



**Department of Computer Science
HEADS OF RESEARCH GROUP MEETING**

Thursday 20th August 2015
15:00 – 16:30 6.12 Malet Place Engineering

MINUTES

Present: Danny Alexander (DA), Tomaso Aste (TA), George Danezis (GD), Olivier Delacroix (OD), Anthony Hunter (AH), David Pym (DP), Yvonne Rogers (YR), John Shawe-Taylor (JST), Anthony Steed (AS), Sarah Turnbull (ST), Shi Zhou (SZ)

Apologies for absence: Simon Arridge (SA), Ann Blandford (AB), Jane Butler (JB), Ingemar Cox (IC), Mark Harman (MH), David Jones (DJ), Brad Karp (BK), Graham Roberts (GR), Angela Sasse (MAS), Jill Saunders (JS), Philip Treleaven (PT)

1. Apologies for absences.

GD apologised for MAS's absence and attended the meeting in her place
SZ apologised for IC's absence and attended the meeting in their place

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (14th May 2015)

Approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

No matters to be discussed.

4. Notice of any other business

None.

5. Faculty Research Director's Forum Meeting Summary (DA)

DA reported that at the last Faculty Research Director's Forum Meeting the new Vice-Dean of Research, Tony Kenyon, introduced himself and revealed some of his plans for the coming year, in particular a mentoring scheme for academic members of staff at a faculty level to allow interaction across departments whereby a senior academic would mentor a more junior academic from a different department.

DA requested that heads of research groups inform him if there is anything they would like to feed back for the meeting particularly in areas of impact workshops, digital health data analysis, big data, etc.

6. Appraisals and promotion feedback for academic staff (JST)

JST raised the following two issues:

1. Appraisals for academic staff are irregular
2. Feedback following the promotions round is not well coordinated

JST recommended that heads of groups set aside 1 day after the promotions to provide feedback to members of their group with GR doing the same for the Advanced Teaching group. The meetings are to be annual and last roughly 1 hour per member of staff. JST

advised that he had sent the proposal via email to all heads and had received no objections as of yet.

TA queried whether it would be more beneficial to provide this feedback prior to the promotions round in order to aid promotion recommendations of staff.

JST assured that as they would have had the feedback from the previous year it would not be necessary, highlighting that the main issue is the lack of appraisals.

YR requested that more reminders are sent

JST agreed and advised that now is the time to start the appraisal process and setting aside time as the re-banding promotion phase has just happened and the within-band process is about to start.

ACTION: JST to send separate email and add item to the Promotion Committee Agenda

7. Research Group representation at teaching committee (JST)

JST advised that the Teaching Committee Meeting is very poorly attended and advised that each research group must have at least 1 person in attendance to represent their group's interests. This person should normally be the director of the group's MSc module or the group head, but a group may choose to send 2 members or any representative from the group.

JST advised that teaching will become an increasing issue with the arrival of 150 new students and encouraged groups to collaborate to deliver high-quality teaching and high student satisfaction with the Advanced Teaching Group.

8. Monthly Research Group Meetings (YR)

YR suggested that the Department must be more proactive about inter-group information sharing and interaction as we are now spread across 3 different buildings. YR proposed that to achieve this we arrange a once-per-month lunch time meeting where 1 group per month will showcase their recent work. How each group chooses to present their work, or whether they choose to focus on research or teaching would be entirely up to them.

All were in favour of the proposal

SZ suggested the possibility of 2 per month during semester and none during summer. This was discussed and agreed that it would feel like too much and too often.

JST agreed that the Department would fund to cater the lunch meetings in order to encourage attendance.

It was suggested that we use the Ground Floor Seminar room at 66-72 Gower Street, ST to look into it.

ACTION: ST to look into, and book if possible the seminar room at 66 GS for the 3rd Wednesday of each month

Volunteers for various months are as follows:

October	November	December	January	February	March
Information Security	Financial Computing	Xmas Celebration	UCLIC	VECG	VIS

There are no volunteers for any month following March.

ACTION: The following groups have yet to select a month to showcase current work. Group heads should inform ST of their preferred month

- Bioinformatics
- Intelligent Systems
- Media Futures
- PPLV
- SSE

9. Activities for PhD Students & Guest seminars (AH)

AH stated that current PhD students have expressed concerns that they have very little opportunity to interact with other members of the Department, and as a consequence are feeling very isolated and unhappy. In response, to tackle this issue AH suggested that the Department host a monthly social event for the students. The proposed event would take the form of a seminar with a speaker either from another institution or from within the Department which would then be immediately followed by a social gathering with tea, coffee and biscuits.

JST recommended that the students are encouraged to participate in the organization the event, and recommended Guy Leaver (a current RA) as a source of experience and guidance as he has recently been involved in student lunch organizations.

YR suggested inviting speakers from the graduate pool as examples of what our graduates go on to accomplish.

DA suggested an away-day may be a good social event for students, however YR did emphasise that due to the large size of the current PhD cohort that might not be feasible as a Department, but may still be possible for within-groups. DP noted that some groups already do social events such as away-days, and that his group, PPLV, would be doing one in the very near future.

It was agreed that regular events of some

10. Recently awarded research grants (OD)

OD presented a list of all recently awarded research grants. The total income for recently awarded research grants is **£1,956,761.41**. Attention was drawn to two large EPSRC grants of over £500,000 each, 525702 and 527096. It was also noted that Sarah Meiklejohn and Gianluca Stringhini had secured their first grants since joining the Department. Full table below. OD stated that this amount was low compared to other months, however also noted that research grant income is cyclical in nature with H2020 submission rates slowing down over the summer and increased Industry-funded research.

