

Strategy Committee Minutes

28th October 2015 at 2pm, Turing Room

Location

Attendees: Johanna Moore (Chair), Martin Wright, Perdita Stevens, Bjoern Franke, Colin Adams, Michael Fourman, Don Sannella, Murray Cole, Stuart Anderson, Magdalena Mazurczak (secretary)

Apologies: Nigel Topham, Dave Hamilton

	Summary	ACTION
1.	<p>Approval of previous minutes</p> <p>a) Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as a true representation of the meeting with one spelling correction.</p>	
2.	<p>Matters arising from previous meeting:</p> <p>a) MF explained the way Oxford offers their industry-funded studentships.</p> <p>b) Carried forward. MF to return figures on the growth rates of the top 5 performances in REF including the number of post-graduates and RAs per a member of academic staff. Completed.</p> <p>c) Overseas student group. Neil Heatley and MJW are working with Henry Thompson on increasing recruitment.</p> <p>d) The Alan Turing Institute (TATI). Action: JM to continue working on the proposed secondment model and circulate to this committee. Ongoing.</p> <p>e) Research services. MJW meeting with Portfolio Managers to discuss issues raised.</p> <p>f) Business Informatics. DS had met with the Business School. There was discussion about the potential size of the market for such a programme. Was the market those with business qualifications wishing to learn about data or those with computer science (or similar) qualifications wishing to learn about business? It was felt that the latter may be more attractive to Informatics as students would have the pre-requisite knowledge for our existing level 11 courses. DS to continue discussions with Business School to clarify proposals. Carry forward</p> <p>g) EPSRC will put out a call for a CDT in New Forms of Data (UoE along with UCL and Warwick University). Action: SA to circulate the information. Carry forward.</p> <p>h) Research Day. 10th December research day meeting reminder to be circulated. Update - Research Day postponed, new date to follow.</p> <p>i) Improving feedback to students. Ian Stark provided a paper that will be presented to Board of Studies on the 4 November. Completed</p> <p>j) Carried forward: MJW to circulate proposals for updated PDR pro forma. Completed.</p> <p>k) Estates projects: MJW advised DTI works due to start from February 2016. A proposal for the potential internal reconfiguration of Appleton Tower is being developed.</p> <p>l) Honorary degrees. AN circulated the requirements for Honorary degrees nominations and a list of previous degree recipients. One name to be forwarded to AN. Action: All to email AN with other potential candidates. A link to Edinburgh or Scotland is required.</p>	<p>MF</p> <p>JM</p> <p>DS</p> <p>SA</p> <p>MJW</p> <p>All</p>

	RESEARCH BUSINESS	
3.	Report from Director of Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact: Pim Totterdell, MJW and MF are working to create the wiki that would present examples of impact cases. • Volume: Increase the REF report of fellowships by submission of former RAs or proposals hosted away from Edinburgh. • Resubmit to REF the previous cases targeting more precisely. • MF reported that Leonid Libkin has been awarded membership of Academia Europaea. 	
	TEACHING BUSINESS	
4.	Teaching business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching feedback: We are investigating ways of simplifying the course feedback in order to return it in 15 days. DS suggested streamlined process and reduction of repeated marks input onto ITO systems. • Coding project. Edinburgh City Council and Virtual Edinburgh are involved in a coding project offered for PhD students. SA will get in contact with David Richardson and contact Heather Walker with regards to publicity. • Teaching and Learning in PDR. SA proposed to include yearly personal teaching goals or improvement strategy in the PDRs. The NSS feedback should be carefully judged as it might not be relative to the actual value of the teachers' input. The aim of activity is to improve students' feedback before the teaching excellence report will be introduced to the University ranking system. • MSc deposit fee payment scheme. BjF reported on other Schools placement offer procedures. It has been agreed to introduce a deposit of £1000 after student accepts the place. This initial cost will be deducted from the final course fees. 	SA
	COMMERCIALISATION BUSINESS	
5.	Commercialisation business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CA reported on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal to investigate setting up Informatics Ventures IV as discrete self-sustaining business entity at end of current funding (December 2017). - A new Internship programme offering a variety of "special events" will be available for the PhD students. - Scottish Labour Party Science Panel. 	
6.	Head of School presentation from CSMC Away Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JM presented the School Strategy presentation from the above. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouraged to increase the demonstrable impact by targeting public engagement and policy makers (maintain the records of visits and increase the visibility of any outreach events). Connect more effectively with any opportunities. - The growth of research income could be enhanced via submitting proposals reviewed by a senior member of staff. SA mentioned it is worth to identify opportunities to apply for platform grants. - DTI space that will be available from 2018 will present future opportunities. - The NSS Group will be working on improving the teaching and learning experience. 	

7.	Planning and Finance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJW reported on the budget. The position remained challenging, with budget reductions for 2016/17 as a consequence of the changes to the REG funding. 	
8.	Other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exit survey feedback many positives, however induction and support for career development and advancement identified as issues. Plans are in hand to help address. UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) Compliance. The University is required to be able to account for all absences from the normal place of work of all Tier 2 and Tier 5 staff. This will require the introduction of a School-wide calendaring system with access for HR staff. Gender Equality Survey. It has been proposed that either during the induction or in week 11 the first year's students should learn about the ethical behaviour in the group. 	
9.	Date of next meeting: 2pm Wednesday 25 th November 2015, Turing Room.	