

**University of Portsmouth
School of Computing
Research and Innovation Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2014, 14:30 in BK1.15

Present

Jim Briggs Chair
Nick Savage Head of School of Computing
Ivan Jordanov AI Group
Carl Adams Information Systems group

In attendance

Angela Muscat Minutes Secretary

1. Apologies for absence

Honghai Liu
Djamel Ait-Boudaoud
Nedyalko Petrov
Alexander Gegov
Benjamin Aziz
Mo Adda

2. Approval of previous minutes

The previous minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising

No matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Reports on recent activity

Jim Briggs had distributed graphs prior to the meeting.

- a) **Publications.** Jim reported that the number of publications in Parade for 2013 had risen over the last couple of months to 58. Jim was worried that the projections for 2014 are looking very low; currently on course for 14 papers. This could be due to people not entering their information. Ivan and Carl both confirmed they have papers to add. Nick admitted that he has so far not used PURE or Parade but will look into it. The possibility of organising a Weds 5 relating to PURE was discussed.
- b) **Funding.** Jim informed the Committee that, after a very flat period, funding has suddenly increased due to his own funding and that of Honghai. The School has probably met the target for this year. Nick confirmed the target will not be set until 2015.
- c) **Research students.**
 - i. Completions. One more student had completed since the last meeting. Two more are expected to complete within the next year.
 - ii. Progress. Nick confirmed there are potentially 36 new PhD students waiting to start. There is space for approximately 8. He had allocated 2 desks for each of Honghai's students but it appears they are only using one each so there may be more space available. In addition, Mo's and Peter's visiting students will be leaving soon. There may be some juggling around in October. There was discussion about where students from particular research groups should go and it was agreed to aim to have all CHMI students in BK1.04. Ivan would compile a list of hot desks for part-time students.

ACTION: NS, IJ
 - iii. Admissions. There have been no new admissions since the last meeting. Nick confirmed we have received many applications but confirmed he has been rejecting weak and plagiarised applications.

- d) **SoC and CSI seminars.** Jim commented that the seminars are progressing well and attendance is good.
- e) **New appointments and departures.** Tineke Fitch is due to return to the Department. Tineke has expressed an interest to get back into research.
- f) **Incoming Visitors.** Jim circulated a graph relating to meetings. The results suggest that only a few members of staff are completing the form. Nick agreed it was good to record meetings so staff should be encouraged to engage.
- g) **Outgoing visits, meetings, conferences attended.** Mo and Alex are currently on Erasmus visits. Nick hoped it would bring in new funds.
- h) **Web pages.** Ivan reported that most research student entries on the webpages are incomplete. Students should be reminded to update the information to include a staff profile.

ACTION: IJ

5. Report from Faculty R&I Committee

Jim reported that the new research strategy document has fewer strategic objectives and more targets. The Faculty is organising a meeting for early career researchers in July. The peer review college was discussed. Jim reported that the Leverhulme Trust are offering doctoral scholarships and the University was intending to submit proposals on the theme of "vulnerability". Jim reported there was a discussion on Open Access publishing and the University are moving forward with this.

6. School's action plan for research

Nick confirmed there are no longer actions but targets. He confirmed we have exceeded our target for PG students and the target for research income has actually doubled but we should hit the target. The PGS completion rate is currently 80% and we may or may not meet this. We have a target to achieve 1 KTP and Jim noted he has the possibility of one. We have hit the target for active research projects and research active staff. Carl asked if there was anything we could be doing to meet the targets and Nick replied to continue as we are.

7. Faculty Working Group on research facilitation

Jim circulated a Structured Summary of Recommendations compiled by Alex. The summary covers areas which need tackling. It is designed to know the issues, if not the solutions. Jim invited comments. Nick made the following comments on each section:-

- a) Time
 - i. The implementation of minimum research allocation, Will be gone through next week.
 - ii. Protect new staff research time. There is no policy as yet but it is desirable to let new staff settle in.
 - iii. Allocate allowance to PhD supervision teams. This has been done.
 - iv. Use pairing on unit delivery. The Unit Coordinator is free to arrange teaching and this is likely to continue – still considering.
- b) Resources
 - i. Provide funds for consortia networking. Djamel is doing this.
 - ii. Provide funds for internal projects. Djamel is doing this.
 - iii. Provide funds for conference participation. We do have money available but this must be spent appropriately. We need to ensure value.
 - iv. Provide funds for studentships. The Faculty do this.
 - v. Employ external invigilators and PTHP markers. John Turner instigated the University Policy that we do not employ external invigilators – this may change.
- c) Training
 - i. Provide effective mentoring to new staff. We struggle with this. So few people have grant winning experience. There is usually good support for new staff through their first few months, then this drops off. We could do better.

- ii. Extend PhD duration to 4 years. Not keen to do this.
- iii. Improve PhD Process. Do not understand this category.
- iv. Maintain high quality research seminars. We have had some good speakers with interesting talks
- v. Spend time at the Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation. There is the ability to do this. There is a desk available which can be booked. Nick will send an email around regarding this.

ACTION: NS

d) Processes

- i. Introduce reward payments for research success. There has been a lot of debate regarding this. If staff are being allocated time to do research, it would effectively mean they are being paid twice.
- ii. Introduce research admin staff in schools. We already do this. There was a suggestion that someone be appointed to a specific research project management role.
- iii. Facilitate networking with external partners. All requests have been agreed so far. The amounts are trivial.
- iv. Hold meetings with the Research and Innovation Service. One took place recently.
- v. Match expectations from research to the ones from teaching. The two should be intertwined.

8. New research centre in computational intelligence.

This has been talked about for a long time. Honghai has been asked to come up with a name. It was agreed that further discussion was needed in time to take a proposal to the next FRIC meeting.

ACTION: IJ, AG, HL

9. DORA

Jim circulated the URL (<http://am.ascb.org/dora/>) for the DORA website. DORA advocates judging the quality of research rather than the quality of the journal it is published in. Jim noted that HEFCE had already signed up to it and this is also compatible with the REF approach. We can expect several UK Universities to sign up to this. Nick was not keen to change the current system. It was suggested that Alex take this subject to the University Research Committee for consideration.

ACTION: AG

10. AOB

Carl reported that he attended the Knowledge Services Operational Meeting at the Business School to try to get some feedback on how well the different knowledge service activities worked within PBS. There was some discussion regarding this and Carl suggested running an event to attract interaction from outside the University. It was suggested that early Dec/early Jan would be a good time to organise this. It might be a good idea to involve someone from PBS. Carl has emailed Nick regarding this and Nick will respond.

ACTION: CA, NS

11. Next Meeting

TBC, Head of School's Office