
Meeting
IPAB Staff Meeting

Date
Thursday, 26th January 2017

Attendees

Barbara Webb (BW)
Joanne Pennie (JP)
John McAleese(JM)
Sethu Vijayakumar (SV)
Taku Komura (TK)
Kartic Subr (KS)
Ram Ramamoorthy(RR)
Michael Herrmann (MH)
Pavlos Andreadis (PA)
Maurice Fallon (MF)
Michael Mistry (MM)
Alex Li (AL)
Vladimir Ivan (VI)
Magda Nowak(MN)

Place
1.16, IF

Time
2pm

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were accurate with no amendments required.

2. Matters arising

No matters arising.

3. Arrivals and departures

Visitors

Florent Le Moel (visiting from Universite Toulouse III – Paul Sabatier).
Hosted by Barbara Webb.

Chuanyu Yang. Hosted by Taku Komura

Henrique Ferrolho (visiting from the Erasmus Mundus exchange)

Hsui-Chin Lin – Michael Mistry's newly appointment RA.

Leavers

(March 2017) Maurice Fallon leaves his role as Lecturer in Robotics and Chancellor's Fellow to take up a post in the University of Oxford.

Ram will be going to 50% employment due to company involvement (see below).

Computer Vision post

Computer Vision advert is now closed and received 69 applicants.

Future adverts

Human Robot Interaction advert is out with a closing date of 20th February 2017.

4. New Grants and Proposals

Sethu Vijayakumar – approved DST-UKIERI joint project with IIT-Kanpur, India titled "Learning Robotic Motor Skills, Visual Control and Perception for Warehouse Automation" starting April 2017 for three years.

Awarded with Maurice (co-PI) is a one year EIT Digital grant started January 2017. 'iLEVATOR: intraLogistics Enabled by autonomous Vehicles cooperATING with Operators and Robots'

Dr. Ramamoorthy appointed as Scientific Advisor to UK-based startup company, FiveAI".

Awarded - "Autonomous mapping of airborne and localised contamination", from Centre for Defense Enterprise, UK Defense Science and Technology Lab; £99984.37 total award (started Jan 2017, joint with HWU, UoE share: £50K)

"Generative Models under Weak Supervision", Xerox University Affairs Committee Grant; \$90000 (over three years)

"COGLE - Common Ground Learning and Explanation", DARPA Explainable AI programme; \$7,056,334 total award (Starting Apr 2017, multi-university collaboration, UoE share: \$533K)

Under review - awaiting panel interview on 9th Feb 2017

"DRAFTS: Drone-assisted Fourier Transform Spectroscopy for fugitive emission sensing", UK Science and Technology Funding Council (STFC) Challenge Led Applied Systems Programme (CLASP (joint with HWU, UoE share: £229K)

5. Budget and Resources

Joanne confirmed there was little change to the figures since she last reported at the November staff meeting.

6. Business Development.

John McAleese presented all aspects of business development.

This will be discussed further at the next staff meeting.

7. IPAB webpage

News items for inclusion on the webpage:

Sethu will attend The GREX Robotix in Madrid as keynote speaker – 'Shared Autonomy for Interactive Robotics: The Robots are Ready, Are you?

Experimental results from the Insect Robotics group were published in Current Biology and picked up on the BBC news.

8. Teaching

Board of Studies proposals

A new MSc course in 'Image and Vision Computing' (IVC) aimed as a general introduction to computer vision and graphics was approved.

The proposal to make SLMC 20 credits needs to be represented at the next BoS.

Changes in staffing (see above) and sabbaticals will need to be dealt with to cover key courses in 2017/18; hopefully this can wait till we have some idea of the outcome of interviews.

9. IPAB space within the new building

Vlad circulated a copy of the floor plan of the IPAB labs located in the new building along with a list of IPAB equipment.

The group agreed that any updates required should be sent to Vlad directly and presented at the next meeting

10. IPAB workshops and seminars

Radim Tylecek has been appointment as IPAB workshop co-ordinator, taking over the role from Kostas Lagogiannis.

Magda will liaise with Radim to arrange any changes.

11. Student Issues

Pavlos reported that students have been complaining about disruption (e.g. need to move offices) caused by current building works.

Barbara will try to make sure that students receive clear and timely information, but this is a problem for all building occupants at present.

12. Computing Issues

Computing support

The group agreed that as IPAB operates systems which are not typically used through-out the School, the technical support available via the computing support team is limited.

This was discussed at strategy meeting, and the possibility of institute specific support (e.g. named individual, familiar with relevant systems) will be brought to computing committee.

13. Admin issues

No admin issues.

14. Socials

Vlad will issue a weekly email to the social mailing list members informing them of social event details.

15. Directors Business

Sethu raised a proposal for program grant for Robotics.

A new Informatics Communications and Outreach team has been created. Kasia Kokowska has been appointed as Communications

and Outreach Manager and along with her team will deal with internal and external communications, student recruitment activities, web and social media, public engagement, outreach and alumni.

16. AOB

No issues raised.

17. Date of next meeting/2017 schedule

The date of the next meeting will be 23rd February 2017.