Department of Computing

Industrial Advisory Board

Imperial College London

Tuesday 24th May 2022 | 15.00 – 17:00
The Ballroom, 58 Princes' Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 2PG and online
Dinner will be served in the Garden Room
To email the board members use: dociab-CO@groups.imperial.ac.uk
Previous minutes

Attending

Internal	Michael Huth (Head of Department), Will Knottenbelt (Director of Industrial Liaison), Anandha Gopalan (Deputy Director of Industrial Liaison), Tony Field (Director of Studies: UG), Fariba Sadri (Director of Studies: PG), Anne O'Neill (Department Operations Manager), Tom Curtin (Industrial Liaison Officer), Jackie Bell (Senior Teaching Fellow), Peter Pietzuch (Director of Research), Marios Kogias (Lecturer)
External	Alexandros Papspyridis (Microsoft), Amit Gawali (WillisTowersWatson), Bryan Lillie (Capgemini), Philip Miller (Solidatus), Claire Vishik (Intel), Nabil Alsabah (msg global), Pinar Emirdag (J.P Morgan), Raymond Mulligan (Scotiabank), Dan Olley (Dunnhumby), David Sharp (Ocado Technology), Emma Perry (BAFTA), Neil Allcock (Deloitte), Patrick Hebant (Amadeus)
Apologies	Robert Chatley (Director of Software Engineering Practice), Alessandra Russo (Deputy Head of Department),

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Minutes

1.	Welcome and introductions by Prof Michael Huth (Head of Department) Michael thanked everyone for joining the remote meeting and all attendees made introductions.
2.	Matters arising from previous minutes – Approved
3.	**Departmental update by Prof Michael Huth** Spaces are open at 100% capacity, following from the pandemic. Large lecture rooms are Zoom ready – will roll out to more rooms. Hybrid working and learning has continued. Academic recruitment – 3 hires. Ongoing recruitment round, with 7 positions open, including for I-X. Department Values have been established: https://www.imperial.ac.uk/computing/about/our-values/ REF Research Assessment – excellent results, beating all competition, however Michael does not want to become complacent as computing is a dynamic field. https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/236574/imperial-computer-science-engineering-research-best/ Large gift received for social impact JMC cohort will be increased from 50 to 100 students, by 2024/25. Case for growth- we must grow to stay competitive – likely to include White City Campus. David Sharp noted the update was 'uplifting'. Alexandros asked if the department has different 'tracks' for academics? i.e. teaching vs research. Michael noted the College has jobs families. L&T and Academic. Amit asked about hybrid teaching challenges. Michael noted hybrid is here to stay.

4.	**I-X research update by Prof Peter Pietzuch** Peter gave an update on the I-X initiative regarding research**.** AI and ML as spread across the College, I-X allows co-location and developing a new campus at White City. Improve relations with Industry to co-locate to allow collaboration. Industrial Club Model – most industry engagement is bespoke and time consuming. Single package, with price tag showing particular ways of engagement though I-X. New website built: https://ix.imperial.ac.uk/ Neil aske if the Industry Club Model had any plans of partnering using charities or healthcare charities i.e Parkinson's Peter replied ' we don't have any plans, but this is a good suggestion.
5.	**I-X Education update by Dr Fariba Sadri** Fariba gave a presentation of the teaching at I-X. 'AI will create as many jobs as it replaces'. Finance, Law and healthcare will be transformed by AI, we need expertise to train and supervise AI and ML, this is the remit of I-X Education. We ultimately want to 'prepare our students for work and leadership.' I-X will be offering an MSc with a large individual research project including the MSc-AI. The target for next year's cohort is 48. Scholarships offered from DeepMind and Shell. Students can replace the project with an internship – suggestion originally made via IAB. Entrepreneurship is also being collaborated with the Business School via the degree and AI Ventures. Philip Miller commented on the demand for educated AI regulators, training regulators would be enormously beneficial, as regulation is not being done by experts. Fariba wants to expand Safe and Trusted AI modules. Dan Olley commented on the ethics in AI and spotting bias. Emma Perry asked if there was any collaboration with creative industries.
6.	**Departmental research presentation by Dr Marios Kogias** Dr Marios Kogias who joined the Dept. from Microsoft Research, gave a presentation on his research.
7.	**Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion project led in Computing by Dr Jackie Bell** Jackie gave a presentation on EDI. The outreach programme includes 40 schools for 8 weeks. Some applicants who interview for UG applications reported being inspired by student outreach in their own school Jackie's programme application was awarded £100,000 for outreach projects. Outreach have set up a pre-enrolment residential including 100 WP students across the College to attend a week before the academic year start, including sport, societies, making friends, cooking etc. Programme offers fully funded research placements with a bursary. Jackie wants to explore industry placement for this cohort, and we have a limited number of research placements.

	Philip Miller wants to explore with Jackie how Solidatus can get included in placements, the pre-enrolment week and bursaries.
8.	**Open discussion: Teaching portfolio and its delivery for the digital, post-Covid world** Philip Miller noted with online learning, you can really 'tailor' your degree to suit an individual student needs. Students could take an MSc over 3 years for example. Michael asked, would you be comfortable hiring someone who had a few complete modules from a trusted place, like Imperial? Philip responded; he could subscribe to a staff development course hosted by Imperial to do AI up-skilling. Bryan asked about student experience feedback on the online learning. Tony said that the feedback was that the Dept did very well. Fariba noted this year we offered every type of learning as a matter of choice. The MSc's preferred to have online lectures, but in-person for projects and tutorials. Mostly due to convenience.
9.	Actions 1. The Department to explore how creative industries could better collaborated with in regard to strategic opportunities.
10.	Closed