



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

Thursday 14th May 2015

14:00 – 16:00 6.12 Malet Place Engineering

MINUTES

Present: Danny Alexander (DA), Simon Arridge (SA), Tomaso Aste (TA), Nadia Berthouze (NB), Ann Blandford (AB), Olivier Delacroix (OD), Mark Harman (MH), Anthony Hunter (AH), David Jones (DJ), David Pym (DP), Angela Sasse (MAS), John Shawe-Taylor (JST), Anthony Steed (AS), Sarah Turnbull (ST), Shi Zhou (SZ)

Apologies for absence: Jane Butler (JB), Ingemar Cox (IC), Brad Karp (BK), Massi Pontil (MP), Graham Roberts (GR), Yvonne Rogers (YR), Jill Saunders (JS), Philip Treleaven (PT)

1. Apologies for absences.

NB apologised for YR'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 (5th February 2015)

Approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

No matters to be discussed.

4. Notice of any other business

None.

5. Alan Turing Institute (SA)

SA presented a short slideshow about the Alan Turing Institute, that UCL is part of; along with 4 other Universities (Cambridge, Edinburgh, Oxford and Warwick). The Scientific Committee at UCL is split between 3 departments; Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics. SA stated that the Committee is to decide on progress, the length of which we do not know yet. SA stressed the intention to engage with industry and the private sector and that a CDT is to be developed.

JST encouraged members of the Computer Science department to be more proactive within the Institute as CS is a core part, although the Statistics department at UCL is currently more active, having already established the Data Science Centre and organizing a breakfast event (SA noted that he is unsure of whether the upcoming breakfast event is open to all within CS or invite-only). JST stated that he, SA and Anthony Finkelstein within CS are currently part of the Committee and that a director for the Institute should be appointed in June. In the meantime, JST suggested a workshop across cross-cutting themes and not just technical ones in order to drive towards greater industrial impact with the grand challenge of implementing privacy across large data.

SA advised that the first meeting of the board is the 15th May, after which more information will become available.

6. Departmental Strategic Research Fund (SA)

SA stated that the main objective of this Fund is to pump-prime research and/ or impact-related initiatives that are too premature for external investment and that currently it is used for:

- Conference travel
- Holding workshops/ funding travel for guests to workshops we host
- Post-parental leave “welcome back”

SA advised that the fund is open to anyone within the Department to apply for almost anything and advised that this fund is under-used. SA asked that Groups are reminded that this is available and is budgeted at £70k p/a by the department.

ACTION: JST to include reminder that the fund is available in the agenda for next Department Meeting.

ACTION: OD to remind appropriate people to present at the next Department Meeting.

[More information about the fund and applying can be found on the staff intranet http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/intranet/computer_science_strategic_research_funding_srf/]

7. The Institute for Digital Health (AB)

AB gave a brief presentation on the Institute for Digital Health (IDH), which she has recently been appointed as Director of. Although the IDH was unsuccessful in a recent EPSRC bid for iHealth there is currently a “virtual CDT” with 50 research students at UCL from various sources of funding. The IDH is aimed at being an umbrella organisation intended to bring together all involved research groups without undervaluing what each can do on their own.

The steering committee is made up of BEAMS, SLMS, UCLIC reps, with DA as the committee member for the faculty of Engineering.

There is a launch event on the 22nd June, please encourage staff to sign-up.

Prior to the appointment of a Director, there was a plan to set up the Centre for Engineering Digital Health, however it was discussed and agreed that this may no longer be necessary as there would be too much overlap and be too similar. For now the Centre for Engineering Digital Health is being put on hold.

JST stated that the IDH is looking at strands for UG and MSc projects, particularly with ECDC, UK Health and the World Health Organisation. Students would enter the course normally and then would be able to opt into modules and the relevant project. If you or anyone in your group is running a project of this nature, please make Patty Kostkova aware (P.Kostkova@cs.ucl.ac.uk).

The 4 key health agendas to consider for the projects are:

- Big data (being the priority to build the Department in this area)
- Integrated health records
- Person-centred digital health
- Patient safety.

AB stated that there will be 2 Research Fellows to join us on the IDH with an additional 1 requested in the budget at the moment.

8. Sabbatical Policy (JST)

JST stated that now there may be more flexibility to be more generous regarding Sabbaticals and suggested the possibility that the power to approve sabbatical leave be devolved to Groups rather than the department following appraisals and agreed teaching cover.

