



**Department of Computer Science
RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING**

Friday 5th August 2016

14:00 – 16:00 6.12 Malet Place Engineering Building

MINUTES

Present: Danny Alexander (DA), Simon Arridge (SA), Licia Capra (LC), George Danezis (GD), Olivier Delacroix (OD), Mark Harman (MH), Anthony Hunter (AH), David Jones (DJ), Brad Karp (BK), David Pym (DP), Alison McAnena, Yvonne Rogers (YR), Jill Saunders (JS), John Shawe-Taylor (JST), Anthony Steed (AS), Michael Strang, Sarah Turnbull (ST).

Apologies for absence: Tomaso Aste (TA), Jane Butler (JB), Ingemar Cox (IC), Steve Hailes (SH), Graham Roberts (GR).

Summary of Actions Agreed:

- GD to speak to Jens Groth to determine if he would be willing to lead a grant-writing workshop in November focusing on ERC fellowships (4)
- all HoRGs to review the list of Impact cases (appendix 5.2) and report any additional entries to ST by **Wednesday 24th August 2016**
- all HoRGs to monitor output lists on their group sharepoint and provide feedback by mid-September. (6)
- ST to clarify Open Access Policy as to whether publications must be made available on the UCL repository, or if it is sufficient for them to be made Open Access elsewhere.(6)
- ST to check with RPS about adding columns giving citation statistics and journal rankings to the spreadsheets. (6)
- ST to include discussion of workshop or lunchtime seminar for “7 Challenges” (10)
- ST to add Departmental Strategic Research Fund discussion to agenda for coming Senior Management Meeting. (11)

1. Apologies for absences.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (3rd May 2016)

Approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- ST to assist DA arranging meetings with Research Group Heads to identify challenge areas (Information Security, Network Systems, VIS, VECG, Bioinformatics & PPLV) **[complete]**
- OD to contact Myriam Fellous-Sigrist for personal training on the Research Data Management **[complete]**
- AH to coordinate with James McCafferty from ISD, re: advertisement of job opportunities for Research Students
- Remaining group heads to nominate a minimum of 1 student representative to ST. Remaining groups are:

- Bioinformatics
- Financial Computing and Analytics
- Media Futures
- Systems and Networks
- AH to discuss MRes option for CS Research Degrees with JST
- MH or YR to email out to staff with details to encourage nominations for Grant Writing Retreat **[complete]**
- OD to provide success rates of recent submissions, and value of submissions **[complete]**
- ST to include additional column "submission date" in future student reports **[complete]**

4. Notice of any other business

Following the EPSRC Grant Writing workshop, which was deemed very successful although outcomes still to be monitored. MH felt that the next such workshop could be organised by someone else. GD suggested a focus on Fellowship applications (in particular ERC) next time and suggested asking Jens Groth within the Information Security group.

YR also expressed that it would be beneficial to also have someone directly from the EPSRC present to answer questions for maybe an hour.

It was agreed that this could be run internally as a full day event. A provisional date in November 2016 was agreed.

ACTION: GD to speak to Jens Groth to determine if he would be willing to lead a workshop in November

5. Research Impacts (Alison McAnena and Michael Strang)

Alison McAnena, the Research Impact Curation & Support Manager for SLASH, Institute of Education, BEAMS and MAPS attending with Michael Strang, the Research Impact Curation & Support Manager for SLMS attended to provide a presentation on Research Impacts and REF.

Slides are available in appendix 5.1

It was clarified that you may re-use old Impact stories from January 2014 onwards, provided that there was been further Impact which is at least equivalent to the previous Impact.

It was also clarified that for the next REF, papers written by newly appointed staff who had written the papers at a different Institution would not be able to include them for the UCL REF submission.

A list of current Research Impact cases (appendix 5.2) has been circulated with these minutes. Please can any additional names be provided to ST by Wednesday 24th August 2016, after which Alison McAnena will contact JST and JB to discuss a date for a workshop.

ACTION: all HoRGs to review the list of Impact cases (appendix 5.2) and report any additional entries to ST by Wednesday 24th August 2016

6. REF publication review dry-run (Danny Alexander, Jill Saunders and John Shawe-Taylor)

Although originally at point 8 of the agenda, it was agreed that it was more suitable to bring this point forward to remain on the topic of REF.

JST drew attention to the recent REF partial dry run that was circulated by ST on the 18th July via Sharepoint. The aim of the exercise is to identify individuals who are unable to identify at this stage at least four papers which will be considered a minimum of three-star

quality in order to provide additional support to get them to at least that stage. The Department is aiming for a 100% submission rate as for the previous REF a total of 11 members of staff were excluded from our submission.

This dry-run will only be used internally within the Department and will not be viewed at any other level. Outcomes of the exercise will be looked at in the next Research Committee in November.

