

University of Portsmouth

School of Computing

Research and Innovation Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2014, 14:30 in BK1.15

Present

Jim Briggs	Chair
Nick Savage	Head of School of Computing
Alexander Gegov	Reader
Mo Adda	Pervasive Computing Group
Benjamin Aziz	New researcher rep
Carl Adams	Information Systems group
Ivan Jordanov	Computational Intelligence Group

In attendance

Angela Muscat	Minutes Secretary
---------------	-------------------

1. Apologies for absence

Honghai Liu
Djamel Ait-Boudaoud
Nedyalko Petrov

2. Approval of previous minutes

The previous minutes were accepted as an accurate record with the exception of two changes. It was agreed that the nationality of Ivan's visitor was irrelevant. Nick proposed a couple of changes which were accepted.

3. Matters arising

Jim was actioned to organise a Weds 5 on impact, which took place last week.

4. Reports on recent activity

Jim Briggs presented his usual graphs.

- a. Publications. Jim reported that the number of publications in Parade for 2013 was lower than in 2012. The forecasts from earlier in the year had been higher. The shortfall could be because individuals are currently not able to enter their own publications into Parade. Jim added that this process is likely to change and the University is currently trialling a new system called Pure which is a complete research management system. Pure was due to roll out in December but there are delays. Pure is currently being used by around 20 UK universities and around 100+ worldwide. In the meantime, there is a list of Faculty administrators who can add to Pure and auto-migrate publications to Parade. At present, if there is anything urgent to upload, Jim suggests sending to Helen Walker. Eventually, it is anticipated that academics will be able to upload their own publications.
- b. Funding. Jim explained that the red line on the graph represents money brought in from external sources. The blue line represented expected funding. Jim reported that the funding position did not look good at the moment. There appears to have been no new grant successes since May 2013. Carl

commented that he got £3k over the Summer last year and Jim asked for the details to be forwarded to him. There are currently 3 bids in the pipeline, 2 from Jim, 1 from Sanaz. The outcome of these should be known March/April.

c. Research students.

- (i) Completions. One student had completed since the last meeting. It was agreed that it is important to make sure that completions happen. There are three students nearing completion.
- (ii) Progress. Jim reported that in the last 4 years, there has been an increase from 18 PhD students to the current level of 44. Space is a major factor. Ivan indicated that the Dean had said there may be some room available in Lion Gate once the Portland refurbishments have been completed. It was agreed to continue pressing the Dean for more space. Growth is a healthy sign and lack of space should not be an issue. It was agreed that the School can be more selective with regard to new applications. Nick reported that he had become aware that there may be up to 5 new studentships available in the near future and wanted to make sure we had the resources to accommodate them.
- (iii) Admissions. Alex reported that the new online procedure with the supervisor group seemed to be successful. He reiterated that we should not shut down new applications because of the issue of space. We have to become more selective.

d. SoC and CSI seminars.

Alex commented that attendance is good. There has been an issue of presenters over-running. He will reiterate to speakers that the presentation should last only one hour including questions.

e. New appointments and departures.

None.

f. Incoming Visitors.

Jim introduced a new form for recording visitors to the department. Erasmus visitors with a research purpose should be included. Visits of any duration, however long or short, should be added. The form is available on the web and Jim will circulate the URL shortly.

g. Outgoing visits, meetings, conferences attended.

Nick reported that there is a small amount of money available for conferences. There was discussion with regard to PhD students attending conferences. It was agreed that conference attendance has to bring some benefit. We had to ensure impact factors were achieved and bring in money. Bench fees for PhD students were discussed. We had to ensure that bench fees were directed to the right place.

h. Web pages. Jim reported that staff webpages were updated before Christmas in the new standard University format. With regard to links from personal pages, the pages must be responsive to be linked. Nick has some information which he will circulate.

5. Report from Faculty R&KT Committee

Meeting has not yet taken place. Jim announced that Alex Gegov will be the new Chair for the Faculty R&KT Committee. Alex confirmed he had been appointed as Associate Dean for Research. Alex will organise a Weds 5.5 to try to increase research engagement. Previous objectives have been to promote PhD project ideas. A process has now been set up at Faculty level. Jim will send out an email with instructions.

6. School's action plan on research

Nick reported that he has the ability to rewrite the action plan to ensure criteria for the REF submissions are met such as high impact factor journal publications, identifying expertise to bring in money, high quality project ideas. It was discussed whether to incorporate the money received from Informatics into the reports. Jim mentioned something called DORA (Declaration on Research Assessment) but was not aware if it is on the agenda for the University to adopt this.

7. Research group objectives

Jim reported that CHMI was currently trying to get substantial income with regard to clinical outcomes work. There has been a hiatus with regard to telemedicine but Jim has a meeting on Friday with a company to join a European bid in that area. Regarding the "Big Data" agenda, the School of Sport and Exercise Science has a lot of data and need people to analyse. Jim will be meeting with them in the next couple of weeks.

Mo reported that the name of his group was changing to Networking & Security. There have been a few bids by Sanaz and Ben which have been rejected. Thanos also had an interesting bid rejected. Going through an unsuccessful phase

Carl reported a few collaborative bids with Brighton. A new bid with the kidney guys competing for TSB pot. If successful will bring in £18k, currently feedback is being addressed and will be submitted again.

Ivan updated the name of group to Computational Intelligence. Few of his members have a strong intention to be part of an international team to seek bids. Sanaz and Janka have expressed an interest. Ivan would like to continue to increase the phd numbers and we need to resolve the space problem. Conferences are a first step to publications. There was a discussion as to whether First Supervisors should have a PhD. It was agreed not to discriminate because of this but First Supervisor's without a PhD should be exceptional.

8. AOB

Alex requested a volunteer to present at the cross-department seminar on 26th February. Mo volunteered.

Carl has been invited to Chair a new research group at a Portuguese University. They needed an external researcher as a Chair for the committee overseeing the Board of Governors Research Group.

Jim is trialling new database software, SCOPUS, which is the main competition for the Web of Science / Web of Knowledge. Jim attended a meeting yesterday where it was demonstrated. It is available for the next three weeks to search for journals. A related system (SCIVAL) uses SCOPUS data to benchmark things against each other. Jim showed an example of an output.

9. Next Meeting

4th June 2014, 2.30pm, Head of School's Office