

MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 27 November 2013
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:

Dave Robertson (Chair), Jim Bednar, Liz Elliot, Jacques Fleuriot, Nigel Goddard, Dave Hamilton, Jane Hillston, Ron Petrick, Steve Renals, George Ross, Michael Rovatsos, Alan Smaill, Perdita Stevens, Barbara Webb, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Apologies: Mirella Lapata, Jon Oberlander, Mike O'Boyle, Sethu Vijayakumar

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting 16 October 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. NSS feedback scores continue 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

Actions from the Minutes of 16 October 2013

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
Actioned

Action
DR to discuss joint CFs with Lesley Yellowlees
Actioned

Item 5 – Any other business

There was discussion about the Hoppers' funding from Google.

Action
SOA to speak with EE
Actioned

ITEM 1 – ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN

There was a general discussion about the Strategic Plan and what should be included in each sub-heading.

Strategic Goals

a) Excellence in Education

Items discussed included growth of PhD students intake, cultural issues and engagement with students, the international market, feedback to students, space constraints, teaching blocks, course reduction, teaching loads, practical things that can be done, alternative ways to look at our teaching).

Action
MR, PS and BW will form a working group to look at our teaching with initial feedback at next meeting

b) Excellence in Research

Research income has increased in the past couple of years. Basic research is on an even keel; ICs and CDTs add benefit; new staff members are bringing in grants. Mentoring and consolidation are important factors to consider.

c) Excellence in Innovation

There was discussion about the various entrepreneurial efforts that could be achieved through ICs.

Strategic Themes

There was general discussion about the space constraints within the Forum and the anticipated decant of Appleton Tower.

a) Equality, Widening Participation and Social Responsibility

There was discussion about outreach (local schools, Scottish population) as well as achievements with the Sutton Trust and Athena SWAN.

ITEM 2 – HEAD OF SCHOOL’S BUSINESS

P&DR

DR thanked everyone for their efforts with respect to submission of P&DRs. College, via Court, requires at least 80% submission.

DR mentioned that he is in initial discussions about possible research links with a new overseas university.

ITEM 3 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Recruitment strategy

There was further discussion about recruitment strategy for the School (interdisciplinary themes and links to research in other schools).

Action

All – send interdisciplinary themes to Dave by 5 December

b) ECDF

It was recommended that the University should support the funding of ECDF which is a core University facility.

c) Donations

There was a brief discussion about the possibility of industrial donations to the School.

ITEM 4 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 18 December 2013 at 2:00 pm in the Turing Room.