

To all members of EUCS Staff

Statement on reports about possible sources of Legionella infection

As statements have been reported today indicating that the cooling system at the James Clerk Maxwell Building on the University's King's Buildings Science campus has been tested as a potential source of Legionella infection. It may be helpful to have the following facts:-

- 1) Following a small number of cases of Legionnaires disease reported over the last six months in South Edinburgh (none apparently affecting staff or students at the University) the City Health Authorities instituted an extra check on the cooling systems of a number of buildings across South Edinburgh, including those on the KB site.
- 2) Preliminary results from these tests at the end of last week showed a possible presence of the Legionella organism in two cooling water systems. One of these was reported to be at the National Library of Scotland Annexe in Causewayside, the other in part of one of the water cooling/air conditioning systems at the James Clerk Maxwell Buildings (JCMB).
- 3) As soon as the preliminary result was notified to the University on Friday 20 January, the tank from which the affected sample had been taken was closed down and isolated. Following notification to the University today that the preliminary result was confirmed, the University is closing down the whole of that system to which that tank is linked (although there is, of course, no evidence of the general presence of the organism in that system). That system which will now be drained, treated and retested, as requested by the Environmental Health Authorities before being recommissioned (this is expected to take approximately one month).
- 4) There is no firm evidence that the Legionella bacteria found in this system is the source of the cases that have been reported elsewhere in South Edinburgh. It is one of a number of possibilities which are very difficult to determine, given the widespread distribution of Legionella bacteria in the environment.
- 5) Against the possibility that it might be related however, the University is taking all measures requested of it by the Environmental Health Authorities. There is no reason to suppose this action having been taken, that there is any danger of infection either on the campus or in the surrounding areas from this source. (though if any member of the University is concerned about their health, they should obviously consult their General Practitioner - the usual incubation period for the disease is 3-6 days, exceptionally 10).
- 6) The University across its premises has a number of wet air/water cooling systems. As a matter of standard practice it undertakes regular checks on these and adjusts chlorine levels monthly - the approach generally prescribed for inhibiting Legionella-type bacteria in such systems.

Further note for users of the JCMB Building

- a) As you may know, there are three separate systems covering water cooling and air conditioning within the JCMB. The system referred to above is the one that covers air conditioning and water cooling in the Edinburgh University Computing Service part of the building. The other two systems (one covering air conditioning and water cooling in other departmental premises and one covering water cooling for laboratory equipment in the premises) are not affected in any way and will continue to operate. Estates and Buildings Department advises that a reserve dry system of air cooling can be operated to cover the main computer hall facilities in Computing Services and that efforts will be made to provide necessary cooling where necessary for equipment in other parts of the Computing Service premises that may be affected (Please contact Mr. Cuthbert extension 4424)

**Notes of Departmental Meeting held on Friday, 29 January 1988 in
Room 2510**

Present: KEVIN, DB, DJW, JCD, SM, PDS, JCB, BCT, DKA, TMH, NPT, AJS, JHB, RC, FS, RNI, ARCH, JJ, GLC, CMNT, EM, RM, DWB, BOB, EAK.

Apologies: DTS.

1. Matters arising from previous meeting

None.

2. Chairman's Business

RNI announced that RM is to be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science (Engineering) by Chalmers University in Sweden. The meeting congratulated him on this award.

SM informed the meeting that although the 21st birthday of the Department had passed without celebration last year, there would be a celebration this year to mark 25 years of computing in this University. The actual birthday is 1 April, but the celebration is planned for either 13th or 14th April. Various distinguished guests and early associates of the Department and the E.R.C.C. will be invited. There will be an afternoon presentation followed by an evening reception and buffet in the Level 3 Common Room. Staff were asked to keep the two dates free until one is chosen.

(a) JCMB Mail

RNI told the meeting that Mr. Alison was proposing that mail should only be delivered to a limited number of offices in the Department in the near future in an effort to reduce the number of offices of manual staff. RNI had written to him complaining of the proposed new arrangements on the grounds that they would impose an increased burden on our staff involved in the distribution of mail. EAK had been asked to draw up a contingency plan of mail delivery and collection points. The plan would be as follows

- AMF - Corridor 34

- MWM - Corridor 24
- HLC - Corridor 25
- EAK - Corridor 26
- SL - Corridor 16 PLUS half of Corridor 15 to dividing door
- DAM - Corridor 14 PLUS other half of Corridor 15 to dividing door

The secretaries would deliver mail to offices on the above floors using the Sub-master key if any of the offices were locked. Wire baskets would only be used for mail of a circular nature. It is not yet clear whether the servitors will sort out the mail by name. RNI will enquire if the new mail arrangements will also be introduced in Old College.

Action RNI

(b) ERASMUS

RNI reported that the ERASMUS scheme was one whereby money could be obtained for students from here to spend part of their time in another part of the EEC and vice versa. There would also be some money for students to attend courses, the money being teaching-related not research-related. He told the meeting that 2 ladies from the University of Paris-Sud at Orsay had visited him recently to discuss a link with this University. They plan to send a student on their DEA programme here to undertake a project on our M.Sc. programme this year. We anticipate sending FS and NPT to France during April/May to talk to their people. It is proposed that 2 of our M.Sc. students should go abroad on this scheme in 1988/9 RNI also read out details received from Jan Hulme on a German scheme to encourage people to take part in an exchange programme with a British partner institution. The feeling of the meeting was that this was more relevant to Business Studies.

