

MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 22 January 2014
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:

Dave Robertson (Chair), Stuart Anderson, Jim Bednar, Liz Elliot, Jacques Fleuriot, Dave Hamilton, Johanna Moore, Mike O'Boyle, Ron Petrick, Michael Rovatsos, Alan Smaill, Perdita Stevens, Stratis Viglas (for Jane Hillston), Barbara Webb, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Apologies: Jane Hillston, Steve Renals, George Ross, Sethu Vijayakumar

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting 18 December 2013 were approved.

Actions from the Minutes of 25 September 2013

Item 3 – Teaching plans for 2014/15

Action

DR will speak with Colin Adams re an Industry Advisory Board

Actions from the Minutes of 27 November 2013

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

In progress (meeting scheduled)

Drop

Actions from the Minutes of 18 December 2013

Item 1 – Annual strategic plan

There were the following comments about the Strategic Plan:

Page 2 - add strategic links with EPCC

Page 6 (d) - Dux Award for underprivileged; ongoing commitment to Sutton Trust;
Pre-wired activity run by Amy Guy; outreach to local Schools (Ram and Sethu)

Energy saving – computing base

Action
George Ross to email text to EE
Actioned

Partnerships - include Intel and Synopsis

Page 6 – move bullet to Section D

Comment on variances; impact from CDTs

Action
EE to generate the numbers
Actioned

ITEM 1 – STANDARD CHARGE REQUIREMENT ON GRANTS

There was discussion about the charge requirements (eg cost to Informatics, possible negative impact on reviewers, other universities, PI time, computing time, computing staff). It was decided that the charge should not be added to grant applications. It was suggested that those applying for grants should speak with computing staff for input on equipment, etc. It was also suggested that Alastair Scobie should be asked to review a pre-submission draft; however, there is often insufficient lead time for this to be done.

Action
EE will speak with PMs re new costing and computing officer help

There was also discussion about the suggestion of Full Economic Costing (a structural way of changing the costing).

Action
EE will speak with College accountant

ITEM 2 – SCHOOL ANNUAL PLAN

The Plan has been submitted but is still open to changes.

Action

EE will incorporate the change to page 14

Action

All – email changes to Liz

There was discussion about space and student relocation.

ITEM 3 – INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Following discussion of the tabled paper, it was decided that Informatics should continue to proceed with caution on following up an approach made to us by an overseas institution looking to forge a relationship with the School.

Action

DR will contact Henry Thompson

Action

DR will contact Steve Hillier, International Office

ITEM 4 – WORK ALLOCATION UPDATE

No report.

ITEM 5 – HEAD OF SCHOOL'S BUSINESS

a) EIT Overview

Edinburgh is part of EIT ICT Labs. As an affiliate of the London node, Edinburgh is able to bid for funds. EIT funds are primarily to fund Knowledge Exchange; possible use for small start-up companies in AT. London's theme is 'Smart Infrastructure'. DR is a reviewer for IET.

b) Paul Jenkins, BT

Paul is visiting on 5 February and it was suggested that the agenda should include a generic introduction from Paul, presentation from each institute, and a summing up. Paul is responsible for making the London EIT ICT node work; particularly interested in 'real' business engagement, ie commercial.

Action

MD to contact DoIs to determine whether they will attend or send a delegate

c) Recruitment

DR gave an update on current recruitment (eg half chair with Education and interdisciplinary Chancellor Fellows).

ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

ITEM 7 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The February meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 26 March 2014 at 2:00 pm in the Turing Room.