ACTION: all HoRGs to monitor output lists on their group sharepoint and provide feedback by mid-September.

ACTION: ST to clarify Open Access Policy as to whether publications must be made available on the UCL repository, or if it is sufficient for them to be made Open Access elsewhere.

ACTION: ST to check with RPS about adding columns giving citation statistics and journal rankings to the spreadsheets.

7. Department Finances overview (Olivier Delacroix)

OD presented the following figures regarding the previous Income & Expenditure for the Department, along with the current budgets for the next 3 years:

	TOTAL - Full Year				
	2015-16 F2 £k	2016-17 Budget £k	2017-18 Budget £k	2018-19 Budget £k	
HEFCE Grant	4,825,476	4,908,731	4,908,731	4,908,731	
Tuition Fees	12,229,142	13,920,109	15,009,232	15,379,812	14%
Other Fess	2,529,307	2,328,657	2,151,507	2,151,507	
Research Grants & Contracts	9,659,169	12,641,437	13,147,094	13,672,978	31%
Other Operating Income	524,233	430,392	430,392	430,392	
Total Income	30,014,946	34,229,326	35,646,957	36,543,419	14%
Staff Costs	11,953,883	13,691,972	14,094,309	14,561,114	15%
Other Operating Expenses	9,866,262	7,996,935	8,231,595	8,397,704	2%
Total Expenditure	19,820,146	21,688,907	22,325,904	22,958,818	9%
Operating Surplus	10,194,800	12,540,419	13,321,052	13,584,602	23%

JS clarified that although we did not meet the target that was set for us this year regarding income from tuition fees, we had expected this and had advised the faculty accordingly that the target set was unrealistic. Future years' expected income is now more realistic with our own projections. This income is not just from Computer Science Programmes, but also other contributions from teaching done by our staff in other Departments.

Attention was drawn to the reduction in Operating Expenses and the need to increase Research Grant income. It was advised that EPSRC & Commercial contracts are the most beneficial for obtaining high research income at this time.

GD raised the point that they felt more of an investment was needed in T.A work, to which JS confirmed that the budget for T.A payments has been increased this year.

JS also drew attention to the letter regarding Discretionary accounts within BEAMS (appendix 7.1) which was sent out earlier this month, with particular attention to the first bullet point: “Expenditure in academic discretionary accounts will not require notification as part of the annual planning cycle, where net expenditure is expected to be less than £50k”

JST confirmed that if there is an urgent need to spend more than £50k, there is an appropriate application to request this.

8. Review of TSG Issues (Denis Timm, David Jones and John Shawe-Taylor)

JST provided an update that there is currently an issue regarding our server space in Torrington Place which TSG are looking to resolve. TSG are also looking into providing more GPU resources.

The secure data storage facility run by TSG is now live and available to be included in Research Grant applications.

9. Faculty Research Director’s Forum Meeting Summary (Daniel Alexander & Licia Capra)

DA stated that there was a lot of discussion regarding Brexit and REF, however no resolutions or additional information was presented.

The Global Challenge Research Fund from the EPSRC, which is given to UCL to distribute was also discussed. Of 73 proposals received, UCL only chose to fund a total of 8 – 2 of which were from Computer Science. DA advised that applications with a strong and direct link to the Third World is most likely to be successful and also suggested that anyone interested in connections in Nigeria contact Delmiro Fernandez-Reyes, who has extremely strong ties and is very happy to help.

The EPSRC have raised their upper limit on capital equipment expenditure to £400k, which previously was £100k. 50% of this must be funded by UCL, and anything under £10k is considered a consumable and not capital investment.

10. Update on Research Scoping Exercise (Daniel Alexander & Licia Capra)

DA presented the outcomes following the Research Scoping exercise conducted by DA & LC on a one-to-one basis. Please see appendix 10.1 for slides presented.

DA presented that we should look at societal challenges our research has which are accessible to the public. This can also be used as a marketing exercise.

MH proposed a workshop for each of the proposed challenge groups to come together and discuss the strategy and collaboration. Additional discussion raised the possibility of holding the next round of lunchtime seminars around these themes.

ACTION: ST to include discussion of workshop or lunchtime seminar for “7 Challenges”

11. Departmental Strategic Research Fund (Simon Arridge)

SA presented a proposal to change the way that the Departmental Strategic Research Fund is handled (see appendix 11.1)

YR queried whether there was a benefit to bringing the decision making to a public forum, and also questioned whether the Research Committee would be the appropriate forum due to the fact it only meets 4 times per year.

SA stated that he felt that bringing the applications to a meeting such as the Research Committee would help to encourage more strategic applications and allow for more meaningful feedback to be sent, which would all be discussed prior to the meeting anyway.