Code	Short Name	Funding Source	PI	Indexed Value (£)	Proposed start date
524170	EPSRC MEIKLEJOHN	EPSRC	Meiklejohn, Dr Sarah	75,892.60	01/10/2015
524245	NOMURA TRELEAVEN	Nomura Int'l Plc	Treleaven, Prof Philip	51,000.00	08/09/2014
524346	GOOGLE LAMPOS	Google	Lamos, Dr Vasilios	33,358.20	15/04/2015
524429	EPSRC HULME	EPSRC	Hulme, Mr Daniel	9,950.00	01/06/2015
524568	MICROSOFT RIEDEL	Microsoft Research Ltd	Riedel, Dr Sebastian	1,200.00	14/04/2015
524569	MICROSOFT RIEDEL	Microsoft Research Ltd	Riedel, Dr Sebastian	1,200.00	26/07/2015
52472	SON BROSTOW	Sony Corporation	Brostow, Dr Gabriel	88,888.00	01/05/2015

524763	ECDC KOSTKOVA	ECDC	Kostkova, Dr Patty	10,500.00	22/12/2014
524853	MICROSOFT ALGLAVE	Microsoft Research Ltd	Alglave, Dr Jade	5,000.00	01/06/2015
525554	EC STEED	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	Steed, Prof Anthony	66,229.10	01/06/2015
525573	EPSRC STEED	EPSRC	Steed, Prof Anthony	9,911.00	01/07/2015
525702	EPSRC TRELEAVEN	EPSRC	Treleaven, Prof Philip	542,733.17	01/10/2015
525740	MICROSOFT BROSTOW	Microsoft Research Ltd	Brostow, Dr Gabriel	37,150.00	28/09/2015
525761	MICROSOFT DANEZIS	Microsoft Research Ltd	Danezis, Dr George	37,150.00	08/04/2015
526089	EPSRC SHAWE- TAYLOR	EPSRC	Shawe-Taylor, Prof John	8,259.01	06/01/2014
526098	EPSRC SRINIVASAN	EPSRC	Srinivasan, Prof Mandayam	54,506.00	01/06/2015
526100	EPSRC SHAWE- TAYLOR	EPSRC	Shawe-Taylor, Prof John	108,349.00	01/06/2015
526568	RS CUBITT	Royal Society	Cubitt, Dr Toby	211,977.24	22/06/2015
527096	EPSRC HUNTER	EPSRC	Hunter, Prof Anthony	556,693.33	01/01/2016
527147	GOOGLE SASSE	Google	Sasse, Prof Angela	28,571.43	13/08/2015

There was discussion of how to increase success rates of proposals where the possibility of using professional writers was suggested by YR, which the committee felt would not substantially increase success relative to the cost of employing a professional grant writer. It was instead suggested that further workshops on proposal writing would be beneficial, as well as increasing proposals to the EPSRC for funding for a part-time PhD Student who would be employed as a Research Assistant on a full-time basis as the EPSRC are reluctant to fund any further full-time studentships at this time.

11. Recently awarded research students (ST)

ST presented a list of recently awarded Research Students. Full details below.

Surname	Forename	Award Details	Start	End	Time Taken	FT/ PT	Primary Supervisor	Secondary Supervisor
Ciosek	Kamil	PhD Computer Science	11/04/2011	17/08/2015	4 yr 4 mo	FT	David Silver	John Shawe-Taylor
Fu	Yun	PhD Computer Science	01/11/2008	30/04/2015	6 year 5 mo	FT	Simon Prince	Simon Arridge
Porter	Christopher	PhD Computer Science	20/04/2009	28/06/2015	6 yr 2 mo	PT	Angela Sasse	Emmanuel Leitier
Wang	Hao	PhD Computer Science	05/01/2009	11/08/2015	6 yr 7 mo	PT	Simon Julier	Stephen Hailes
Zhang	Changwang	PhD Security Science	26/09/2011	28/05/2015	3 yr 8 mo	FT	Shi Zhou	Benjamin Chain

Passed Viva, Awaiting final submission

Surname	Forename	Award Details	Start	Viva Date	Result	FT/PT	Primary Supervisor	Secondary Supervisor
Ashden	Debi	PhD Computer Science	24/09/2007	24/06/2015	no corrections	PT	Angela Sasse	Jens Groth
Averkiou	Melinos	PhD Computer Science	18/10/2011	15/05/2015	Minor	FT	Niloy Mitra	Jan Kautz
Laqua	Sven	PhD Computer Science	01/08/2005			PT	Angela Sasse	Rob Smith
Li	Jiwei	MPhil Computer Science	05/08/2013	24/07/2015	Minor	FT	Kyle Jamieson	Brad Karp
Xiong	Jie	PhD Computer Science	04/01/2010	24/07/2015	Minor	FT	Kyle Jamieson	Brad Karp

Thesis Submitted, Awaiting Viva

Surname	Forename	Award Details	Start	Submission Date	FT/PT	Primary Supervisor	Secondary Supervisor
Birch	Anika	PhD Computer Science	25/09/2012	24/06/2015	FT	Tomaso Aste	Donald Lawrence
Gorla	Jagadeesh	PhD Computer Science	12/10/2009	08/06/2015	FT	Jun Wang	Stephen Robertson
Zhao	Xiaoxue	PhD Computer Science	26/09/2011	05/08/2015	FT	Jun Wang	Ingemar Cox

ACTION: ST to investigate whether Kamil Ciosek officially registered for an interruption as JST believes time taken should have been ~6 months less with the inclusion of the interruption

ACTION: Information Security group to investigate whether there has been a delay in Debi Ashden's completion of award given no corrections were required and registry believe they are waiting on action from her.

12. Any Other Business

None

13. Date of Next Meeting

5th November 2015