

Web Committee Meeting

15th October 2013
14.00 hrs
Huxley, Room 218

Minutes

Present: S. van Bakel
S. Eisenbach
F. Sadri
F. Toni
C. Cadar
V. Nicholl
S. Zappacosta
M. Wheelhouse
T. Kimber
A. Rochelle
S. Ingram

Apologies: None

S. van Bakel welcomed everybody present and explained that the main focus of the meeting was to look at how we might take the Admissions pages forward. He stated that this would be an open meeting and welcomed people's views and comments on any aspect of these pages. He had recruited students in the summer that had worked on redesigning the teaching pages which were now finished and could pull information in real time from the teaching database. He then stated that it would be good to have the admissions pages more dynamic also and asked staff present for their comments and ideas.

F. Toni stated that she was getting questions about the new Management degree and asked if this could now start to appear on our website.

S. van Bakel stated that the Teaching pages now pull from the database so maybe this degree needs to be added to the database so it can be pulled by the web page script.

S. Eisenbach stated that maybe initially what could be put up is the degree we had a couple of years ago suitably tweaked.

S. Zappacosta stated that she would dig up the old Management degree and make the necessary changes to make it appear as the new degree on the database.

F. Sadri stated that the current admissions pages are better than they used to be in terms of information and there is no apparent way this material can be presented differently. What would be nice is to showcase what we do, she said.

S. van Bakel stated that he accepted that the information is there but it was too dry and too

much like a leaflet.

V. Nicholl stated that maybe one aim should be to come over to the public as realistic and fun, Videos might be good to have.

T. Allwood stated that the Interview presentation lecture could be videoed and placed on the web.

F. Sadri stated that D. White had done a lot of work allowing us to put up students profiles on the webpages. We had a lot of interviews with Postgraduates but these seem to have gone now. There does seem to be some duplication and old data on the current pages, maybe there needs to be a bit of a spring cleaning, she said.

S. van Bakel stated that this would need to be done by everyone with responsibility for admissions as students wouldn't have the expertise to know what is out of date or not. He then asked what should be included on the pages.

F. Toni stated that things like the Staff Student ratio etc. need to be looked at.

S. van Bakel stated that he didn't want Google to be the entrance point to this information.

S. Eisenbach stated that she believed this sort of data was published in .PDF format once a year.

V. Nicholl stated that as a prospective student she would want to know what degrees we were offering, what was the department like and can I visit it.

C. Cadar stated that there are links to the College pages and maybe we should use what the College have more but make them more departmental specific.

S. Eisenbach stated that if we like the College structure it probably is safe to do what the College do.

F. Toni stated communicating what students do out on placements would attract people to our degree but it's not coming through at the moment.

S. van Bakel stated that we really need information, videos probably giving a tour of the department etc. labs, placements and testimonials. Maybe we could hire a company to produce the videos for us, he said.

V. Nicholl stated that she had just worked with a company that did this sort of thing and that there were several different approaches to doing this.

F. Toni stated that we do currently emphasise research.

C. Cadar stated that videos of students presenting their research projects might be good.

S. Eisenbach stated that links to Inaugural Lectures given by our staff might be good.

F. Toni stated that we are trying to make things more transparent so maybe we could put some sample interviews online. These would be internal only and be for guidance to staff, she said.

T. Kimber stated that on the postgraduate side students need to know the different types of admissions. There needs to be separation between undergraduate, taught postgraduate and research postgraduate admissions. Admissions also need to be separated from teaching and potential applicants need to see what's happening next year not this, he said.

S. van Bakel stated that there are scripts pulling the current data and next year's data which

have a roll over at the end of the examiner's meeting and September.

T. Kimber stated that the current database shouldn't roll over until September as current MSc students were still looking at it.

S. van Bakel stated that he was thinking that maybe the landing admissions page could have information about the department with links to postgraduate and undergraduate admissions.

S. Eisenbach stated that we need someone to look into how we might get the videos produced.

V. Nicholl stated that she would be willing to take this on.

Action: V. Nicholl to look at video production for the admissions pages.

S. Eisenbach stated that the videos ideally need to be short two minute videos.

S. van Bakel asked if members present could forward a link to him if they found a nice example of something we could include on the admissions pages.

F. Toni stated that maybe we could record the Prize Day Presentations and use one of those on the admissions pages.

M. Valera-Espina stated that multimedia content is good but it has to be carefully controlled as sometimes it is not suitable for disabled students.

A. Rochelle asked if it would be possible to include Computing's own prospectus on the pages.

S. van Bakel stated that this may contain duplicate information and there is always the risk that it wouldn't get updated and potentially give incorrect information.

This was the last item and the meeting was concluded at 2.50pm