MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 25 September 2013
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:
Dave Robertson (Chair), Colin Adams, Jim Bednar, Liz Elliot, Jacques Fleuriot, Nigel Goddard, Dave Hamilton, Robin Hill (for Ron Petrick), Jane Hillston, Steve Renals, George Ross, Michael Rovatsos), Alan Smaill, Perdita Stevens, Sethu Vijayakumar, Barbara Webb, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Apologies: Mirella Lapata, Ron Petrick

Approval of Minutes
The Minutes of the meeting 8 May 2013 were approved.

Actions from the Minutes of 8 May 2013

Item 4 – Head of School's Business

a) Green and gold publishing
Bob Fisher would like information as to how many papers Informatics publishes per year and the percentage of gold open access. There was discussion about the process and costing of the administration of this exercise.

Action
EE to ask Tamise to produce figures
DROP
(the pot has not been fully spent; there will be a notice via the library; first come, first served)

ITEM 1 – SCHOOL FINANCES

EE reviewed the budget for 2013/14. She also spoke of the changes to financial reporting that are forthcoming from the University and College and how these changes will impact Informatics.

ITEM 2 – BRIEF REF UPDATE

Indications are that Informatics is on track. College will review our proposed REF submission on 26 September.

ITEM 3 – TEACHING PLANS FOR 2014/15

DR mentioned our rankings in the various league tables. 'Feedback' continues to impact the rankings for Informatics.

MR suggested that the syllabus could be reviewed but we also need to keep sight of the core things we do and be careful about branching out too much. KK's report is relatively current and should be reviewed. MR suggested a top down approach.

Action
MR will return to the next meeting with suggestions

Action
DR will speak with Colin Adams re an Industry Advisory Board

There was clarification about the teaching expectations of the Chancellor's Fellows.

ITEM 4 – RESEARCH PLANNING

Dave mentioned that Informatics was top in 2012/13 for research income within College. Dave listed the various research projects that are in-house/on the horizon (eg, DHI, ICs, Knowledge Transfer, Farr Institute, KICs, Connected Digital Economy Catapult, Robotarium, Platform grants from EPSRC, IPs from EU).

ITEM 5 – ACCOMMODATION

It is anticipated that the AT decant will take place in June 2015 for a 9 month project in 2015/16. Forrest Hill will be the decant space for teaching; 15 S. College for AT 6, 7, and 8 and both ICs. Inspace and G.03 will house the robots and design. Rooms are still needed for two Chancellor's Fellows; RA space is a problem.

ITEM 6 – RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

Dave reported that the University will be announcing funding for 50 Chancellor's Fellows. It was suggested that Informatics could be involved in joint appointments with other Schools.

Informatics has a core of about 100 academics and 150 research staff. There was discussion about staffing: need for flagship grant holders; target specific areas with appointments of reader or chair; joint appointments with other Schools. The following points are important strategies:

a) We should encourage other Schools to try to appoint in data intensive research areas – perhaps even considering a "data centre" across several schools.
b) We should consider joint appointments that are meaningful to Informatics.
c) We need to be mindful of succession planning and avoiding gaps through staff movement.

Action
All – to bring back thoughts on the above to the next meeting

ITEM 7 – HEAD OF SCHOOL'S BUSINESS

There was none.

ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Grad School Review
Barbara reported that there is a review of the Grad School this academic year and next year (still within this academic year) people will visit to look, chat and investigate.

b) DEMOFest
Colin reported that DEMOFest is not taking place in Edinburgh this year but is being held in Glasgow on 5 November with one in Aberdeen at a later date.

c) Induction
Liz is developing a central resource that will complement the induction given by the Institutes.

d) Research staff appraisals
Liz is working with Vashti Galpin on these.

ITEM 9 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 16 October 2013 at 3:00 pm in the Turing Room.