

## Strategy Committee Minutes 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 2pm, Turing Room



**Attendees:** Jane Hillston (Chair in absence of JM), Stuart Anderson, Murray Cole, Kousha Eteessami, Vashti Galpin, Michael Rovatsos, Amos Storkey, Nigel Topham, , Barbara Webb, Martin Wright, Anda Nicolson (secretary), Henry Thompson (for item 9b)

**Apologies:** Johanna Moore, Nigel Goddard, Jon Oberlander, Björn Franke

	Summary	ACTION
1.	<b>Approval of previous minutes</b> Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.	
2.	<b>Matters arising from previous meeting:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Edinburgh Teaching Award and HEA Fellowships:</b> Following previous discussions about increasing the number of Informatics staff who hold a teaching qualification, it was agreed that action should be taken to raise awareness among staff of these qualifications. This was not included on the General Meeting Agenda, and action is still to be carried out to raise awareness. <b>Carried forward.</b></li> <li>b) <b>Internships and tier 4 students:</b> These internships will be possible as long as they are an integral part of the students' work and PhD, and they have been approved by Edinburgh Global. The students are not able to take interruptions for these internships as this would invalidate their visas.</li> <li>c) <b>NSS.</b> Concerns had been raised that we would not reach the reportable threshold for NSS but thanks to a last-minute push, we have reached this. Data is expected in July and will be reported to this committee.</li> </ul>	
3.	<b>Head of School business</b> <b>Academic hiring update</b> MJW gave a confidential update on academic recruitment on behalf of HoS. We will look to do a reprioritisation of academic recruitment at the August meeting of this committee. <b>Action:</b> Add to agenda. The committee expressed their support of our aiming to fit our recruitment in with the US cycle. This was broadly achieved this year, but due to the high level of recruitment some posts invariably fell out of cycle.	AN
4.	<b>Report from Director of Research</b> There is more information expected from EPSRC about the next round of CDT calls. This will form part of the Research Committee agenda on the 5 <sup>th</sup> of July. Submission for these calls will be early in 2018, with announcements in October 2018 and start dates of September 2019. We need to start planning for this within the School, but also at a College level.  EPSRC have announced that they are changing First Grants. They will be lifting the cap, and announcing the full changes by the end of July.  Studentships will be allowed on strategic grants, such as Research Centres and Programme Grants. Details will be released later in the year.  The first workshop for our collaboration with Huawei took place in the Forum on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of June. There will be another workshop in China in the first week of December.	
5.	<b>Teaching business</b> <b>Recruitment update</b>	

	<p>We are looking at a potential increase of 10-15% on international applications at undergraduate level. We are projecting a similar amount of offers at postgraduate level as were made last year.</p> <p><b>Scalable online distance learning</b> A discussion was held around Paper 5.1, a closed paper which has been supported by CSMC. There are a number of views in the School as to how to make this work for us. We need to look at our strategy in terms of internal engagement with the idea and also at how we can make this work for staff and students. Online distance learning will be one of the topics looked at during Teaching Day in September, and it is likely that a working group will be formed after this has taken place.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Graduate School business</u></b></p> <p><b>PhD submissions:</b> NT provided an update on our completion rates in Informatics. We are currently seeing a relatively low completion rate within the School in terms of where we stand in College rankings. NT presented a paper which gave some suggestions on how we could improve our completion rates among our PhD students and invited comment from the committee.</p> <p>Our EPSRC DTA scholarships have all been awarded.</p> <p>We have had increased funding this year, which has allowed us to further support our students and we hope to see additional student numbers as a result.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>Equality and Diversity</u></b></p> <p>Kami Vaniea has resigned from the role of Equality and Diversity coordinator. There is currently a vacancy for this role and we will be looking to allocate that duty shortly.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>Commercialisation business</u></b></p> <p>Jim Ashe will join us next week and will be a member of this committee from the August meeting.</p> <p>The Bayes Innovation programme will be funded to the tune of £2.7million over the next 3.5 years to support a team based in Informatics Commercialisation, and supporting the Bayes Centre tenants more broadly, to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- add BDE staff power to maximise corporate R&amp;D opportunities</li> <li>- continue and extend Informatics Ventures support for investor ready entrepreneurship, including EIE</li> <li>- add a new pre-incorporation accelerator, targeting Informatics students, but open to all comers.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b><u>Strategy and planning</u></b></p> <p><b>Work allocation model</b> The University is proposing a move to an hours-based work allocation model, encompassing research as well as admin and teaching duties. MJW and JH will be meeting with Jane Norman, Vice-Principal for People and Culture, tomorrow to discuss this.</p> <p><b>Internationalisation review and plan</b> HT joined the meeting to discuss this item. There is currently an amount of 10% of a senior post in each School's budget which is allocated to an academic member of staff who takes on the role of Director of Internationalisation for their School. We wish to increase our undergraduate overseas recruitment and have done well on this over the past few years.</p>	

	<p>We have strengthened our links with China and in other areas, such as Singapore and South America. HT has been primarily focused on agreements for 2+2 and 2+3 arrangements bringing students directly into third year. Currently these are with universities in China. There have been low numbers of these students annually (under five students per year), although there is hope to increase this by interacting with new institutions, and the students entering via this route have been academically strong.</p> <p>Don Sannella will take over as Director of Internationalisation when HT goes on sabbatical next year. The role is one which requires a lot of work, and other Schools within the College have not only a Director but bespoke administrative support. So far we have benefited greatly from experience and support from Engineering, who have similar 2+2 and 2+3 degrees. However our numbers have now increased sufficiently that we should be providing more in-house support. For example, Engineering run a Summer School which helps these students to acclimatise to Edinburgh in terms of language, teaching and study skills to help with their induction. We need to contribute to this and ensure that our students are getting Informatics-tailored support.</p> <p>Paper 9.2 proposes a division of labour where there is a senior member of staff in the role of Director of Internationalisation but that there are other members of academic staff taking responsibility for particular geographic regions. In addition, a member of administrative staff should be allocated to our internationalisation efforts so that they can build expertise, in partnership with the colleagues in other Schools, to support our efforts.</p> <p>JH raised concerns about the Peking internships, having had the impression that many of the cohort were spending time in Edinburgh to be able to prove their English skills for applications for PhD programmes in the US. In terms of the 2+2 and 2+3 programmes, concerns were raised by some of the committee about the amount of work which was involved for an intake of a relatively low number of students. HT noted that these programmes help to build up relationships with partner universities which, in turn, builds up the potential for staff mobility and the building of research collaborations.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Set up short-lived working group to look at what activities of the Director of Internationalisation is currently doing and what objectives we have for this area and where the priorities should be. DS should lead this, with input from others.</p>	Don Sannella
10.	<p><b><u>Any other business</u></b></p> <p><b>Meeting dates</b> for the 2017/18 academic year were proposed and accepted.</p> <p><b>Committee roles and responsibilities</b> MJW presented a paper clarifying the roles and responsibilities of committee members across the School. He will also be reviewing the reporting structure to clarify which committees will report in to each other.</p> <p><b>PhD Fellowship scheme</b> Boris Grot has submitted an initial proposal for a potential PhD fellowship scheme. He will present a full paper at the next meeting. JH presented the proposal on his behalf and will discuss our feedback with him ahead of the August meeting. There was broad support for taking a small amount of risk to underwrite students prior to their funding being in place. It was recommended that he look more carefully at the application process issues, and speak with selectors to get their feedback.</p>	JH
11.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> 2pm, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017. Turing Room.</p>	

