



Head of Research Group Meeting

8th April 2010 in Room 6.12 at 3.00pm

Minutes

Present:

Ingemar Cox (Chair, Director of Research), Anthony Finklestein (HoD), Anthony Steed (Head of VECG, EngD Programme Coordinator), Simon Arridge (Head of Image Processing), David Jones (Head of Bioinformatics), David Rosenblum (Head of SSE, Research Student Coordinator) John Shawe-Taylor (Director of CSML), Nadia Berthouze (representing UCLIC), Brad Karp (representing Networks), Olivier Delacroix (Research Finance Manager), Jens Groth (representing Information Security), Andrew Clark (BEAMS School Research Facilitator), Rachel Scott (Minutes Secretary, Postgraduate Administrator)

Apologies:

Jill Saunders (Departmental Manager), Mark Handley (Head of Networks), Danny Alexander (Deputy Director of Research), Angela Sasse (Head of Information Security), Anthony Hunter (Head of Intelligent Systems), David Hawkes (Head of Medical Imaging), Ann Blandford (Director of UCLIC, Head of HCS)

1. Matters arising from previous meetings

- Plans to hold a research proposal writing session: no definite date set, though will take place in Spring 2011 in Cumberland House (Wintergate Park).

2. HoD Update (AF)

Anthony gave an update on current research avenues and new initiatives, the Academic Activity Review recently done by the School's Finance Team, and space and staffing issues.

- 3 on-going activities:
 - Centre for Digital Humanities
 - Media Futures
 - Pervasive Systems Centre – cross-disciplinary.
- There are ongoing discussions about the establishment of a Media Industry and Research Centre which would complement Media Futures. Funding has been delayed.
- AF proposed the establishment of a multi-faculty institute (the Institute of Computer and Information Studies) comprising Computer Science, CHIME, the Department of Information Studies, Bioinformatics, and CMIC to concentrate on three areas (a core of computer science; Bio-informational medicine; Information and Interactivity)
 - The new institution would strengthen these areas and expand research already being undertaken.
 - It would allow all faculties to invest in particular areas of research.
 - It was noted that the Deans and Heads of Department are already keen.
 - There is nothing to stop this being put into effect soon.

Academic Activity Review

- The performance metrics for faculty groups were: students and publication data, teaching income (measured per teaching allocation), and research.

- It was noted that this analysis was done on groups, not centres.
- It was a useful exercise as it gave groups an idea of their earnings.
- In CS it was highlighted that there were under-strength groups, in terms of staffing, but no under-performing groups.

Issues about staffing and space

- It was noted that Simon Prince is to stay a bit longer with CS, travelling over from Canada.
- CS will also gain an additional 4 staff members from CREST.
- Issues were raised about space in the department and the problem of accommodating the growing DTCs.
 - CMIC cannot be accommodated in Tavistock Square and space in the building next to CS and adjacent to Medical Physics has been given instead. (CMIC's space cannot be reclaimed as it reverts back to Med. Phys.)
 - The idea of constricting space arrangements in the large laboratories was raised – this would however have a minimal effect (no more than 10 additional desks).
 - The idea of reducing the number of student labs was also put forward: this has been considered but CS currently gives below adequate provision for students and complaints have already been received.
- Regarding the DTC VEIV position – currently trying to find someone in Visualisation as it was felt that this is a valuable interdisciplinary interest area.
- CS been approached by a researcher currently based at MIT about the prospect of also being based here part-time:
 - Has 5 years of EPSRC money (approx. 3 million Euro) and so would not need a salary from UCL; the funding would potentially be able to support up to 5 post-docs.
 - No commitment beyond the 5 years.
 - It was suggested that the title of Professorial Research Fellowship be given.
 - Is to be invited over for a seminar.

3. Andrew Clark (BEAMS School Research Facilitator)

- Details of Andrew's presentation have been circulated via email.

4. Report on research student progress, including UCL submission rate statistics (RS)

- Not discussed. Postgraduate administrators can provide details at the next meeting.

5. Report on research grants - submissions/awards (OD)

- Few more awards given since January; rate of awards slower than last quarter.
- It was noted that more EC than EPSRC awards are being given at the moment, and that there has been a large effect on the rates of submissions to the EPSRC since its restructuring.
- It was noted that several other awards had also been made recently:
 - Kyle Jamieson received a high profile award; awards also given to UCLIC, John Shawe-Taylor, and Mark Handley (though not officially awarded yet).
- Olivier to give more details on submissions, comparisons with other departments and CS track record against previous years at next meeting.

6. New funding opportunities

- Not discussed.

7. AOB

- Internal Seminars allocation: it was decided that IC is to randomly assign 2 research groups per slot, and that the groups themselves would choose the person/presentation.

8. Date of next meeting

- TBA by IC