



**Department of Computer Science  
RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016**

14:00 – 16:00 4.05, 66-72 Gower Street

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Danny Alexander (DA), Tomaso Aste (TA), Licia Capra (LC), George Danezis (GD), Olivier Delacroix (OD), Mark Harman (MH), David Pym (DP), Yvonne Rogers (YR), Jill Saunders (JS), Sarah Turnbull (ST), Shi Zhou (SZ).

**Apologies for absence:** Simon Arridge (SA), Jane Butler (JB), Ingemar Cox (IC), Steve Hailes (SH), Anthony Hunter (AH), David Jones (DJ), Brad Karp (BK), Graham Roberts (GR), John Shawe-Taylor (JST), Anthony Steed (AS).

**Summary of Actions Agreed:**

- ST to assist DA arranging meetings with Research Group Heads to identify challenge areas (Information Security, Network Systems, VIS, VECG, Bioinformatics & PPLV) (3)
- OD to contact Myriam Fellous-Sigrist for personal training on the topic (3)
- AH to coordinate with James McCafferty from ISD, re: advertisement of job opportunities for Research Students (3)
- Remaining group heads to nominate a minimum of 1 student representative to ST.(3)  
Remaining groups are:
  - Bioinformatics
  - Financial Computing and Analytics
  - Media Futures
  - Systems and Networks
- AH to discuss MRes option for CS Research Degrees with JST (3)
- MH or YR to email out to staff with details to encourage nominations for Grant Writing Retreat (5)
- Each Head of Group is to nominate one member of their group to respond to the [EPSRC survey](#) on behalf of the entire group (8)
- OD to provide success rates of recent submissions, and value of submissions (10)
- ST to include additional column “submission date” in future student reports (11)

**1. Apologies for absences.**

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting (20<sup>th</sup> November 2015)**

Approved.

**3. Matters arising from the previous meeting**

- OD to contact Myriam Fellous-Sigrist for personal training on the topic [Incomplete]
- AH to coordinate with James McCafferty from ISD, re: advertisement of job opportunities for Research Students [unknown outcome]
- 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
- Vision and Imaging Science

- DA & JST to form an ad-hoc committee for prizes and processes [COMPLETE]
- DA to continue the exercise of talking to heads of group to identify challenge areas. Also to think about a potential series of workshops on Grand Challenges and potential collaborations once the exercise is complete

**ACTION: ST to assist DA arranging meetings with Research Group Heads to identify challenge areas (Information Security, Network Systems, VIS, VECG, Bioinformatics & PPLV)**

- Any feedback, opinions or advice regarding student interaction and the NSS to be given to JST. [COMPLETE]
- AH to discuss MRes option for CS Research Degrees with JST

**4. Notice of any other business**

JS made a brief point regarding the upcoming tuition fee increase requested by the Faculty. We are required to make an overall increase of 5% in all of our programmes, including research degrees. This will mean that the tuition cost will be the following for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 academic years:

	Home/EU	Overseas
<b>2016/17</b>	£ 4,770.00	£ 22,180.00
<b>2017/18</b>	£ 5,085.00	£ 23,050.00

JS stated that she would be in contact shortly with all programme directors regarding this issue.

**5. Grant Writing Retreat (Yvonne Rogers)**

YR confirmed that she and MH will have booked for a group of between 10 and 15 members of staff to go on a Grant Writing Retreat that they will be leading.

The dates are the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016, and the retreat will run from lunchtime on the 25<sup>th</sup> until around lunchtime on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

The retreat is aimed at more senior staff who are likely to submit very high value grant proposals but are struggling to find time to finish them. The aim is to help develop internal reviewing and mutual self-reviewing techniques and also to help create boilerplate text for standard sections.

The sessions will be long & intense. Each Head of Group is requested to nominate one member of their group to attend, but that if a case can be made for more than 1 there is a level of flexibility. There is no deadline for nominations at this stage and there is a goal to be able to produce measurable success. Nominees should produce a partially completed proposal to qualify for entry.

**ACTION: MH & YR to email out to staff with details to encourage nominees.**

**6. Overhead Recovery Rates & Research Grant/Contract Checklist (Olivier Delacroix)**

Please see attached spreadsheet 6.1 for reference of recovery rates and Research Grants.

