Graduate Students' Forum
Minutes: 27 June 2013

Attending: DB   Daniel Bates (CompArch)
SMB Sandro Bauer (NLIP)
VI   Vaiva Imbrasaite (Rainbow)
RK   Ramana Kumar (PLS) [Secretary]
AR   Andy Rice (GEC) [Chair]
KS   Kumar Sharad (Security)
DT   Daniel Thomas (DTG)
IT   Ivo Timoteo (AI&B)

1. Apologies

Lise Gough (LG). Matthew Grosvener (MG). Andreas Koltes (AK), with Daniel Bates (DB) kindly substituting. Simon Baker (SB).

2. Minutes of last meeting

Approved, conditional on minor corrections being made.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

    i.   IT Issues.

        DT reports that there have been some results, including a new trolley in SE18. Some of the issues may require more prodding later, but for now the ball is in the sys-admins' court. AR praises DT on behalf of the GSF for doing a good job.

        DT reports that filer is being upgraded. Discusses filer storage quota, suggesting a 128GB default, and a preemptive quota increase at 80% capacity. DT (based on an email by MG) points out that different grades of storage are required for different tasks: different levels of backups, snapshots, archives. AR thinks 100GB is too high, because people are lazy about deleting things.

   ii.   Unofficial PhD Guide.

        SMB has made the updates he was assigned. He notes that there are still some LaTeX issues with using teh document.

        Action: SMB to fix the LaTeX issues, and continue to update content as necessary.

        Action: VI to make the updates she was assigned.

  iii.   Three Minute Thesis Lunches.

        Has been converted to Lego and Pizza lunch, which will be run on June 28 by VI. Five teams have signed up, the lego is arriving, and the teams must include people from multiple groups. There will be prizes (presuming reimbursement from the GSF).

        Action: VI to take pictures.

4. Food Safety Qualifications

DT has undertaken the certification course and now has food safety qualifications. This took one day and £60. Ian Burton-Palmer solved the administrative roadblocks on the way to allowing cooking in the department. Aim now is to have VI also obtain the qualifications, then have a BBQ. Possibly do something food-related in October with newly arrived PhD students.

5. Sports Centre

SMB notes that the new Sports Centre opens in August (officially), and aims to schedule/organise things when it opens.

6. Departmental announcements

(None.)

7. Staff Student Consultative Forum (DT)

   i.   IT Advisory Committee.

There should be a student representative on this committee. DT has raised it as an issue.

   ii.   Stamp Printing Machine.

The machine in reception has a £3 limit, which perhaps ought to be revised.

   iii.   teaching-research Email Moderation.

Moderation is too slow. Suggestions: add another moderator, or use whitelists.

8. Research Development

The pizza lunch, food safety course, and languages courses are all done.

9. Student feedback

(a)   Rainbow (VI)

Reception is often not keen for students to use the lab's credit card to book approved travel and so forth. The concern may be reaching the card's limit, in which case there should perhaps be a second card or a higher limit.

Action: AR to bring this up at the Graduate Education Committee.

(b)   CompArch (DB for AK)

(Postage stamps and list moderation, as covered already.)

(c)   DTG (DT)

Positive feedback: the CL is a great place to work, and the people are friendly and nice.

Negative feedback: the heating is sometimes not good, the food is rubbish, and the network speed is too slow for servers.

(d)   The Rest

Nobody around. No observed feedback.

10. Date of next meeting

October.