

---

**Meeting**

IPAB Staff Meeting

**Date**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021**Attendees**

Ram Ramamoorthy (RR) - chair

Stefano Albrecht (SA)

Hakan Bilen (HB)

Jodie Cameron (JC)

Bob Fisher (BF)

Michael Herrmann (MH)

Vlad Ivan (VI)

Serena Lambley (SL)

Alex Lascarides (AL)

Zhibin Li (ZL)

Cris Lu (CL)

Michael Mistry (MM)

Steph Smith (SS)

Steve Tonneau (ST)

Sethu Vijayakumar (SV)

Barbara Webb (BW)

Apologies: Cristian Novotny, Joanne Pennie, Laura Sevilla-Lara, Kartic Subr

---

**Place**

MS Teams

**Time**

2pm

---

**1. Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes from the last meeting were agreed as accurate.

**2. Matters arising**

No matters arising.

**3. Arrangements during co-vid**

No updates.

**4. Arrivals and departures**PhD Students

Marina Aoyama (Supervisor: Sethu Vijayakumar)

---

Fangqiang Ding (Supervisor: Cris Lu)

Samuel Garcin (Supervisor: Stefano Albrecht)

Balint Gyevar (Supervisor: Sethu Vijayakumar)

Ruaridh Mon-Williams (Supervisor: Sethu Vijayakumar)

#### Postdoc

Zeeshan Babar (Supervisor: Steve Tonneau)

Ignacio Carlucho (Supervisor: Stefano Albrecht)

Florent le Moel (Supervisor: Sethu Vijayakumar)

Chris Mower (Supervisor: Sethu Vijayakumar)

#### Graphics post

The interviews for this post have taken place. The short-list of candidates now being considered, an update will follow in due course.

### **5. New grants and proposals, research opportunities**

Ram: Turing 2.0 Advanced Autonomy grant "Enabling Advanced Autonomy through Human-AI Collaboration"

Stefano: Turing 2.0 award "Asking Your Autonomous Car to Explain its Decisions: Towards AI That Explains Itself".

#### Extension awards

Sethu: Kawada Project extension awarded

Sethu: HONDA project extension being finalised

### **6. Budget and resources**

Apologies from Joanne. Joanne will report on Q1 forecast at the next meeting.

### **7. Business development**

Apologies from Cristian Novotny.

### **8. IPAB webpage**

Barbara: CDT-RAS awarded 2021 Minerva Informatics Equality Award.

Sethu/Touchlabs: Team have reached finals of XPrice Avatar (£3m prize competition) – now in top 15 teams in the world. Finals will take place in Sept, 2022. IPAB members are welcome to contact Sethu if they want to discuss getting involved.

## 9. Teaching

### Student survey results

Informatics is scoring poorly in student surveys, particularly in the areas of feedback and assessments. School wide initiatives to improve on recent results are being discussed and specific measures are likely to be announced soon – staff should participate fully.

### Curriculum review

The review of IPAB core courses was discussed at the 27<sup>th</sup> Oct Board of Studies meeting. Subject to minor revisions, the Board accepted the course proposals put forward. The changes will be implemented for session 2022/23.

An additional review to consider specialised courses is expected to start around spring 2022.

## 10. IPAB space

### Student desks

Students are no longer allocated individual desks. It was agreed there should be clearer/easier to access guidance on this policy available on the website.

Bob to raise with Mary Cryan.

### Access to labs

Vlad reminded the group that guidance for using the labs and equipment can now be found on the IPAB webpage, under the local information section.

## 11. IPAB seminars and workshops

### Seminar co-ordinator role

Kartic has agreed to take on seminar co-ordinator role. When advising the admin team of invited speakers, staff should copy Kartic into correspondence.

BF

### Hybrid workshops/seminars

Computing support colleagues have confirmed that Forum meeting rooms have not yet been set-up to facilitate Hybrid format meetings. They are working on this and updates will issue in due course.

### **12. Student issues**

No student representative yet appointed. Staff to ask student groups for volunteers.

Update: Ruaridh Mon-Williams has now volunteered for this role.

### **13. Admin issues**

No admin issues.

### **14. Socials**

#### Faculty Away Day/Christmas event

Initial date proposed (6<sup>th</sup> Dec) may not be suitable due to conflicts in diaries, Ram and Steph will re-visit options to find a suitable date.

Ram/  
Steph

### **15. Directors business**

No directors business discussed.

### **16. A.O.B**

Barbara attended the Academic Advisory Committee for the Robotarium as UoE representative and has requested a copy of the slides from that meeting to present to the group. As yet, they have not come through, Barbara will chase those up.

BW

Barbara was the only UoE representative with 10 Heriot Watt academics. Barbara will raise the question why there is not a greater representation from UoE.

BW

### **17. Date of next meeting**

- The next meeting is scheduled to take place 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 @ 2pm. It was agreed the next meeting will take place in person within the Forum.

||