

MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 12 December 2012
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:

Dave Robertson (Chair), Colin Adams, Stuart Anderson, Jim Bednar, Liz Elliot, Chris Geib, Nigel Goddard, Dave Hamilton, Mike O'Boyle, Alan Smaill, George Ross, Ian Stark, Perdita Stevens, Stratis Viglas (for Jane Hillston), Sethu Vijayakumar, Barbara Webb, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Apologies: Jacques Fleuriot, Jane Hillston

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting 31 October 2012 were approved.

Actions from the minutes of 30 May 2012

Item 2 – PhD Selection and Admissions

PGR entry and proposals were discussed. The School's contribution is comparable to that of last year. BW reported on the anticipated number of studentships and funding. It was suggested that there should be funds to accommodate a PhD student for each new member of academic staff.

Action

DR – to talk to Colin Adams re industrially sponsored studentships and branding
Actioned (David Richardson and Keith Edwards are involved; talking to BW)

Actions from the minutes of 21 November 2012

Item 1 – School of Informatics Strategic Plan 2012/13

LE pointed out that there are some new headings in the format of the 2013/14 Strategic Plan. The Plan is due at College on 14 January 2013; the draft will be reviewed at the next Strategy Committee.

Action

LE to write the Confidential Planning Annex
Actioned

Action

DR to write the Strategy Plan
Actioned

Action
DR to circulate draft prior to next meeting
Actioned

Action
All – provide feedback to DR
Actioned

Item 2 – Research Services Support Staff

LE discussed the document and the opportunities to rebalance if required.

Action
All – to provide feedback to LE
Actioned

Item 4 – Any other business

DR outlined various proposals that may involve Informatics (Digital Health Care; Stratified Medicine, Sensor and Imaging). These proposals would stimulate our anticipated work with medicine.

DR noted rumors that government money may be forthcoming for capital-spend projects. This could be a strategic opportunity for Informatics.

There was discussion about space and the present situation with Appleton Tower, the anticipated building work and how to lessen the impact on staff working in AT. Also discussed were links with industry and the positive impact these give to Informatics.

The opportunities (eg reputational and financial gain, money spread across School, strategic for School) that CDTs could bring to Informatics were discussed.

Action
LE to investigate scope for additional CDT spend
Actioned (in Supporting Papers for 12 December meeting)

ITEM 1 - SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS STRATEGIC PLAN 2012/13

Prior to discussion of the Strategic Plan, Liz reviewed the Student Intake Proforma 2013-14 and the S47 Financial Template 2013-14.

Discussion with respect to the Plan included staff and operating costs, pensions, auto enrolment, NPRAS and NPRAS clawback, three new lectureships posts, commercialization, portfolio manager resource, contingency fund, increased computer budget, CDT contribution, increased fees, reserves).

Paragraph 1 (Excellence in Teaching and Learning)
This should be edited slightly.

Additional text (Robotics)

Additional text about Robotics will be incorporated into the Plan.

Action

SV to send soft copy to DR and Committee

Enhance student experience

Action

IS will send DR suggestions

Global impact

China and Brazil were mentioned.

MOOCS

These were discussed and it was suggested that it would be helpful if Austin were to diary his experience with MOOCS.

UK Government Funding (capital spend)

This was discussed with respect to possible involvement with the Institutes (robotics, Medical Informatics, big data, Scottish Enterprise funding).

ITEM 2 – RESEARCH SERVICES SUPPORT STAFF

Feedback was provided and discussed. Money has been set aside for additional PM resource in 2013.

Action

EE to begin process (PRAF, etc)

ITEM 3 – HEAD OF SCHOOL'S BUSINESS

Digital Health

SA reported that it is in the negotiation phase and there will be an announcement in February.

CDTs

The themes have been publicized: two suitable for Informatics to lead and three for external collaboration. It appears that the joint proposal CDT (Robotics) with Informatics and Heriot Watt (lead) will proceed.

Digital theme – JO, SA, Business School and ISTI are talking about the digital theme.

There was discussion as to whether other Schools have budgeted for CDTs.

Action

DR to check with College

ITEM 4 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

EIT ICT Labs

We will know soon about the fate of our bid to be a co-location node in the EIT ICT Labs Knowledge and Innovation Community. Imperial/UCL are the hub with UoE as an affiliate. We may need a special meeting of Research Committee to discuss more fully. We would be able to apply for funding for activities (including travel to other meetings) in 2014. Stuart will circulate explanatory material.

Action

SA to glean short presentation from website and circulate to Strategy Committee

Flagships

We believe that four have been invited to interview (Graphene, Human brain project, FuturICT, Guardian angels). We are involved in the Human brain project and in FuturICT. The results should be available in January 2013.

ITEM 5 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 27 February 2013 at 2:00 pm in the Turing Room.