

MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
PLANNING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
held on
Wednesday, 25 August 2010
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Room 5.02

Present:

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

Attending: Elizabeth Elliot

Apologies: Mark Steedman, Bonnie Webber

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting of 30 June 2010 were approved.

Outstanding Action from Notes of meeting of 26 May 2010

Item 6 (Report on School Web site development)

Research repository.

This has been actioned.

Dave will follow up with the Library as to their timeline.

Action

Dave will report back to the next meeting

Item 7 (Report on recent academic recruitment)

We are still awaiting formal acceptance for the three positions.

Action

Dave will give an update at the next meeting

Outstanding Action from Notes of meeting of 30 June 2010

Item 1 – (Research Opportunities)

Energy Networks Grand Challenge

Nigel Goddard has been contacted and may be interested.

Item 2 – (Completing School Synopsis for International Review)

Dave will contact those who have not yet sent their contributions.

Action

Dave to email DoS who have not submitted their contributions.

Item 3 – (Staff Professional Development and Review process)

A new form has been generated. **Actioned.**

Bonnie has been trying to find suitable dates for training. The review process will eventually be done for RAs.

Action

Bonnie to give an update at the next meeting.

Item 4 - (Head of School's business)

Tam Dalyell prize. **Actioned.**

Item 5 – (Any other business)

College Equality and Diversity Committee. **Actioned.**

AGENDA ITEMS

Liz Elliot, as Director of Professional Services replacing Gordon Duckett, was introduced to the committee and the members introduced themselves.

Item 5 – Completing School synopsis for International Review

The International Review will be on 14 and 15 October 2010. Moshe Vardi is the chair and the panel will consist of Peter Dyan, Sofie Cluet, Fausto Giunchiglia, and possibly Mark Lieberman. Andy Herbert and Steve Furber are not available. If Mark Lieberman is not available the suggestion is to try an alternative.

Action

Dave will find an alternative if needed

The synopsis needs to be sent to Moshe Vardi for feedback. It was expected that Moshe would help with the format of the meeting.

Action

Dave will send the synopsis to Moshe

Item 1 – Research Opportunities

It appears that people are getting duplications with respect to postings of research opportunities, from School, ERI, Institutes, research blog. There should be due diligence as to what is submitted. There was a suggestion that the link from Informatics Web pages to the research blog had been taken away.

Action

Liz to ask Julie to put the link back in.

Stuart reviewed the School Strategy for end FP7 and FP8. There are four main points to consider:

1. Review good previous proposals and learn from them; also encourage research staff to register as reviewers, as a way of becoming familiar with the funding system. Dave noted that existing reviewers were being asked to re-register and the same portal could be used for new registrations.

Action

Liz to speak to Julie about encouraging registration.

2. Review successful grants. It was suggested successful proposals should be put on a blog. At this stage we do not know the affordability of getting EU grants?
3. How do we handle an increase in the volume of grants? Make admin more efficient? Who will be on the admin side and who will lead them? Who will be on the academic side and who will lead them? Max has worked in ERI and would be able to contribute to this.
4. Take a longer term view.

It was agreed to set up a working group focusing on EU funding. The academic staff will consist of Steve (Chair), Stuart, Philipp Koehn, Michael Rovatsos, Bjorn Franke and Johanna Moore

Action

Liz to arrange for group to convene.

Action

Group to report back to next PRC with overall plan.

EU ICT Work Programme 2011 (Paper A)

This programme (and others like it) may become important if EPSRC pulls away funding from some areas of research.

European Research Council grant schemes (Paper B)

This is for a post PhD, less than 10 years, with a deadline of 14 October 2010.

Action

Johanna will speak with Sharon Goldwater and Victor Lavrenko
Chris Williams will speak with Charles Sutton
Sethu will speak with Ram

EPSRC Discipline Hopping grants (Paper C)

This might be strategic for some groups. Steve McLaughlin could be helpful in reviewing applications.

EU ICT Bridging the Urban and Rural Divide workshop (Paper D)

This call is for India. Dave has a contact in the AI area should it be needed. Stuart has a list of contacts in India.

Action

Stuart will circulate the document.

Mike O'Boyle will contact Mahesh, Vijay and Hugh Leather with respect to this call.

EPSRC Promoting Cross-Disciplinary Research (Paper E)

Possibilities of Linguistics, Psychology and Informatics for Johanna and Social Science for Stuart.

RCUK Transport Grand Challenge sandpit (Paper F)

This seems more peripheral to our interests.

Royal Society Industry Fellowships (Paper G) and Royal Society University Fellowships (Paper H) and Royal Academy of Engineering Entrepreneurs Award (Paper I)

There appears to be a salary problem with I.

There is a call coming out on 1 September 2010 for the Royal Academy of Engineering Fellowships. Informatics has received three in a row over past years.

SFC Horizon Fund (Paper J)

Jon is leading a proposal in the area of smart tourism. The final selection is on 6 September.

Item 2 – RCUK e-Infrastructure Report

This is for information only.

Item 3 – Informatics-Design activity

The final details are being finalised and the case for the merger soon will be complete. In advance of the merger, two new joint lectureships (Grade 8) will be funded – one from the University, the other from ECA. Our immediate concern is to produce an advert for the University lectureship. This should align with the strategic priorities we set at an earlier PRC. Dave asked those who had authored descriptions of those strategic areas to send him descriptions of areas relevant to design that could contribute to those areas.

Action

All to send the required information to Dave within a week

Item 4 – School financial position

Dave explained broadly the School's financial position for the year ahead. It will be necessary to work more tightly within budgets than in previous years. Liz and Julie will prepare a draft budget for the next PRC.

Action

Liz to report to next PRC meeting

Item 6 – Integrated Foundation programme consultation

There was discussion of the Integrated Foundation Programme proposal from College. It was decided that the School should not be in the vanguard of this programme because it is not clear whether students entering 2nd year having done courses on the Programme would have the necessary training to prosper in their degree. Better to allow other Schools, with better fit to the Program attempt it and participate after it has been trialed.

Item 8 – Any other business

A draft brochure created for Informatics by Commercialisation was circulated. An electronic version will be circulated for review.

Action

Colin to arrange for an electronic version to be circulated

Item 9 – Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, 22 September 2010.