

Strategy Committee Minutes

27th January 2016 at 2pm, Turing Room

Attendees: Johanna Moore (Chair), Martin Wright, Colin Adams, Mahesh Marina, Barbara Webb, Perdita Stevens, Nigel Goddard, Nigel Topham, Don Sannella, Markus Guhe, Anda Nicolson(secretary)

Apologies: Bjoern Franke, Stuart Anderson, Michael Fourman, Murray Cole, Jon Oberlander

	Summary	ACTION
1.	Approval of previous minutes Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.	
2.	Matters arising from previous meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Alan Turing Institute. The call for secondees/Faculty Fellows has been issued and there have been 23 UoE applications. JM will look to get advice from Director of Teaching and Heads of Institute about individual Informatics applicants prior to the secondments meeting on 5th February. b) Business Informatics. Action: DS to continue discussions with Business School to clarify proposals. Carry forward c) ESRC 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. d) 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. Carry forward. e) Student focus groups. Alex Lascarides is leading on this. Action: This should be tabled for next month's agenda and Alex invited to speak. f) China Scholarship Council. It has been decided that we will not participate in this scheme this year. Action: NT to circulate this information to academic staff to ensure they are not giving their students incorrect information. 	 DS SA SA AN NT
	RESEARCH BUSINESS	
3.	Report from Director of Research MF unable to attend this meeting, so no update given.	
4.	Research success stories A discussion was held around finding a mechanism for submitting success stories to College when Research Committee doesn't meet. It was noted that submitting them via Research Committee adds a layer of value to the process, rather than using an approach which only looks at the monetary value of grants. Action: MJW to speak with Julie Young to discuss.	
5.	Research Day New date to be selected for this. Ongoing action.	MF
6.	Research IT plan The committee reviewed the document and expressed that there is a need for wider consultation. The funding of this is unclear and close monitoring is required. Action: document to be circulated to Research Committee and feedback collated then cc'd to PS. Add feedback response to this committee's agenda for information.	AN
7.	Chancellor's Fellow priority Discussion held around prioritisation of recruitment for Chancellor's Fellows position. Advertising in a restrictive area has benefits as when you advertise more widely you often	

	<p>get a huge volume of applicants, creating a lot of administrative work to fill one post. We could focus on an area we want to recruit to but that we don't have an immediate teaching requirement in.</p> <p>Possibilities discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human-like computing • Software engineering <p>The advertisement should invite applications from either area, with a hope to recruit someone who can do both.</p>	
	<u>TEACHING BUSINESS</u>	
8.	<p>Report from Director of Teaching</p> <p>BF not present, no report at this time.</p>	
9.	<p>RA teaching duties</p> <p>MG presented a response from RAs around the proposal that they are allocated some teaching duties.</p> <p>There was a positive response to the idea of teaching duties but expressed concerns about adding this to their existing schedules. It was noted that the idea of teaching being allocated as 5% of their time was low, given the additional duties that often come with teaching.</p> <p>It was noted that some funding bodies do not allow teaching. The School could look to "buy out" their time to enable teaching or marking duties.</p>	
	<u>GRADUATE SCHOOL BUSINESS</u>	
10.	<p>Report from Director of Graduate School</p> <p>Three Microsoft scholarships have been awarded this year, from seven applications.</p> <p>There are two hundred applications in Theon at the moment.</p> <p>There is a deadline of 12th February for the Principal's Career Development scholarships. There are 45 available across the university, with 50% funding for home/EU students. The Edinburgh Global Scholarships deadline is 1st February and this is open to international students with a top up for fees.</p> <p>There has been an idea suggested of a teaching PhD scholarship which would combine PhD study with some teaching duties. The committee was interested in the idea. Action: NT to work up a proposal for this and bring back to this committee.</p> <p>Issues have been experienced by students wanting to do internships as international students cannot be paid for work as part of their visa terms. NT proposed that we look at a PhD which includes an element of interning as an integral part of the course. Action: NT to speak with the International Office about this.</p> <p>The ATI PhD call is now out. Students apply to the ATI, are matched with supervisors and apply to their "home" institution with this once they have a conditional offer from the ATI.</p>	<p>NT</p> <p>NT</p>
	<u>COMMERCIALISATION BUSINESS</u>	
11.	<p>Report from Director of Commercialisation</p> <p>A meeting will be held on 29th January to brief Informatics stakeholders on the Industry Club proposal. This will then be rolled out to industry partners.</p> <p>The next iTue is on 23rd February and is Gareth Williams from Skyscanner.</p>	
	<u>HEAD OF SCHOOL'S BUSINESS</u>	
12.	<p>Honorary degrees</p> <p>All the CSE nominations for honorary degrees bar one accepted their nominations.</p>	

13.	<p>Report from Sabbaticals Committee</p> <p>Four sabbatical requests were received for 2016/17, one for 2017/18 and one notice of intent for 2017/18. The formal requests have been approved.</p> <p>One further application for a calendar year sabbatical is still being reviewed.</p>	
14.	<p>ESRC CDT studentship</p> <p>ESRC will call three intakes of 10 students for four year studentships. UCL, Warwick and UoE are putting in a proposal for this on New Forms of Data, offering an additional 15 studentships.</p> <p>Each university is committing to funding five studentships each (for the total of 15) It is hoped that these will be funded by industry, but they are asking us to underwrite one studentship.</p> <p>Concerns were raised by the committee that we already have significant funding commitments for CDTs and that we may not find a supervisor in this area for any potential student. We can offer supervisors for appropriate students, but are not willing to specifically guarantee funds for this scheme.</p>	
<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>		
15.	<p>Workload model</p> <p>The paper circulated (paper D) was discussed and generally supported. The same group will meet again to add details to the proposed model and will feedback to this committee at an appropriate time.</p>	
16.	<p>Expenses guidelines</p> <p>Suggestions have been made for minor amendments to the circulated document. Action: MJW to amend and circulate to this committee. Completed.</p>	MJW
17.	<p>Papers process for future meetings</p> <p>All papers will be made available online before meetings. These papers will be available on our website, so anything confidential/sensitive should be flagged to the committee secretary.</p>	
18.	<p>Prevent duty</p> <p>This is the government's anti-terrorism strategy and there are implications on how this impacts higher education institutions.</p> <p>Action: MJW to circulate information on this to the committee. Completed.</p>	MJW
19.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>24th February 2016</p>	