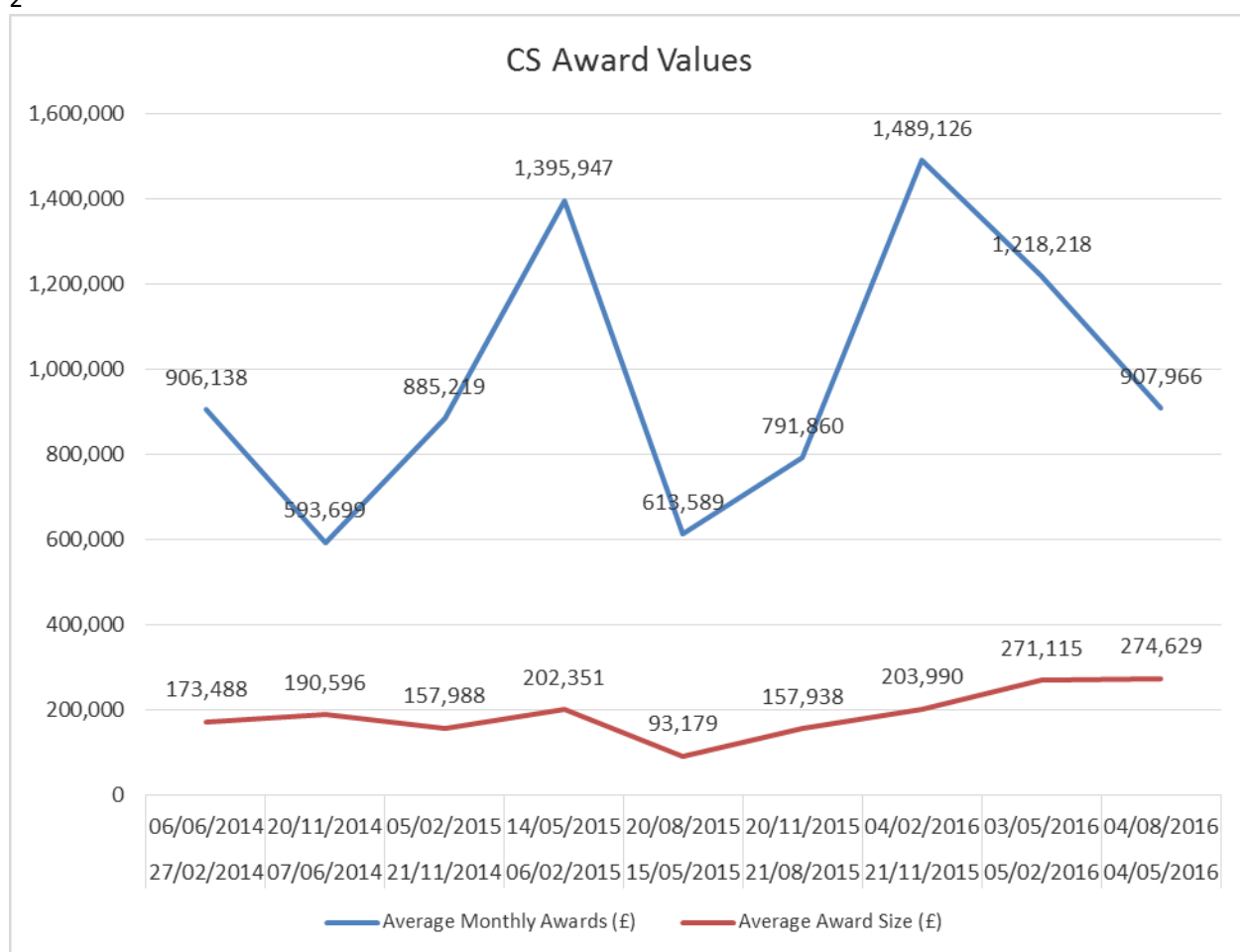
YR stated that the monthly Senior Management Meeting would be more appropriate a place to bring up the expense requests as it meets more frequently. JST preferred the idea of making decisions at the RCM, but requested that the matter be added to the next Senior Management Meeting to make a decision.

ACTION: Departmental Strategic Research Fund discussion to be added to agenda for coming Senior Management Meeting.

12. Recently awarded research grants (Olivier Delacroix)

OD presented a list of all recently awarded research grants. The total income for recently awarded research grants is **£2,746,287.58**, which, although lower than other quarters this year, is normal for this time of year.

