

MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
PLANNING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
held on
Wednesday, 26 May 2010
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:

Dave Robertson (Chair), Stuart Anderson, Mike Fourman, Johanna Moore, Jon Oberlander, Mike O'Boyle, Don Sannella, Alan Smaill, Mark Steedman, Perdita Stevens, Stratis Viglas, Phil Wadler, Bonnie Webber, Chris Williams, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Attending: Gordon Duckett, David Willshaw, Mark van Rossum, Neil McGillivray

Apologies: Colin Adams, Sethu Vijayakumar

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 2 - Neuroinformatics Doctoral Training Centre and the School budget (Paper A)

Mark van Rossum explained the background and history that led to the DTC committing to support components of EU/overseas studentships for which it had no authorised funding under EPSRC rules. This leaves the School with the obligation to cover the shortfall. Gordon summarised the steps taken to address the problem. The cost to the School is significant but will be managed within the school resources over the next three to four years. Neil presented the School's plan to bring the administration of the DTC fully within the Graduate School in order to ensure that DTC administration meshes with School and College administrative processes.

Dave thanked all of those in the School who had worked at short notice to address the DTC problems. He also thanked PRC generally for their collegiality in supporting the DTC.

This business being concluded, Neil, Mark and David left the meeting.

Outstanding Actions from Notes of Meeting of 11 November 2009

Item 6 (Snagging)

This has been actioned and a second meeting with the architects has been arranged for Friday, 28 May.

Outstanding Actions from Notes of Meeting of 16 December 2009

Item 1 (Research Opportunities)

This has been actioned.

Outstanding Actions from Notes of Meeting of 10 February 2010

Item 4 (Head of School's Business – International Review Panel)

This has been actioned.

Item 1 (Research Opportunities) – FET Flagships

Both items have been actioned.

Item 1 (Research Opportunities – EPSRC “three strikes” policy)

This will be completed on 28 May.

Outstanding Actions from Notes of Meeting of 10 March 2010

Item 1 (Research Opportunities)

This has been actioned.

Item 2 (Strategic areas for future recruitment)

Operational Systems and networks from Mike O’Boyle should be included in this paragraph.

AGENDA ITEMS, continued

Item 1 (Research opportunities) - FET

The June meeting in Brussels was discussed. Stuart and Dave will attend, as will Mark Parsons from HPCC. If any of our proposals go through, there will be opportunities for others at Edinburgh to be involved.

Item 5 (First draft of School Synopsis for International Review)

Dave presented the first draft of the School synopsis document, containing gaps that need to be filled by PRC. Some structural changes were agreed. Dave will implement these and circulate the new draft to PRC who will fill the gaps by end June.

Action

Dave will send a new version to PRC
PRC members will complete the segments allocated to them by end-June

Item 3 - Proposed Research Programme in Design and Informatics (Paper B)

Paper B is for information.

Item 4 – Informatics involvement with Edinburgh College of Art (Paper C)

There is a proposal (Paper C) for ECA and University of Edinburgh to merge. There are various areas where ECA and Informatics could be a good fit and the possibility of establishing a “Design Forum” (virtual or physical) is being encouraged as part of the merger. This would allow the School to cover areas in design that are complementary to its existing strengths in theory/technology and entrepreneurialism. Dave is part of the Academic Group developing the academic strategy for the merger and has been meeting with representatives from ECA and the University to pursue this. There has also been considerable grassroots activity (e.g. the new Design Informatics programme). PRC confirmed that this proposal has its endorsement.

Item 6 – Report on School Web site development

The School web site will go live next week. The top levels of the new Web site will be managed via Polopoly, so as to conform to the University standard for site maintenance and

look-and-feel. Lower levels of the site will continue to be maintained using other content management systems. Stratis described the “Institute in a Box” provision of a content managed system for providing new Web sites for institutes that wanted an easy way to update and manage their Web sites.

There was discussion on how to make our publications more accessible on the Web. It is unclear when the Library work on providing a University research publications repository will be completed and we need to improve in this respect in the near future. If the Library solution does not show faster progress we should consider providing our own publications portal.

Action

Stratis and Perdita will discuss our research repository.

Item 7 – Report on recent academic recruitment

Offers have been made for the Security Chair, Algorithms Lecturer and Neuroinformatics Readership.

Item 8 – Head of School’s business

There was no Head of School’s business.

Item 9 – Any other business

There was no other business.

Item 10 – Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is still to be determined.