

**MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
STRATEGY COMMITTEE
held on
Wednesday, 21 September 2011
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Turing Room**

Present:

Dave Robertson (Chair), Colin Adams, Stuart Anderson, Jacques Fleuriot, Jon Oberlander, Michael O'Boyle, Steve Renals, Alan Smaill, Stratis Viglas (deputising for Jane Hillston), Sethu Vijayakumar, Barbara Webb, Chris Williams, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Attending: Elizabeth Elliot

Apologies: Jane Hillston

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting of the Planning and Resources Committee (PRC) of 29 June 2011 were approved.

Outstanding Actions from Minutes of Meeting of PRC of 29 June 2011

Item 3 – Preparations for REF

Stephen and Phil have agreed to be our REF coordinators.

Stephen described the results of our recent survey of publications that could be submitted to the REF. The results of this are encouraging, although there is a need to improve. The goal is for all staff that can be submitted under REF rules to submit four papers that we believe should be rated at 3* or above.

There was also discussion about impact statements. The precise rules for these remain unclear because we lack detailed guidance from the REF administration but we have assembled an initial set of impact statements that we can use as a basis for refinement and extension. The aim is to have a pool of about 15 to 20 prototype impact statements from which we can assemble the (approximately) 12 that we are likely to need.

There was discussion about PURE which will be the standard University vehicle for collating REF material, including publications. We will engage with the PURE development effort as early as we can which should be sometime in August.

We also need to raise our public profile, for example through video lectures, as a means of ensuring that our key papers are widely read.

Further queries were: weighting of journals, ranking of conferences, 2* papers with no funding and no money should perhaps not be submitted, tips for average member of staff, what is a 4* paper?

Action
SG and PW will compose a 100 word “how to”
Actioned

Some individuals might not have four papers.

Action
DR will talk to those individuals
Actioned

Item 4 – Head of School’s business

a) Marie Curie Fellowships

There was discussion about the Fellowships and PhD students. Marie Curie rules make it impossible to use funds to pay fees; as of last year the centre will no longer pay fees and the School must pay.

Action
DR will flag to College
Actioned

b) Room Allocations

There will be some shuffling of people and rooms.

Action
All to email Marjorie with comments
Actioned

AGENDA ITEMS

Dave welcomed everyone to the Strategy Committee which, following discussion and feedback about the governance of the School, supersedes the Planning and Research Committee.

Item 1 – Research opportunities

Paper A

Dave referred to Paper A outlining a biomedical initiative, indicated that the Principal is in favour, and that the Principal will champion the initiative in and from Scotland.

Royal Academy of Engineering

Calls are coming out in October and MOB and Sethu will discuss same.

Design Informatics

Funding has been approved by SFC with £0.5M for year 1; year 2 funding still to be considered. The Masters programme is being developed. Alan Murray is working on a framework for a website which will be forwarded to IS. Vittorio Ferrari arrives in December 2011. Academics will be recruited for the various themes. There are no teaching implications for 2011-12; an Informatics for Design (20 point course) may be offered in the future. There is £25K for

teaching preparation for this year. Masters students may be in Evolution House (ECA) instead of Appleton Tower. Keith Edwards is the Business Development Officer. He is working on a new resident entrepreneurship programme and a placement scheme. Jon will provide a written report to the next Strategy Committee.

FET-Flagships and TICs

These are moving along: Sethu is contributing to robot companion road maps; Jane is involved in the ITFoM, Future of Medicine flagship; Jim Bednar is working with the Human Brain Programme. There is a planning group which is considering how universities should respond to new themes. Stuart is the link to this.

KICs

Informatics is positioned in the area of health.

Item 2 – Recruitment update

Ilias Diakonikolas (algorithms) is on an unpaid leave of absence while he completes his Post Doc in Berkley. Vittoria Ferrari (Design-informatics) will join us in December. The agreement for Andy Gordon is 1/10 time which translates to three out of ten days to Informatics. There is an upcoming visit from Rick Rashid of Microsoft and potential Microsoft studentships.

Item 3 – Preparations for REF

Nothing specific to report (this will remain as a standing item).

Item 4 – Proposed budget 2011-2012

Liz presented the proposed budget and reviewed the income and expenditure. Items discussed included the sustainability pot, funds for computing equipment, an anticipated 1% claw back from EPSRC and the situation with the Life Sciences Institute.

Also discussed was the Financial Model, money flowing back to the institutes, the split between directly incurred and directly allocated costs, DoIs to have their budgets ahead of time, loss of studentships and maintaining the intellectual health of the School (any 'extra' money should be spent on Post Grad students, PhD students are an investment), SICSA studentships and the potential for a Scottish PhD/graduate school.

Item 5 – Head of School's business

The RS Summer Science Exhibition is 3-8 July 2012. The deadline for outlines of proposals is 24 October 2011. It is expected there will be a selection committee, 20-25 teams, and media interest. Ram is submitting a proposal.

Item 6 – Any other business

Indications are that there may be potential studentships in connection with IBM and a next generation supercomputer initiative. Richard Kenway will be coordinating.

Action

DR will contact Richard Kenway

It is anticipated that the first meeting of the Research Committee will be at the beginning of October. Items discussed included its remit, its membership, possibly include someone from REF (past or present), its relationship to the college research committee, Senatus Committee, and Strategy Committee, how it can increase the grant portfolio, become more strategic, a gateway for information sharing, form task groups on an *ad hoc* basis, conduct comparison analysis, has to be operational, cannot commit resources, it has to harmonize across institutes, work with the strengths of the institutes, look at quality and volume of research.

Institute websites were discussed; Chris would like the ANC website rebuilt; also Alan Smaill for CISA.

Student (PhD) space in the Forum is becoming 'tight' again.

Barbara emphasised the fact that everyone needs to find creative ways of bringing in new money – for stipends, to bring in PhDs, matching funds.

Item 7 – Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, 19 October 2011 at 2:00 pm in the Turing Room.