
Meeting
IPAB Staff Meeting

Date
28th September 2017

Attendees

Barbara Webb
Bob Fisher
Taku Komura
Michael Mistry
Kartic Subr
Hakan Bilen
Sethu Vijayakumar
Heather Low
Joanne Pennie
Allison Taylor
Vladimir Ivan
Tim Hospedales
John McAleese
Alex Li
Steph Smith

Place
1.16, IF

Time
2pm

1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting were agreed as accurate with no amendments required.

2. Matters arising

No matters arising for discussion.

3. Arrivals and departures

The group welcomed Hakan Bilen. Hakan took up his role of lecturer on 1st September 2017.

Francois Heremans is a visitor from Universite Catholique de Louvain, France. Hosted by Sethu until September 2018.

4. New Grants and Proposals

- Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Hub proposal accepted. University of Edinburgh share of £4million awarded.

The Hub award will create 6 x post-doc vacancies within Informatics. We will be recruiting at the same time as other Universities also awarded Hub funding, therefore wider/higher level advertising needs to be considered. Admin to liaise with Barbara regarding costings.

BW and admin

- Taku received the Google AR/VR Research Award for research topic "A Deep Time-Series Model for Character Animation in Virtual and Augmented Reality". Taku was awarded 150,000USD.

5. Budget and Resources

Joanne presented an overview of the IPAB figures. It was noted that, due to a relatively healthy projected budget, exceptional costs for staff travel to meetings/conferences would be considered, although priority would still be for students with no alternative funding to attend meetings with accepted papers.

The group were reminded that administration, computing support and particularly technical support costs should be included in grant bids/proposals.

6. Business Development

John currently working with Taku alongside 4A Games Ltd regarding commercial license.

Google delivering student presentation on Tuesday 3rd October, taking place in Forum.

7. IPAB webpage

The IPAB webpage needs updating:

- Level 1 admin office will update the people pages accordingly and add business development link.
- Group pages should be updated/added where required by the appropriate group member.

SS

News items:

- Trimbot received an 'excellent' marking at the periodic review.

- Barbara and Sethu appointed as keynote speakers at New Scientist Live exhibition held in London 28 Sept – 1 Oct.
- RAI Hub awards
- Daniel Holden's work 'Phase-functioned Neural Network for Character Animation' was widely reported on the web/social media. The Youtube video attracted nearly 500,000 views

8. Teaching

RSS: Feedback suggests RSS practicals suffered due to the room move and associated delays.

Graphics: Rooms are too small (Barbara reminded the group that room moves can be requested).

Exam marking changes were discussed with the group advised that any change proposals must be considered and approved by the Board of Studies.

9. IPAB space within the new building

Space for the RAI Hub RA's needs to be considered.

A separate meeting is required to discuss lab space in the new building. To include discussion regarding use of the ground floor, living lab and also potential staff office moves. This meeting will be scheduled to take place after the next staff meeting (Thurs 26th October). Vlad has a copy of the floor plans should anyone wants to see them.

SS

10. IPAB workshops and seminars

Nothing to discuss.

11. Student Issues

John Pisokas has been nominated to take over the role of Student Representative following Pavlos' departure.

12. Computing Issues

Hakan raised the matter of purchasing equipment for new PhD students. Funds could come from IPAB (within reasonable limits). Hakan will pull together a list of equipment needed and estimated

HB

costs and liaise with Barbara.

13. Admin issues

No admin issues raised.

14. Socials

The IPAB welcome event will take place Thursday, 5th October to which all IPAB members are invited. Pizza will be served in MF2.

The IPAB Christmas event needs to be arranged. Steph will obtain quotes. **SS**

The school Principal will host a reception at his Regent Terrace address for Robotics on 14th November. Sethu will issue details of the event. **SV**

15. Directors Business

Nothing discussed.

16. AOB

A replacement for Michael Herrmann in his role as CDT deputy director is still required. Interested parties should contact Sethu as CDT director.

17. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 26th October at 2pm, followed by the new building space meeting at 3pm.