



**Heads of Research Groups Meeting
Wednesday 21 January 2009**

MINUTES

Present:

Wolfgang Emmerich (Chair, Director of Research, Head of Software Systems Engineering), David Rosenblum (PhD Student Tutor), Simon Arridge (Head of Image Processing), Mark Handley (Head of Networks), Ann Blandford (Head of UCLIC), Danny Alexander (Deputy Director of Research), Anthony Steed (EngD VEIV Director and Head of VECG), Angela Sasse (Head of Human Centred Systems), Olivier Delacroix (Research Finance Manager), Jill Saunders (Departmental Manager)

In attendance:

Philip Treleaven, Mark Herbster, Naomi Jones (Minutes Secretary, Postgraduate Administrator), Melanie Johnson (Postgraduate Administrator)

Apologies:

David Jones (Head of Bioinformatics Unit), Ingemar Cox (Director of Adastral Park), Anthony Hunter (Head of Intelligent Systems), Yvo Desmedt (Head of Information Security), David Hawkes (Head of Medical Imaging), John Shawe-Taylor (Head of Centre for Computational Statistics and Machine Learning)

1. Confirmation of agenda

The agenda was confirmed.

2. Matters arising from previous meetings (WE)

None reported

3. Recent research student progress

It was reported that there had been 6 PhD and 1 EngD completions since the last meeting.

4. Recently awarded research grants

Olivier Delacroix provided details of recently awarded research grants, please see attached document.

Olivier reported that £750,000 had been awarded since the last meeting.

5. New funding opportunities

It was reported that the deadline for ERC advance grants is 23 March 2009.

6. Theme of the meeting: Doctoral Training Centre (DTCs)

Representatives had been invited to give an overview on each of the 3 Doctoral Training Centres that had been awarded by the Research Council.

EngD Virtual Environments, Imaging and Visualisation

Anthony Steed gave an overview of the existing EngD VEIV programme, which had just had a successful re-bid.

Details of the existing programme can be found here:

<http://web4.cs.ucl.ac.uk/teaching/engd/index.php>

The differences with the re-bid are:

- The programme needs to recruit more students, it requires an intake of 10 students per year
- The programme had been expanded to cover all areas of graphics and imaging work
- 3 themes had been identified: Vision and Imaging Technologies, Medical and Interfaces, Visualisation and Design
- It is not yet clear whether the EngD degree will remain, or whether the students will obtain a PhD

The EngD VEIV is a four year programme with taught material in the first year. It differs from other DTC programmes in that it requires a sponsoring company which have to pay, and students can be seconded from work.

There are currently 33 students; this will be 40 by the end of March 2009. Supervisors are from Civil Engineering, Geomatic Engineering, Bartlett, Computer Science, CMIC, UMIC, HBC

The 40 students are supported by 28 companies. The EngD re-bid has letters of support from 40 companies who will get priority on new projects.

Financial Computing

Philip Treleaven gave an overview of the new Financial Computing DTC.

Collaborating institutions for this DTC are UCL, LSE and LBS.

Collaborating departments in UCL are CS, Mathematics, Statistics, Physics and Economics

There are also 20 partner financial institutions.

Students are currently being asked to register with the website, and they will then be given advice on which department to apply to. It would be preferable for potential supervisors to nominate students they would like to work with.

Students will take a one year MSc in CS, after which they will return to their home department and spend time with the industrial advisor.

They are currently trying to put together bespoke modules for the students to take, potentially with some core modules, and then options tailored to a specific research group.

Philip reported that there would be a new Financial Computing Lectureship for the DTC.

Security

Angela Sasse gave an overview of the new Security DTC.

Collaborating departments for this DTC are CS, Adastral Park, Transport Studies, Public Policy, CHIME

This programme would be aimed at graduates in Science and Engineering. In the first year the students will take Information Security, Physics and Information Processing modules. There will be a new module in Ethics for Security Research.

General Discussion

It was reported that the Provost had promised £1/2m for each DTC to solve the problem of space. They will also support up to 10 more PhD students per centre (1 overseas and 1 home student per year per centre)

There was a discussion as to whether to admit students to the programmes and then decide who will supervise them later. This might put off students who want to know who they will be working with. Also Angela Sasse noted that there may be a problem with the regulations as PhD students need a named supervisor.

Angela Sasse noted that there may be a problem with the number of students per supervisor as there is a maximum of 6 students per supervisor in the regulations.

Action: NJ & MJ to look into whether it is possible to get an exemption on the number of students per supervisor.

7. Theme for next meeting

The theme for the February meeting will be Post-mortem on RAE.

8. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next date for the HoRGs meeting fell in half term. It was suggested that the next HoRGs meeting could be held at the away day.

9. AOB

PhD Application Deadline

Action: NJ & MJ to organise a panel date after the deadline, and send out an email to supervisors to encourage strong applicants to apply.

Melanie Johnson was welcomed as the new Postgraduate Administrator job share. Staff are reminded to send emails to postgradadmin@cs.ucl.ac.uk as this copies them to both Naomi and Melanie.