



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Department
Of
Computer
Science.

Minutes Meeting of Industrial Liaison Board

Date: 11 May 2011

Present:

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|------------------------|-------|---|
| Mandy Chessell (Chair) | [MC] | IBM |
| Fabio Ciravegna | [FC] | Departmental Chair |
| Sam Chapman | [SC] | K-Now |
| Richard Clayton | [RHC] | |
| Tony Cowling | [AJC] | Accreditation and BCS contact |
| John Derrick | [JD] | Head of Department |
| Richard France | [RF] | EPSRC Knowledge Transfer Account Manager |
| Ruth Hambleton | | |
| Phil McMinn | [PSM] | Director of Enterprise Computing |
| Chris Murray | [CM] | EpiGenesys |
| Siobhan North | [SDN] | Deputy Head of Department Director of Teaching |
| Marco Potesta | [MP] | Digital Region Limited |
| Graham Richards | [GR] | IBM |
| Inderpal Singh | [IS] | IBM |
| Charlotte Swain | [CS] | Sheffield Engineering Gateway; Industry Liaison Manager |
| Kathryn Roden | [KMR] | Minutes Secretary |

Apologies Matt Dudbridge (Dresdner Kleinwort), Simon Fisher (IBM), Stuart Green (Zoo Digital), Tom Heath (Talis), Greg Whitfield (Lightwork Design), Chris Wicks (Accenture), Domonic Watts (Microsoft), Thomas Hain (

1. Welcome and apologies

Noted: MC welcomed the committee and acknowledged the apologies.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Noted: It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were a fair and accurate record.

3. Curriculum review

Comments arising during presentation

Noted: MP asked if there was any cross pollination between Genesys and Darwin. SDN responded that this hadn't happened yet. RHC commented that there are similar features. AJC stated that the focus of Genesys is for students to gain experience of coping in the real world. Students are producing software for organisations for money – innovation of creating something for a company who maybe doesn't know what it wants. Darwin is an academic lead programme where there is often a clear focus of where the research is going. The focus is scientific innovation of a product being developed.

Noted: SDN commented that the Software Hut module is designed to give students experience of working in the real world. SDN asked the board members if they have any two –three month projects suitable for a team of students then we would be happy to take them on. SDN explained it would take some input from the company and may cost them in the form of a small prize for the winning team. AJC stated that he is running the module next year, so any ideas should be put forwards to him.

Noted: SDN told the board members that we still welcome project ideas from our industrial contacts.

Noted: SDN explained that we will be running a brand new course for third year students next year called Computer Security and Forensics. SDN explained that RHC and a few other academics felt that students needed to understand the basics of secure networks. There has been interest from students outside the department in this subject area. The module is to run alongside the Cryptography module which will be delivered by the Maths department.

Noted: MC asked if students doing the Darwin module are likely to go on to do a PhD. SDN responded that we want good PhD students, and may students who do Darwin realise that they enjoy research. RHC added that up until this year Darwin was a mix of L4 and MSc students. This mix of students was hard to manage as the L4 students were much better prepared for group work. This year there will be fewer Darwin teams and less MSc students will be doing the module as only one course will now be taking it.

Link to presentation is on the ILB intranet page

4. Genesys presentation:

Noted: CM explained that his presentation is going to focus on what has changed this year and what will happen in the future. The group are focussing on team work and practical software development.

Comments arising during presentation

Noted: MP asked if they touch on scalable solutions. CM responded that their work is largely driven by clients. It can be hard to find clients who want such projects developing.

Link to presentation is on the ILB intranet page

5. Industrial links in the OAK group

6. Link to presentation is on the ILB intranet page

7. Industrial collaboration opportunities

Comments arising during presentation

Noted: MP asked where the IP produced silts. RF responded that it depends on the projects. It is normally negotiated on a case by case basis.

Link to presentation is on the ILB intranet page

8. Head of department presentation

Comments arising during presentation

Noted: JD commented that the faculty's income is growing faster than other engineering faculties across the nation and across other faculties in the University.

Noted: MC asked what the accommodation was like for students. AJC responded that the main accommodation is at the Edge and Ranmoor and they have both recently been renovated to a very high standard. AJC also commented that there are lots of private providers in town. Feedback from students compared favourably with students from other universities.

Noted: AJC commented that the Faculty of Engineering are going to be building two new buildings dedicated to teaching space.

Link to presentation is on the ILB intranet page

9. Best Poster

Noted: The best poster was awarded to Christopher Wright: Automatic Marking of Java Assignments.