

MINUTES OF MEETING
of the
STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 26 March 2014
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Turing Room

Present:

Dave Robertson (Chair), Colin Adams, Jim Bednar, Liz Elliot, Jacques Fleuriot, Vashti Galpin (for Ron Petrick), Nigel Goddard, Dave Hamilton, Jane Hillston, Johanna Moore, Mike O'Boyle, Steve Renals, George Ross, Alan Smaill, Perdita Stevens, Sethu Vijayakumar, Barbara Webb, Marjorie Dunlop (Secretary)

Apologies: Ron Petrick

Attending: Neil McGillivray

Guests: David Aspinall, Martin Beaton, Austin Tate

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting 22 January 2014 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 22 January 2014

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

Actioned

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
Actioned (request not supported by College)

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
Actioned

Action

All – email changes to Liz
Actioned

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
Actioned

Action

DR will contact Steve Hillier, International Office
Actioned

Item 5 – Head of School’s business

a) 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
Actioned

ITEM 1 – DISTANCE LEARNING INITIATIVE

Austin Tate reviewed the Distance Education Initiative update and explained the various options for funding as well as the goals of the DEI bid group.

ITEM 2 – CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN CYBER SECURITY AND PRIVACY

David Aspinall spoke to this paper and clarified various points. The Committee was in favour of pursuing the various goals outlined in the paper. It was suggested that the DoIs investigate other schools for recently completed PhDs with appropriate theses. Also, as members of current interview panels the DoIs could advise these panels that cyber security and privacy research is a ‘strategic priority’.

Action

DoIs to use their contacts to investigate appropriate PhDs

Action

DoIs to view cyber security and privacy research as a ‘strategic priority’ when recruiting

Action

It was agreed that EE is to make available the requested budget of £15,000 (to last 18-24 months)

ITEM 3 – SCHOOL FINANCE UPDATE

EE reviewed the financial situation for 2013/14 and 2014/15 and the impact of NPRAS numbers on Informatics.

ITEM 4 – VISITING STUDENT AND NON-GRADUATING STUDENT POLICIES

EE explained the impact of the University policy on ‘visiting students’, their status within Informatics, and the feasibility of them obtaining appropriate visas should they come from outwith the UK.

ITEM 5 – EXPANSION TO 15 SOUTH COLLEGE STREET

There was discussion about the expansion to 15 South College Street and suggestions as to the most appropriate solution for this temporary staff relocation.

ITEM 6 – POTTERROW 3 DEVELOPMENT

Indications are that this will be called the Data Technology Institute. It is intended that there will be no VAT-based restrictions on use, so commercial activities can be included.

ITEM 7 – HEAD OF SCHOOL’S BUSINESS

There was none.

ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

ITEM 9 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 23 April 2014 at 2:00 pm in the Turing Room.