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Code	Short Name	Funding Source	PI	indexed value	Proposed start date
53310	533120 F48 EPSRC SRINIVASAN	EPSRC	Srinivasan, Prof Mandayam	597,441.84	01/05/2016
533377	533377 EC F48 SILVA	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	Silva, Dr Alexandra	975,000.00	01/04/2016
533550	533550 F48 EPSRC HOLLOWAY	EPSRC	Holloway, Dr Catherine	99,424.73	01/08/2016
533964	533964 F48 EPSRC PARKIN	EPSRC	Parkin, Dr Simon	27,483.00	01/07/2016

534014	534014 F48 EPSRC ARRIDGE	EPSRC	Arridge, Prof Simon	462,773.84	01/10/2016
534151	534151 F48 RS SEVERINI	Royal Society	Severini, Dr Simone	315,959.03	01/10/2016
534518	534518 F48 CHDI ALEXANDER	CHDI	Alexander, Prof Daniel	240,505.30	01/07/2016
534677	534677 F48 ESF YILMAZ	EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION	Yilmaz, Dr Emine	6,499.84	20/06/2016
534925	534925 F48 MICROSOFT RIEDEL	Microsoft Research Ltd	Riedel, Dr Sebastian	1,200.00	12/06/2016
534984	534984 F48 EPSRC SHAWE-TAYLOR	EPSRC	Shawe-Taylor, Prof John	20,000.00	01/07/2016

2,746,287.58

13. Recently awarded research students (Sarah Turnbull)

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

Surname	Forename	Award Details	Start	Submission Date	Time Taken (as recorded on Portico)	FT/PT	Primary Supervisor	Secondary Supervisor
O'Kane	Aisling	PhD in Computer Science, Awarded 28th April 2016	03-Jan-12	15-Oct-15	4 years, 3 months	FT	Ann Blandford	Yvonne Rogers
Sethi	Mininder	PhD in Computer Science, Awarded 28th July 2016	23-Sep-13	13-May-16	2 years, 10 months	FT	Philip Treleaven	Donald Lawrence
Zhang	Weinan	PhD in Computer Science, Awarded 28th June 2016	24-Sep-12	12-Apr-16	3 years, 9 month	FT	Jun Wang	Stephen Robertson

Viva Occurred, Awaiting final submission

Surname	Forename	Award Details	Start	Submission Date	Result	FT/PT	Primary Supervisor	Secondary Supervisor
Bradbury	Gwyneth	EngD VEIV	26-Sep-11	15-May-15	Resubmit by Apr-17	FT	Tim Weyrich	Jan Kautz
Chwialkowski	Kacper	PhD in Computer Science	23-Sep-13	15-Jun-16	Revisions by Oct-16	FT	Philip Treleaven	Arthur Gretton
Erotokritou	Stelios	PhD in Computer Science	24-Sep-07	15-Feb-13	Resubmitted 15-Jun-16	FT	Yvo Desmedt	Jens Groth
Kampakis	Stylios	PhD in Computer Science	24-Sep-12	25-Apr-16	No corrections	FT	Philip Treleaven	Ioanis Kosmidis
Koo	Bongjin	PhD in Computer Science	07-Jan-13	29-Apr-16	Revisions by Sep-16	FT	Niloy Mitra	Jan Kautz
Mohibullah	Wallizada	PhD in Computer Science	22-Sep-08	12-Mar-14	Resubmitted 20-Jul-16	FT	Simon Julier	Steve Hailes
Nava Morales	Noemi	PhD in Computer Science	26-Sep-11	12-Feb-16	Revisions by 18-Jun-16	FT	Tomaso Aste	Ioannis Andreopoulos
Nikolaidis	Georgios	PhD in Computer Science	22-Sep-08	07-Jun-16	Revisions by 06-Oct-16	FT	Brad Karp	Kyle Jamieson
Singh	Aneesha	PhD in Computer Science	25-Oct-10	20-Apr-16	Revisions by 25-Oct-16	PT	Nadia Berthouze	Amanda De Williams
Turmukhambetov	Daniyar	PhD in Computer Science	26-Sep-11	24-Jun-16	Minor Corrections	FT	Jan Kautz	Simon Prince

Thesis Submitted, Awaiting Viva

Surname	Forename	Award Details	Start	Submission Date	Viva Date	FT/PT	Primary Supervisor	Secondary Supervisor
Batrinca	Bogdan	PhD in Computer Science	23-Sep-13	08-Jul-16	TBC	FT	Philip Treleaven	Christian Hesse
Bohné	Julien	PhD in Computer Science	05-Nov-12	24-Jun-16	09-Sep-16	FT	Massi Pontil	Mark Herbster
Firman	Michael	PhD in Computer Science	02-Aug-10	17-Jun-16	TBC	FT	Simon Julier	Jan Boehm
Sewell	Martin	PhD in Computer Science	10-Jan-00	21-Jul-16	TBC	FT	Philip Treleaven	John Shawe-Taylor
Vangulov	Krassimir	PhD in Computer Science	24-Jan-11	05-Jul-16	TBC	FT	Philip Treleaven	Iotr Karasinski

14. Any Other Business

None

15. Date of Next Meeting

TBD