

Graduate Students' Forum

Minutes: 30 January 2013

Attending: SB Simon Baker (MPhil)
SMB Sandro Bauer (NLIP)
LG Lise Gough
VI Vaiva Imbrasaitė (Rainbow)
AK Andreas Koltes (CompArch)
RK Ramana Kumar (PLS) [Secretary]
AR Andy Rice (GEC) [Chair]
DT Daniel Thomas (DTG)
IT Ivo Timoteo (AI&B)
KS Kumar Sharad (Security)

1. Apologies

Jon Crowcroft (JC), Matthew Grosvenor (MG).

2. Minutes of last meeting

Approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

i. Kitchen utensils.

Roll over to next meeting, since MG is not here.

ii. SoT Research Survey.

Roll over to next meeting, since MG is not here.

iii. Website updates.

DT now has the ability to edit the CL website, and is doing so.

Action: DT to find changes to make in previous GSF meeting minutes.

Action: DT and LG to send an email to GSF with links to the updated pieces of the website.

Action: All to look at the Unofficial PhD Guide and decide whether/how to update it.

iv. System Administrator Issues Document.

Thanks to DT for compiling the issues into a document, and emailing it to the GSF.

Action: All to collect positive and negative feedback for sysadmin from their group, read and comment on the issues document, and add their name to it when done.

LG suggests sending it to the IT Strategy Committee and/or the Graduate Education Committee.

v. Pot luck lunch.

DT says there is no official guidance on what is allowed, and a pot luck is probably all

right. LG suggests putting the recipe in front of each dish. AR suggests voting for the best dish.

Roll over to next meeting, expecting a volunteer to run it.

Action: All to consider volunteering to run it.

4. Student feedback

(a) MPhil (SB)

The MPhil students are too busy at this time, and have no feedback.

(b) CompArch (AK)

No new issues.

(c) Security (KS)

People are unhappy with the café.

Action: AR to raise this complaint in the Graduate Education Committee.

(d) AI & Bioinformatics (IT)

Everything is OK.

(e) SRG (MG)

(Not present.)

(f) NLIP (SMB)

i. Intermitting possibility and visa requirements.

In particular internships do not mix well with US visa regulations.

All requirements are imposed by the UKBA, and not the university or department.

Action: SB to tell AR and/or LG about specific problems or lack of clarity with the requirements.

ii. Mailing list for NLIP PhD students.

There are at least two options: use a CL mailing list (see website for details), or use lists.cam.ac.uk.

(g) PLS (RK)

No new issues.

(h) DTG (DT)

i. Server room trolley.

It would be nice to have one.

Action: DT to add this to the sysadmin issues document.

ii. Missing cutlery and crockery.

Already mentioned in matters arising.

iii. Reduce lighting in internal corridors.

A suggestion to save energy on sunny days.

iv. Windows/ventilation.

There is no way to control the floor heating or ventilation, although that is a reason for not allowing windows to be opened. We might like a formal approved procedure for opening windows. AR suggests that ultimately the problem may be that people don't close windows in shared offices.

Action: AR to raise the issue of opening windows at the Graduate Education Committee.

(i) Rainbow (VI)

No new issues.

5. Departmental announcements

None.

6. Staff Student Consultative Forum

No updates.

7. Research Development

(a) Bids for money.

Future Research Development money is bid for on an annual basis. AR suggests a food hygiene course to enable BBQs. DT, AR, and VI (or someone in the Happy Hour crew) would attend.

Action: AR to email the GSF about what we bid for last year, and asking for suggestions for next time.

(b) Career training plan. AR is thinking about developing a resource with this title, and will circulate further details.

(c) Coding events.

There is a CyberSoc Capture-the-flag event on February 3rd. There may be more such coding events in the future. There is unlikely to be Research Development money for them.

8. Any other business

(a) Supervision Workshop

Discussed summary of conclusions from the workshop (e.g. need more feedback for supervisors, more lecturer involvement). Expecting followup action from the organisers. VI suggests that lecturers should be obliged to provide a guide for supervisors.

AR and LG will push matters up to the Teaching Committee as necessary.

(b) Feedback on UKBA changes

In particular, funding issues, e.g. EPSRC grants cannot have students attached (as students).

Action: All to collect tales of effects of UKBA changes and pass them on to the GSF.

(c) Poster Competition

There is a poster competition for the CL's 25th Anniversary with £2000 in prize money. More information in an email by AR.

9. Date of next meeting

Early March.

VI suggests starting lunch earlier (e.g. 12:30) to match the time of hunger.

Poll for date: <https://dudle.inf.tu-dresden.de/gsf/>