OD explained that the figures are most likely taken from Q2 of the 2014/15 year, where our overheads decreased from 14% to 12%. OD stated that while CS had done well, we had done less well than our comparable departments within the faculty, but also urged that the figures be taken as indicative only as we have no current measure of accuracy.

OD moved onto item 6.2 (please see attached draft Contract Checklist), which may be introduced at a later date. OD emphasizes that the document is currently only a draft and not the final document and that its aim was to provide a brief risk assessment prior to submission of grant proposals.

There was a general expression of concern that the checklist will act as a deterrent, as it looks to be quite an extensive and daunting list. There was also concern that involving more people, particularly external to the department, would slow down the submission process.

#### **7. Research Notes availability (Sarah Turnbull)**

ST requested advice on whether the current Research Notes page should be maintained given the recent updates to the UCL Research Publications Service (RPS) that allows users to publish their own notes on their own page.

It was agreed that the hosting should change to the RPS page, but that ST should continue to maintain the current Research Notes page, issue reference numbers, and simply link to the relevant RPS page from now on.

#### **8. Faculty Research Director's Forum Meeting Summary (Daniel Alexander & Licia Capra)**

LC first addressed the EPSRC Balancing Capability Call for Evidence. Staff are requested to respond to the available UCL survey ([http://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/beamsfunding/news/news-repository/EPSRC\\_Balancing\\_Capability\\_Evidence](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/beamsfunding/news/news-repository/EPSRC_Balancing_Capability_Evidence)) by the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016, which may be extended to the 17<sup>th</sup>. Each Head of Group is to nominate one member of their group to respond on behalf of the entire group with evidence (and not opinion). This may be useful for future grant proposals.

**ACTION: Each Head of Group is to nominate one member of their group to respond to the survey on behalf of the entire group with evidence (and not opinion).**

LC reported that there has been a small increase in funds for Official Development Assistance (ODA), however the exact value is not yet known. We have been advised that there will be a very short time between when we will find out the value, and when we will need to spend it before it is taken away. Advised to think of ways in which to spend this potential funding that will benefit potential ODA recipient countries/ territories.

LC stated that all All Impact proposals from now on will need to cover the basic principles of the EPSRC. UCL is looking to respond to this with a process to check proposals for these principles, to which the Faculty Research Director's Forum concluded the best possible solution at this time would be online training.

DA confirmed that the funding for Doctoral Training provided, which mostly covers studentships and also the Doctoral Prize and the Undergraduate Research Bursary conducted outside of term time, will remain roughly the same and that all current scheme are to continue to be funded.

