

A meeting of the Graduate Students' Forum took place on Friday 8th December in the Computer Laboratory, William Gates Building.

Attendance:

Lise Gough, Graduate Education Manager, Meeting Chair.
Botty Dimanov, AI.
Heidi Howard, SRG.
Kevin Heffernan, NLIP.
Stephan Kollman, DTG.
Anita Vero, Women@CL.
Mark Wassell, PLS, Minutes.

1. Apologies for Absence

Andrew Rice, Ilia Shumailov, Partha Maji, Marketa Green, Abraham D (ACS Representative).

Vacant: Security and Rainbow research groups.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of previous will be approved subject to recirculation.

3. Matters arising from last meeting.

- I. Arrange with Graham Titus to provide update on IT resources and answer questions. In particular use of Azure and MPhil computing resources [LG]
- II. Concern over wet outdoor wear in crowded offices. Building services to be asked if a drying room can be provided. [LG]
- III. Yes, confirmed.
- IV. Lise thanked all those who assisted at the induction day.
- V. Closed. There was a follow-up discussion on providing payment to PhD students to be project assistants at a similar rate to that for tickers.
- VI. Locate Lego [?]

- VII. Feedback on Eddington development and transport is generally positive. Comment was that buses could run later and there are still issues with timing and cost. Discussion on proposals for new bus routes into Cambridge along Magingley road or south of west Cambridge site.
- VIII. Purchase of Lego Mindstorm and/or Raspberry Pi deemed to be too expensive. Board games were purchased instead.
- IX. Covered in item IV.
- X. Overleaf subscription. Meeting confirmed it was still needed. Request to be forward to IT. [LG]
- XI. Board games nights have been run and were well attended.
- XII. Jay and Marketa are setting up a suggestions page for RDP topics.

4. Matters Arising From Research Groups

DTG

- Request that bank transfer be used instead of cheques for travel reimbursement. This has been investigated but is not possible.
- Computing resources and use of cloud computing. GSF to write a short proposal. Heidi to coordinate. [HH]

NLIP

- Nothing to report.

Women@CL

- Oxbridge Women in CL Conference to be held in March

SRG

- Request to renew Overleaf subscription.
- Comment that food is of a poor quality.
- Pleased that café has removed £3 minimum card payment.
- Not enough microwave ovens around the building. It was pointed out that there is a limit of one per floor due to safety issues.
- Request for lifts to be provided at east side of building. It may be possible for this to be met when the building is expanded in the next few years.
- Availability of ergonomic equipment (such as chairs, desks and standing desks). In the first instance, this will need to come out of research grants. If there is a medical need then other funding is available. There is also the University disability resources centre and student's college should be approached to help. EPSRC students should talk to Lise.
- JJ Thompson Avenue is not cycle friendly (for example cyclists on cycle path have to

give way to traffic coming out of/into side roads; cars don't). *Post Meeting Comment: The West Cambridge Active Travel group is discussing with the relevant parties improvements to cycle infrastructure as part of redevelopment of the area.*

- Request for more secure parking for student bicycles. This is being looked into with the idea that the current area being split up to include an area with controlled access.
- Request for outdoor pump. Could be included inside secure parking.
- Madingley Road / JJT junction and cyclists. This junction is unfriendly to cyclists. Discussion was that this might partially be due to lack of confidence and suggestion was that we ask Outspoken back in to run cycling safety courses in October.

AI

- Overleaf subscription.
- Social gatherings and meeting areas. There is morning tea at 10:30am and some research groups meet at a set time and place for lunch.

PLS

- Nothing to report.

5. Matters For Discussion

- It isn't feasible to run Christmas Quiz this year. Proposal to run one early next year for start of term. 2nd February was suggested. [?]
- Storage box for games has been purchased.
- Lecture theatres are suitable for showing films and the university does have a licence to show films to groups. Send ideas and requests for films to Lise.
- Treasure hunt. Could be held in Easter term.

6. Date of the next meeting

Next meeting is on Thursday 25th January, 2pm. Lunch provided.

ⁱ This is the minute takers recollection of what was stated and should not be taken as official policy!