

MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
PLANNING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
held on
Wednesday, 18 May 2011
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:

Dave Robertson (Chair), Mike Fourman, Michael O'Boyle, Steve Renals, Don Sannella, Alan Smail, Perdita Stevens, Stratis Viglas, Philip Wadler, Bonnie Webber, Chris Williams, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Attending: Elizabeth Elliot

Apologies: Colin Adams, Stuart Anderson, Johanna Moore, Jon Oberlander

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting of 23 March 2011 were approved.

Outstanding Actions from Minutes of Meeting of 23 March 2011

Item 5 – School e-mail

Perdita spoke about the outsourcing of University email. A University committee has been formed, is inviting feedback, and will report on 10 June 2011. Among concerns were security, the jurisdiction of US corporations, a single supplier, due diligence, legal risk, technical risk, DPA concerns, as well as other possible problems. There is an issue for the University of balancing cost against risk, so we will offer to raise the issues related to risk at College Strategy and Management Committee.

Action

Perdita to send 'arguments' to Dave

Actioned

Action

Dave to raise this at College Strategy and Management Committee

Actioned

Dave reported that Simon Marsden will be at CSMC (24 May) to explain his direct.

Action

Dave will report back to PRC

Item 8 – Any other business

It was decided to reinstate an item that had been dropped. A small group (Mike O'Boyle, Liz and Chris Williams) will develop a financial model for allocation of institute funds.

Action

Mike O'Boyle

Action

The group, consisting of Mike, Joanne Pennie, Chris and Steve Renals will produce a draft which will be presented to PRC for approval.

There was discussion about the recommendations from the International Review Committee especially with respect to the working group and governance and report back to College.

Action

Dave to prepare a formal response to the review's recommendations

Actioned

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1 – Research opportunities

The AspeKT bid was approved. The decision for the CEGIS proposal will be in late June.

The Social Computing flagship failed but we are invited into other surviving bids. There are opportunities in FuturICT, Modelling the Brain, Graphene and Robot Companions. It remains unclear how these can mesh with national funding priorities.

The EPSRC visit went very well, with positive feedback from Liam Blackwell who commended the more strategic form of engagement we employed.

Item 2 – Recruitment update

The Design-Informatics post has been filled; Vittorio Ferrari should arrive on 1 December.

Dave reported on a proposed initiative between Microsoft and Informatics, to be anchored by Andy Gordon. A balance has to be set between Microsoft and Informatics goals in this arrangement and we await greater clarity on Microsoft intentions.

Item 3 – School Budget

Liz reported that Informatics had done well on all performance indicators. However, there is an overspend on studentships that will make inroads into savings that have been made. Liz explained the total income streams for next year and that for the School.

Dave thanked everyone for helping the School to achieve such excellent results on the research awards which are very significantly up on last year and bring us back to the sort of increase we enjoyed in previous years.

Item 4 – REF planning

Phil Wadler and Stephen Gilmore are joint Informatics REF coordinators.

Mike offered to pass to Stephen some software that he had found effective last time.

Item 5 – Response to International Review (Paper A)

Dave presented the draft response and a number of adaptations were suggested. An amended document will go to the next General Meeting.

Item 6 – School input to University fundraising priorities (Paper B)

It was agreed the School's emphasis would be on Scholarships and Research.

Item 7 – Maintenance and update of School Policy Web pages

Alan Bundy, Dave and Liz are reviewing the School policies and most of them will be presented at the next general meeting. The policies will be on a website and feedback will be invited from the whole School before the policies are finalised.

The committee advised that new policies are needed for: accommodation in the Forum and information on VAT.

Questions included: are half year sabbaticals allowed (Sabbatical policy) and is there a University policy for Promotions.

Item 8 – Head of School's business

None

Item 9 – Any other business

There was a question about Erasmus Mundus and joint PhD with non European countries. It was suggested that people keep in touch with Sethu (India) and Wenfei (China) and also talk to Liz as there are delicate financial aspects. Dave is intends to appoint a coordinator across international outreach for the coming academic year.

Item 10 – Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, 29 June 2011 at 10:00 am in the Turing Room.