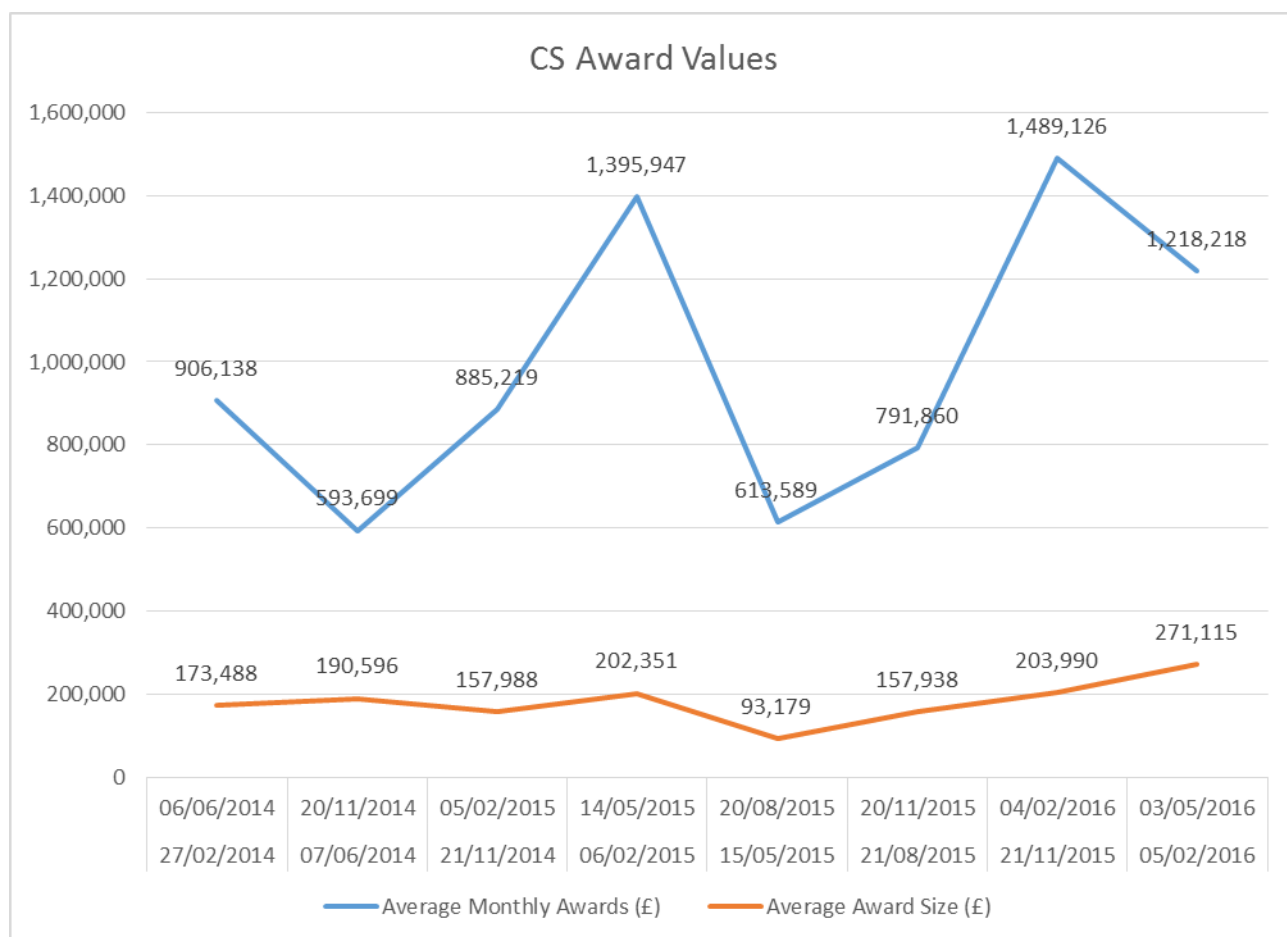
#### **9. Departmental Strategic Research Fund (Simon Arridge)**

SA was unable to attend, but OD confirmed that no new requests had been approved.

#### **10. 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 **£3,524,489.23**, which is in line with the average for this time of year. Attention was drawn to two large EPSRC grants: £992,538.56 to Dr Eleftheria Panagiotaki and £969,096.07 to Dr Sarah Meiklejohn. OD Also drew attention to the new graph which shows the Average Monthly Awards and Average size of award.

**ACTION: OD to provide success rates of recent submissions, and value of submissions**



Code	Short Name	Funding Source	PI	indexed value	Proposed start date
531306	531306 F48 EPSRC DTA 2015-19	EPSRC	Shawe-Taylor, Prof John	107,507.00	01/10/2016
531398	531398 F48 WT STOYANOV	WELLCOME TRUST	Stoyanov, Dr Danail	200,330.00	01/03/2016
531544	531544 F48 KAUST MITRA	KAUST	Mitra, Dr Niloy	265,441.18	01/01/2016
531913	531913 F48 EPSRC SASSE	EPSRC	Sasse, Prof Angela	648,984.16	01/04/2016
532096	532096 F48 ESRC HAILES	ESRC	Hailes, Prof Stephen Mark	88,553.17	01/02/2016
532234	532234 F48 EPSRC PANAGIOTAKI	EPSRC	Panagiotaki, Dr Eleftheria	992,538.56	01/04/2016
532314	532314 F48 STEED	EPSRC	Steed, Prof Anthony	14,213.00	01/03/2016
532606	532606 F48 EPSRC PYM	EPSRC	Pym, Prof David	35,481.34	01/12/2015
532615	532615 F48 MICROSOFT AGAPITO	Microsoft Research Ltd	De Agapito Vicente, Dr Lourdes	37,150.00	19/10/2015
532633	532633 F48 EPSRC STOYANOV	EPSRC	Stoyanov, Dr Danail	14,976.75	01/04/2016
532670	532670 F48 EPSRC MEIKLEJOHN	EPSRC	Meiklejohn, Ms. Sarah	969,096.07	01/09/2016
533023	533023 F48 ION LTD SEVERINI	ION-Investment Corporation Ltd	Severini, Dr Simone	100,000.00	01/09/2017
533087	533087 F48 GOOGLE DECRISTOFARO	Google	De Cristofaro, Dr Emiliano	50,218.00	01/10/2016