MAS made the point that this may not be feasible if other decisions such as Tapering for research grants and return from Parental Leave, are taken at a Departmental level.

JST emphasized that no decision has been taken yet, but that he would like to gauge support for the idea and discuss risks and benefits associated with the suggested change. The possibility is that the decision would be taken at group level, with support from the Department as needed. Groups would be responsible for arranging cover for teaching, but the Department would bear the economic cost of buying in cover.

DA queried whether we would move towards a sabbatical being imposed or whether it could be considered a right to have one after a certain time of continual service.

JST clarified that this would be negotiated at the time, and be taken at group level.

TA expressed support for the idea, but warned that it may risk over-complicating the issue for no great benefit and also create a level of expectation. If it were to be considered a right to take a sabbatical, the timeframe would be difficult to manage and it would need to be a system within groups to take turns.

No decision was reached, this is to be considered and discussed further at a later date.

9. Visitor Applications (JST)

JST clarified the process for visiting staff and students to UCL and the Department of Computer Science.

Short visits of less than 3 months

Short-term visitors who require space allocation need to fill in a Departmental form which JST must sign. This is not in place to stop good visitors, just a measure to provide warning to allow for the allocation of space and to ensure that the visitor has a genuine interest. Visitors who are here for less than 1 week need not complete the form.

Visits of more than 3 months

If your visitor requires library access, an ID card or any official documentation, they will be required to apply and register via the College process.

[The full process, arrangements and form can be found on the CS intranet main page (<http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/intranet/>) under Point 7, third bullet point under “other useful links”]

10. 66-72 Gower Street & space allocation (JST)

JST thanked everyone for their patience and help with a smooth move to 66-72 Gower Street for part of the Department. He recommended if there are any issues to please direct them to JJ Giwa-Majekodunmi (j.giwa@ucl.ac.uk).

Computer Science has recently received recognition in a meeting of the Heads of Departments from the UCL Provost, Professor Michael Arthur, who has agreed that the new Computer Science building is a priority. It has been suggested that in order to expedite the process, donations from Industrial Sponsors and Alumni to off-set the cost of a new building to UCL would be greatly beneficial.

MAS recommended the use of an American-style professional fundraising committee in order to be truly effective and to generate the maximum possible interest.

JST suggested that initially it would be best for as many academic members of staff to attend social events with potential sponsors, such as one that will be in California shortly; the main focus being not to attempt to raise funds at these events, but to build enthusiasm and support with industrial contacts for the Department and the new building. The main contact and organizer for such events within the Department is Jane Butler.

ACTION: all heads to encourage academic staff to attend upcoming events.

11. Recently awarded research grants (OD)

OD presented a list of all recently awarded research grants and noted that there is currently a healthy upward-trend in research income. The total income for recently awarded research grants is **£4,451,732.39**. Attention was drawn to the recent large EPSRC grants and European Commission grants. Full table below.

