

PG Committee Meeting

May 26th 2011

Present: Krysia Broda (DPS), Naranker Dulay (PGTutor), Susan Eisenbach (HOD), Amani El-Kholy (PG Administrator)

1. Items for consideration following PGR review of Materials and in view of our own review in 2012. (KB)

KB reported that Materials students seemed unclear as to the role of a mentor and that it might be reconsidered at College level. Therefore, we should probably try our suggestion for cohort mentors. SE will discuss with suitable persons about taking on the role. There would be one mentor for each year of the PhD. ND will act as mentor to students in their fourth year of PhD. All students were now assigned second supervisors, so we shouldn't drop that. They seemed very pleased with their scheme and many were in the range of a {[70:30] to [50:50]} supervision split.

We should definitely consider industrial internships for students that want them. However, this relies on obtaining support from our industry partners.

Perhaps a PhD/lecturer lunch at least once a month following a PhD seminar by a second year PG is worth considering. Our problem is a suitable location. Materials have lots of spare "non-office space".

There were various good ideas in their handbook that we might borrow. In particular, their reporting mechanisms provided similar feedback as our logbook, but we must monitor the latter. ND has sent a reminder to all supervisors reminding them of their duty to report problems to the PGTutor so they can be picked up before becoming severe.

A webform for reporting by student and supervisor in the middle of year 2 might be a good idea, that is a set of tick boxes and space for free text. Otherwise, there is no formal comment by the supervisor on progress between 12 months and 24 months.

2. SE said she had arranged two new PhD scholarships sponsored by two companies for starting in 2012. They are to be given by Maxeler (£20K) and Monddis (£15K), each per annum.