**3,524,489.23**

### 11. Recently awarded research students (Sarah Turnbull)

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

**ACTION: ST to include additional column “submission date” in future**

Surname	Forename	Award Details	Start	End	Time Taken	FT/PT	Primary Supervisor	Secondary Supervisor
Sloan	Marc	PhD in Computer Science	26-Sep-11	28-Jan-16	4 years 4 months	FT	Jun Wang	David Silver
Zhao	Xiaoxue	PhD in Computer Science	26-Sep-11	28-Jan-16	4 years 4 months	FT	Jun Wang	Ingemar Cox
Gorla	Jagadeesh	PhD in Computer Science	12-Oct-09	29-Jan-16	6 years 3 months	FT	Jun Wang	Stephen Robertson
Gryka	Maciej	EngD VIEV	27-Sep-10	29-Jan-16	7 years 3 months	FT	Gabriel Brostow	Tim Weyrich
Wardlaw	Jessica	EngD VIEV	31-Mar-09	28-Feb-16	5 years 11 months	FT	Mordechai Haklay	Anna Cox
Andallahi	Houari	PhD in Computer Science	26-Sep-05	28-Feb-16	5 years	FT	Bernard Buxton	Delmiro Fernandez-Reyes
Morton	Anthony	PhD in Computer Science	27-Sep-10	28-Feb-16	5 years 5 months	FT	Angela Sasse	
Nyman	Rickard	PhD in Financial Computing	25-Sep-12	28-Feb-16	3 years 5 months	FT	Rob Smith	David Tuckett
Dos Santos Romualdo Suzuki	Larissa	PhD in Computer Science	26-Sep-11	28-Mar-16	4 years 4 months	FT	Anthony Finklestein	
Rovira Perez	Aitor	PhD in Computer Science	01-Feb-09	28-Mar-16	7 years 3 months	PT	Mel Slater	David Swapp
Soni	Anita	EngD VIEV	26-Sep-11	28-Mar-16	4 years 6 months	FT	Stuart Robson	
O'Kane	Aisling	PhD in Computer Science	03-Jan-12	28-Apr-16	4 years 3 months	FT	Ann Blandford	Yvonne Rogers
Birch	Annika	PhD in Computer Science	25-Sep-12	28-Apr-16	3 years 7 months	FT	Tomaso Aste	Donald Lawrence

### Passed Viva, Awaiting final submission

Surname	Forename	Award Details	Start	Viva Date	Result	FT/PT	Primary Supervisor	Secondary Supervisor
Hindmarch	John	EngD VIEV	26-Sep-11	17-Dec-15	Minor Revisions	FT	Melissa Terras	Stuart Robson
Nava Morales	Noemi	PhD in Computer Science	26-Sep-11	18-Mar-16	Minor Revisions	FT	Tomaso Aste	Ioannis Andreopoulos

### Thesis Submitted, Awaiting Viva

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Forename</b>	<b>Award Details</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>	<b>Viva Date</b>	<b>FT/PT</b>	<b>Primary Supervisor</b>	<b>Secondary Supervisor</b>
Zhang	Weinan	PhD in Computer Science	24-Sep-12	12-Apr-16	25-May-16	FT	Jun Wang	Stephen Robertson
Singh	Aneesha	PhD in Computer Science	25-Oct-10	20-Apr-16	TBD	PT	Nadia Berthouze	Amanda De Williams
Kampakis	Stylianos	PhD in Computer Science	24-Sep-12	25-Apr-16	TBD	FT	Philip Treleaven	Ioannis Kosmidis

#### 12. Any Other Business

None

#### 13. Date of Next Meeting

TBD