Code	Short Name	Funding Source	PI	Indexed Value	Proposed start date
521706	MICROSOFT MARQUARDT	Microsoft Research Ltd	Marquardt, Dr. Nicolai	£ 37,150.00	05/01/2015
521847	EC WEYRICH	European Commission	Weyrich, Dr. Tim	£ 600,930.74	01/01/2015
521918	KTP WANG	KTP Technology Strategy Board	Wang, Dr. Jun	£ 53,558.00	20/04/2015
522197	MAL WANG	Massive Analytic Limited	Wang, Dr. Jun	£ 34,839.00	20/04/2015
522303	RFX HUNTER	Royal Free Charity	Hunter, Prof. Anthony	£ 10,000.00	28/09/2015
522551	EPSRC STEED	EPSRC	Steed, Prof. Anthony	£ 583,046.25	01/03/2015
522952	EPSRC JIN	EPSRC	Jin, Dr. Bangti	£ 98,263.90	01/07/2015
523062	GOOGLE JAMIESON	Google	Jamieson, Dr. Kyle	£ 36,000.00	15/04/2015
523214	EPSRC ALEXANDER	EPSRC	Alexander, Dr. Daniel	£ 1,323,392.61	01/04/2015
523254	RCUK TRELEAVEN	RCUK via EPSRC	Treleaven, Prof. Philip Colin	£ 30,041.40	01/01/2015
523257	XEROX DE CRISTOFARO	Xerox Foundation	De Cristofaro, Dr. Emiliano	£ 17,142.85	01/05/2015
523280	EPSRC STEED	CEME	Steed, Prof. Anthony	£ 22,883.00	22/09/2014
523425	RS DE CRISTOFARO	Royal Society	De Cristofaro, Dr. Emiliano	£ 66,000.00	31/03/2015
523592	GCHQ SASSE	GCHQ	Sasse, Prof. Angela	£ 10,066.00	26/03/2015
523593	GCHQ ZHOU	GCHQ	Zhou, Dr. Shi	£ 33,162.00	26/03/2015
523594	GCHQ MURDOCH	GCHQ	Murdoch, Dr. Steven	£ 4,910.00	26/03/2015
523600	EC AGAPITO	European Commission	De Agapito Vicente, Dr. Lourdes	£ 687,575.00	01/05/2015
523604	EC MOURAO-MIRANDA	European Commission	Mourao-Miranda, Dr. Janaina	£ 164,540.46	01/01/2015
523688	THFC TRELEAVEN	Tottenham Hotspur	Treleaven, Prof. Philip Colin	£ 24,101.00	01/10/2012
523702	PGA TRELEAVEN	PGA European Tour	Treleaven, Prof. Philip Colin	£ 8,134.00	01/10/2012
523788	RAENG SERGUIIEVA	Royal Academy of Engineering	Serguieva, Dr. Antoaneta	£ 24,436.50	30/03/2015
524169	EPSRC HARMAN	EPSRC	Harman, Prof. Mark	£ 581,559.68	28/10/2015

12. Recently awarded research students (ST)

ST presented a list of recently awarded students drawn from Portico as no other list was available. MAS noted that the record was incomplete and it was agreed that in order to facilitate ST's uptake of the role of Postgraduate Administrator, heads of groups would forward any details of students, viva dates and submissions which they have to ST.

Table provided below:

Surname	Forename	Date of Award	Award Details	Start	End	Time Taken	FT/PT	Primary Supervisor	Secondary Supervisor
DOBOS	JOZEF	28/02/2015	EngD VEIV	11/01/2011	28/02/2015	4years 1mo	FT	STEED ANTHONY	KAUTZ JAN
VALDIVIESO CASIQUE	MANLIO	28/02/2015	Mphil Computer Science	01/11/1997	31/10/2001	4 years	FT	ARRIDGE SIMON	
ALVAREZ TELEÑA	SERGIO	28/02/2015	PhD Computer Science	11/02/2013	28/02/2015	2 years	PT	TRELEAVEN PHILIP	FEDERIGHI MARCO
STAINES	JOE	28/02/2015	PhD Financial Computing	26/09/2011	28/02/2015	3 years 5mo	FT	BARBER DAVID	PONTIL MASSIMILIANO
ZASADA	STEFAN	28/02/2015	PhD Computer Science	01/01/2006	28/02/2015	9 years 1mo	PT	COVENEY PETER	CAPRA LICIA
RICE	OLIVER	28/03/2015	PhD Financial Computing	24/09/2012	28/03/2015	2 years 6mo	FT	SMITH ROBERT	LAWRENCE DONALD
YUAN	SHUAI	28/03/2015	PhD Computer Science	27/09/2010	28/03/2015	4 years 6 mo	FT	WANG JUN	COX INGEMAR
Thesis Submitted, Awaiting Viva									
PANAYI	EFSTATHIOS		PhD Financial Computing	26/09/2011	06/02/2015	3 years 4mo	FT	PETERS GARETH	HARMAN MARK
SIOUTIS	ILIAS		PhD Medical and Biomedical Imaging	22/11/2012	20/03/2015	2 years 4mo	FT	ARRIDGE SIMON	

ACTION: ST to obtain detailed records of submissions from Research Groups

13. Any Other Business

JST reminded that the fellowship workshop will be open to anyone in the UK with an aimed split of attendance 50/50 male/female. The Department will pay expenses for attendees.

JST reminded about the 35th Birthday Celebration and encouraged staff to consider potential contacts that they would like to be invited.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Exact date to be agreed at a later date; next meeting to be arranged for August 2015, with the strong possibility of cancellation unless a matter requiring urgent attention arises.