

Minutes

Attendees

Internal: Michael Huth (Head of Department), Will Knottenbelt (Director of Industrial Liaison), Anandha Gopalan (Deputy Director of Industrial Liaison), Francesca Toni (Deputy Head of Department), Alessio Lomuscio (Director of Strategy and Planning), Fariba Sadri (Director of Studies: PG), Anne O'Neill (Department Operations Manager), Tom Curtin (Industrial Liaison Officer), Marek Rei (Lecturer), Jackie Bell (Senior Teaching Fellow), Peter Pietzuch (Director of Research), Robert Chatley (Director of Software Engineering Practice), Daniel Rueckert (Professor TU München),

External: Alexandros Papspyridis (Microsoft), Amit Gawali (McLaren Applied), Bryan Lillie (Capgemini), Philip Miller (Solidatus), Claire Vishik (Intel), Chris Blatchford (Elsevier) David Sharp (Ocado), Holly Cummins (IBM), Jonny Clifford (Entrepreneur First), Nabil Alsabah (Bitkom), Raymond Mulligan (Barclays), Sarah Wilkinson (NHS Digital), Claudia Schulz (Argus Data Insights)

Apologies: Pinar Emirdag (J.P Morgan), Tony Field (Director of Studies: UG), Alessandra Russo (Professor in Applied Computational Logic)

Agenda items

1. Welcome and introduction by Michael Huth (Head of Department)

Michael thanked everyone for joining the first remote Board meeting and all attendees made introductions.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

None

3. Membership and terms of reference

Michael highlighted amendments to the terms of references, as provided to the Board. Also a proposed change of name to Industrial Advisory Board, from Industrial Liaison Board. The reasons for this are, when the board was founded this was one of the main mechanisms for engagement with Industry, but we have really broaden our engagement with Industry, though different sources, so it is advantageous to have the focus of the board more on an advisory capacity. Michael invited the board to approve these changes.

4. Departmental update by Michael Huth

Michael explained that the Department reacted very quickly and well spirited to the College closing due to COVID the Friday before the exam season. He gave huge thanks to the staff

members involved including working over the weekend.

Michael reported on the 5 new hires in the Department including; Yingzhen Li, Azalea Raad, Marek Rei, Lluís Vilanova & Mark van der Wilk. 9 people left the Department in the last year for various reasons, the deficit means we will be initiating a recruitment round, as soon as feasible in the current climate.

Michael also highlighted some fellowships and major awards including Prof Francesca Toni's Research Chair, Prof Nobuko Yoshida's EPSRC Fellowship and Dr Mario Berta's ERC Staring Grant.

We have 6 fellowships and 3 ERC Grants, but that does have ramifications on teaching loads and admin, as the Dept. needs to compensate for the allowances Fellowships bring.

Michael said that 245 UG's will be expected in October with 50 coming from a widening participation background, we may have to provide additional support to ensure the failure rates stay where it is.

Female intake is 18% - we need to look at the factors for why we do not get a higher percentage.

Michael highlighted DeepMind's scholarship specifically targeted at female students or students with a BAME background, something we are keen to expand; Michael wants the board to consider how they can support a strategic element to improve diversity in Computing, including the diversity of PhD, Post Docs and Academics.

4. **Research presentation – Dr Marek Rei**

Marek gave a presentation of his research involving Machine Learning Algorithms – with a focus on Neural Network Models applied to NLP.

5. **Discussion: teaching post-Covid-19. Including update from Dr Fariba Sadri**

Michael said we are having a dramatic increase in student numbers, providing questions around how we can deliver, and implications when we have a on campus more in the subsequent years.

We are expecting at least 260 PG and 245 UG. Other department have promised coloration for projects so Fariba sees this a great opportunity.

Teaching will be a hybrid mode; teaching is online by default, limited physical interaction as possible, in line with Government guidelines. The vast majority of teaching staff have opted for live teaching, with a recording available. The Department has many existing systems that will prove useful. This will be influx as COVID develops.

Fariba drew attention to MSc in AI going very well for the first year. There was some previous discussion of the project being replaced by an internship, this will be coming in 2021/22 as discussions have resumed with the Office of AI, welcoming industry collaboration.

Sarah Wilkinson noted that a 40% increase in undergraduates could provide potential for more engagement with Industry via placements etc.

Robert Chatley noted that this year could force us to try different online modes and keep the ones that work going forward.

Philip Miller said that social interactions are very important and has seen evidence in industry.

Clare V indicated that large online gatherings were not working well, but smaller, quick ones work very well.

Alexandros offered Microsoft's help with best practice in teaching.

6. **New structure for collaboration with Industry: CPP, IAB, Imperial-X**

Daniel Rueckert spoke about Imperial-X. The overall idea is to co-locate a number of researchers together at the White City Campus. The vision is to break down the silos in different disciplines across Imperial, integrate teams together, and make the relationship between research and education as more fluid. Daniel said a unique aspect is bringing Industry into the same space, to give industry the opportunity to work with academics.

Imperial-X is aiming at the Smart Society pillar of the Imperial strategy and to provide a vehicle where we can tackle major scientific challenges. White City will also benefit from increased public engagement and outreach in the community. There will be an official launch in the Autumn.

Sarah Wilkinson reiterated that NHS Digital are very keen on partnering with Imperial X, and sees huge potential in collaboration.

8. **AOB** None.

9. **Close**

Michael thanked everyone for attending and welcomed feedback on any of the items discussed.

Actions:

- Tom/Ahmed: to update the webpages with the new name "Industrial Advisory Board" and the new terms of references.
 - All: to explore how IAB and CPP members can help with mentoring, including WP, female, and BAME students
 - Jackie: to continue to explore how IAB/ CPP members can contribute to our outreach activities
 - Tom: to organize a conference call with IAB/ CPP members to get feedback on how placements went during Covid-19, also with a view that next placements may gain from such insights
 - Tom/Michael: to prepare and send a first post-IAB meeting communication to IAB members
 - Placement Team: to follow up on IAB member's willingness to take more placement students given our increased intake
 - All: to communicate more asynchronously and more regularly with IAB members.
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