



Minutes of the Outreach Committee held on Monday 18 February 2019, 2:00pm, SW00

Present: Tim Jones (Chairman) (TMJ)
Claire Chapman (Secretary) (CLC)
Lise Gough (LMG)
Bogdan Roman (ABR)
Megan Sammons (MS)
Iliia Shumailov (IS)

1. Apologies for absence

Vasundhara Agarwal

2. Minutes from previous meeting

The Minutes from the meeting on 19 November 2018 were approved.

3. Report on actions from last meeting

i. Committee Membership

Vasundhara Agarwal, IA student has been recruited by MS to join the Committee.

ii. How to consider Outreach at Masters and PhD Level

The suggestion of a taster week subsidised by the Department for PhD students who have been made an offer is currently being discussed by the Senior Management Committee. LMG will report back on developments at the next meeting.

Action: LMG

iii. Sutton Trust Summer School

TMJ reported that *Code First: Girls* is only open to over 18 year olds and as the Summer School is for 16-17 years olds they cannot advertise it. However, women@CL have circulated information.

iv. Oxbridge Student Conferences

The names of all volunteers have been sent to the Cambridge Admissions Office and the presentation slides are being updated and will be sent to the speakers.

v. STIMULUS Programme

TMJ has been sent the contact details of Jacqui Watkins, STIMULUS co-ordinator

vi. Murray Edwards College Science Blog

TMJ will have a follow up meeting with Murray Edwards College in March to try to establish an outreach collaboration.

The Digital and Communications Coordinator will be asked to initiate a blog and twitter feed on the website and update the majority of photos following his appointment on 25 February.

Action: TMJ

vii. Research Group Film

The compilation of the Research Group film is still ongoing and IS will report back on progress at the next meeting.

Action: IS

viii. Sponsorship Opportunity

A meeting between TMJ, LMG and Jan Samols to discuss IBM sponsoring events in the Department still has to be arranged.

Action: LMG

4. Outreach requests

i) Westcliff High School for Boys, Essex would like to establish CS enrichment days for their year 7-9 students (Approx. 180 students)

Discussion took place on their proposal to establish CS enrichment days for their year 7-9 students.

A concern was raised that 180 students is a large cohort to teach and the students will be all-boys. A caveat was suggested to ask them to do a joint visit with a Girls School. It was suggested the event could be held over 3 days in the Department with a separate year group on each day.

The University's Science Festival in March was discussed, as talks would be of a similar content. TMJ said that it would be good if the Department can participate in the Science Festival in 2020.

ABR said that he will approach UG and PG students to ask if volunteers can be found to develop the teaching content and to provide teaching. ABR will draft a proposed budget and will contact the University's Widening Participation Team to enquire if funding is available. CLC will also approach the Senior Management Team in the Department to enquire if any Outreach Funding would be available.

CLC will contact the school with the committee's response that nothing definite will be arranged until the teaching materials have been developed.

Action: ABR and CLC

ii) Experience Cambridge Day

An Experience Cambridge Day in conjunction with the Cambridge Admissions Office, will be held on 13 July 2019, 10.30-16.30 and will be coordinated by Dr Tobias Kohn, RA in the Computer Architecture. Participants are selected from applicants who applied to the Sutton Trust Summer School.

iii) Raspberry Pi event, 30 & 31 March 2019

A course information stand will be provided for 3 hours on both days and help will be sought.

Action: CLC

iv) Initiation of a Girls Who Code club in the Department to teach secondary girls how to code

Members felt that they would be happy to support this initiative. As the proposed time to hold the weekly coding classes would be Saturdays afternoons, concern was raised that a staff member would need to be present for attendees to gain access to the building and to secure the building afterwards. Anil Madhavapeddy has agreed to be the Faculty Advisor and a suggestion was made that women@CL members could be asked to operate a rota system.

It was recommended that TMJ and Caroline Stewart should meet with the co-ordinator Anna Lu to discuss further details.

Action: TMJ

5. Industrial Supporters Members Donations

Donations received from members of the Supporters Club will be given the choice to support either:-

- 1) Research Student Hardship Fund
- 2) Research Pump Priming
- 3) Outreach.

The HoD has asked the committee to discuss blue sky initiatives if enough funding was available, i.e. offering pre-university courses for people who haven't had the opportunity to do CS A Level, offering a conversion course which might provide an opportunity for women with a background in numerate subjects to get into CS.

Suggestions on blue sky initiatives included:-

1. Reinstatement of the Diploma or equivalent course in Computer Science to allow students from other disciplines to learn Computer Science without having prior knowledge.
2. To develop online resources that Computer Science teachers can use to teach Computer Science at their primary/secondary school. It was suggested that the Pre-arrival course could be made public.

ABR reported on the CSAT Practice [+] Platform. The questions explore content and provide practice questions. Feedback received has requested more content. ABR said he would be willing to develop online resources if funding is available.

3. To provide Computer Science Subject Master Classes where members of the public can be invited to attend to learn about new technologies and research, therefore providing public engagement.
4. To provide Studentships in Computer Science.

6. Transition Year at Cambridge

The committee is asked to discuss the Transition Year at Cambridge: Pre consultation document received from Professor Graham Virgo, Senior Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) and to provide feedback.

The committee felt that providing a Transition Year course would be problematic. It would require extra resources, i.e. teaching staff, admin support, equipment, teaching rooms etc... and students would not receive a qualification.

TMJ reported that the School of Technology have opposed the idea of direct transition into Part IA following the Transition Year. TMJ said that a trial run of 50 students will initially be made in the University by subjects in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. LMG queried which subject(s) in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Tripos would be trialed. **(Afternote: Not yet known)**

The committee felt this should be discussed further in the Department by the Tripos Management Committee.

7. Outreach Committee Actions from Athena SWAN Silver Application

The Committee received the actions from the Silver Award Action Plan. Referring to Action 6.1, TMJ noted that we should try and meet the target of 50% female helpers at the UG Open Days in July and the PG Open Day (date tbc).

Regarding Action 6.2, to guarantee 10 free places for girls on the Cambridge Coding Academy TMJ said that a caveat could be made to continue to offer free room and facilities in the Department in exchange for 10 free places. TMJ said he would be willing to approach the Cambridge Coding Academy if requested by the Department.

Action: TMJ and CLC

8. Any Other Business

Computer Science Masterclass

A Computer Science Masterclass organised by the Cambridge Admissions Office took place on the 16 February 2019 for Year 12 students with 3 speakers from the Department. Feedback from a speaker had been that it would be useful to have more information on the website about applications and that we should think carefully about the content delivered to attendees on these events.

Invite to Digital and Communications co-ordinator to join Committee

It was agreed Jonathan Goddard, Digital and Communications Coordinator should be invited to join the committee. CLC will ask Caroline Stewart and Jan Samols for their agreement.

Action: CLC

9. Date of next meeting

To be held in Easter Term.