-up meetings. For those have not yet replied but would like to meet with Cristian, he is keen to do so. Please contact Cristian directly

to arrange.

- Tokyo Sony Lab - very successful meeting, due to meet again 7th March
- Kawada (Sethu Vijayakumar) – 3rd project with Kawada
- Samsung (Chris Lu) – collaboration, fire fighter helmet

7. IPAB webpage

People pages

The people pages have been updated – please advise Steph of staffing/student changes as and when they occur to ensure the information on the page remains relevant.

8. Teaching

Teaching allocations

Teaching allocations have now been finalised and all faculty should have received confirmation emails (those who have not should chase this up with DoT and DoPS).

9. IPAB space

3D printer repairs

Mohsen advised the group that the 3D printer is damaged and currently unusable. The estimate for repair is 6-7k. Given the purchase price for this particular piece of equipment was in the region of 40k, the group agreed it is worth repairing and bringing back into use, but the academics need to find maintenance funding from grants etc.

10. IPAB seminars

Invited speakers/candidate suggestions

3 invited speakers have been scheduled for the coming months (two are potential recruitment candidates for the Chair position). Seminar and speaker details will be advertised in due course.

Ram continues to welcome candidate suggestions and invited external speaker nominations are encouraged.

Save the date – 05/06/2023 for possible mini workshop. Sethu will share details in due course.

11. Student Issues

No student issues raised.

Student socials

The first of the staff/student monthly socials to Pizza Posto has been arranged for 23rd Feb.

The timing of these events may alternate each month between lunchtime and evening, depending on availability constraints of the invited faculty members.

Each session will be open to around 16 students and 2-3 invited faculty. Staff should make efforts to attend when they are invited.

12. Admin issues

No issues raised.

13. Socials

Covered under student issues.

14. National Robotarium

Staff pool

IPAB will be able to utilise the pool of engineering staff employed by the Robotarium. The mechanisms for doing so/costs are unclear at this stage.

UoE representation

The lack of Edinburgh representation/presence was highlighted. Taxi costs between the Forum/Robotarium potentially could be covered by IPAB to encourage attendance.

15. Directors Business

No directors business to discuss.

16. A.O.B

60 Years of CS and AI Celebrations

Ram will speak in an event on 13th April entitled 'Games Robots Play':

[Edinburgh Science: Games Robots Play | The University of Edinburgh](#)

Also, the TAS Node team (including Ram) will organise an event on 12th April entitled 'Can Robots Care':

[Edinburgh Science: Can Robots Care? | The University of Edinburgh](#)

Science Festival

Sethu's group will host the Science Festival 'Meet the Robots' event on Friday 14th April. Tours of the Bayes lab can be booked throughout the day:

[Bayes Centre Tour: Meet the Robots - Edinburgh Science \(sciencefestival.co.uk\)](#)

17. Date of next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 30th March 2023 from 2pm.