

MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 16 October 2013
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:

Dave Robertson (Chair), Colin Adams, Stuart Anderson, Jim Bednar, Dave Hamilton, Jane Hillston, Mike O'Boyle, Ron Petrick, Steve Renals, Michael Rovatsos, Alan Smaill, Perdita Stevens, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Apologies: Liz Elliot, Jacques Fleuriot, Nigel Goddard, Mirella Lapata, George Ross, Sethu Vijayakumar

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting 25 September 2013 were approved.

Actions from the Minutes of 25 September 2013

Item 3 – Teaching plans for 2014/15

DR mentioned our rankings in the various league tables. 'Feedback' continues to adversely effect 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

Actioned

Action

DR will speak with Colin Adams re an Industry Advisory Board

Item 6 – Recruitment strategy

Dave reported that the University is likely to announce funding for 50 Chancellor's Fellows across the University. 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 an umbrella activity 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

Actioned

ITEM 1 – DATA INTENSIVE RESEARCH

Dave gave a brief overview of the University’s direction, eg., data intensive study, high performance computing and big data (eg., digital health IC), engagement with Informatics, influence on real estate, links to other schools (eg., Education and Physics), 50 CFs with some sort of involvement with big data. Also mentioned were the Farr Institute, the Digital Healthcare IC and the Data IC.

ITEM 2 – TEACHING STRATEGY

MR discussed some of the possibilities with respect to the Informatics teaching strategy (look at what we teach; more difficult to fit what we teach into our workload model):

1. Look at the way we allocate teaching duties, resource allocation problem, (250 compulsory/250 core courses in each research area/theme and choose from other, probably teach about 700/750 credits, leave room for new ‘stuff’ such as CDTs
2. Radically streamline degree programmes (currently 15 different degrees), one undergrad degree in terms of structure, joint degrees currently small, value to other schools? Bureaucracy to change would take two years, easier to give advice to students, certain constraints if you want to make changes, difficult for students when they get to 4th year, teach course near your area of research and cultivate the students

The suggestions will be discussed at Teaching Committee. MR to proceed with caution.

Appropriate marketing should be considered (eg data science at undergrad level), focus groups with different students.

ITEM 3 – RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

There was general discussion about areas of growth (eg robotics/vision, ILCC priority for replacement at Reader level, Edinburgh a leader in machine translation, credible posting in big data, possibility of interfacing in area of data intensive research with

other Schools that take CFs, joint appointment with Education for CF, cyber security, software engineering, succession planning in HCI/neuroscience).

Action

DR to email professoriate with strategy

Action

DR to email Lesley Yellowlees to ensure our strategy fits with College strategy

Action

DR to discuss joint CFs with Lesley Yellowlees

ITEM 4 – HEAD OF SCHOOL’S BUSINESS

There was none.

ITEM 5 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion about the Hoppers’ funding from Google.

Action

SOA to speak with EE

ITEM 6 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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