Action RNI

(c) UnivEd

RNI reported that Mike Weber of UnivEd had recently sent to every staff member a brochure enlightening them on the procedures for research contracts and of the services which UnivEd provide. UnivEd had also sent a poster advertising an

agreement between the University and the British Technology Group on finance for R & D.

(d) Photocopying

RNI reminded people of the rules on copying which had appeared in the last Departmental newsletter. Our bills had increased enormously, and HLC was currently checking back to discover if an error has been made. JHB announced that, provided the meeting approved, he would go ahead and replace the current Xerox machine with a new copier which would be in keeping with our current copying load. This was agreed.

Action JHB

3. Reports from Committees

(a) Staffing

RNI reported on the present state of progress on filling the vacant Chair post in the Department. There is also a vacancy in the joint post which we hold with Cognitive Science, and RM has drawn up the further particulars. The post will be advertised, but there is a possible good candidate in the U.S.

(b) Teaching

Alternative ways of using some of the money under the ETP budget are currently being sought.

PDS reported that LR is working on student administrative programs, and hopes to talk with staff on this. It was announced that a demo. of Datatrieve will be laid on and one by 4th Dimension on Macs.

The Committee had discussed rates paid to part-time Demonstrators, with a slight upwards adjustment being proposed for those who undertake tutoring.

There is current cause for concern at the number of female students dropping out of CS1 studies. Despite the amount of new equipment, it would appear that they feel a lack of support in the console room.

The Committee also feel that Theory courses are commencing too early in the term, and this item will come up at the Syllabus Committee. It was the general opinion that we should not attempt to teach too much too fast. PDS suggested that all the tutors have a session in the Lab. to help students with their work.

(c) Syllabus

The Committee had not met, but the Boards of Study in Engineering had and the proposals for CS2 and the M.Sc. had gone through without difficulty. FS reported that the next step would be the Postgraduate Studies Committee next week.

RJP pointed out that the current syllabus for CSIB is only a draft.

(d) Technical Resources

The Committee had not met, but will shortly be calling a meeting.

(e) Equipment

JHB reported on this year's capital submissions, the major ones centring around the use of Macs, administrative database, CS4, teaching projects and text processors. JHB invited people to mail him as appropriate with regard to replacing hardware. A special meeting may be called to decide which avenue should be pursued.

Action JHB

(f) Publicity

There was nothing to report.

(g) Library

MRJ reported that over a year's supply of ACM Journals had arrived. The Committee had also decided that the Library should take the 2 suggested journals, with more suggestions in the pipeline.

There being no Other Competent Business, the meeting closed at 5.35 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Friday, 26 February at 3.30 p.m.

Memorandum

To Staff, Postgraduates
Noticeboards

From Roland Ibbett

Date 25/2/88

AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENTAL MEETING

to be held on

Friday 26th February, 1988

Time : 3.30 p.m.
Venue : NEW COFFEE LOUNGE (2510)

Raised by

1. Matters arising from last meeting RNI
2. Chairman's business RNI
3. Reports from Committees
 - (a) Staffing
 - (b) Teaching
 - (c) Syllabus
 - (d) Technical Resources
 - (e) Equipment
 - (f) Publicity
 - (g) Library RNI
4. Any Other Competent Business

Notes of Departmental Meeting held on Friday, 26 February 1988 in
Room 2510

Present: RNI, EAK, RJP, RC, JHA, AJS, DKA, RAM, DJR, DJW, ASW,
PDS, JHB, ARCH, KJC, KEVIN, GLC, BCT, FS, JTB, JJ, ALLI, JCD, BOB,
RM, DTS, SM, CMNT

1. Matters arising from previous meeting

Mail: RNI reported that he had not yet spoken to Mr. Alison about Old College mail, but still intends to do so.

ERASMUS: RNI informed the meeting that he had sent on to Business Studies the material relating to a German scheme.

New copier: JHB announced that the new Canon copier would arrive on the afternoon of Monday 29 February.

2. Chairman's Business

RNI reported that he could supply a copy of a letter concerning the Computers in Teaching Initiative Support Service to anyone interested.

The recent Guardian article on Women in Computing was mentioned, and JTB was asked to find out more about it and other such articles.

Action - JTB

University Diary: RNI reminded the meeting that this could be purchased for £2.25 from the Information and Public Relations Service.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations: RNI reported that they will take place on Thursday, 14th April to which all permanent staff and research students are invited. Presentations will take place in the afternoon, and there will be an evening reception in the Upper Library to which staff may bring spouses. There will be a charge for non-staff members.

3. Reports from Committees

(a) Staffing

The advertisement for the joint Cognitive Science/Computer Science post has gone out. A likely U.S. candidate will be interviewed within a week, but more applications are expected.

No progress has been made as yet with regard to filling the vacant Chair, but discussions are in progress with a number of individuals.

(b) Teaching

PDS reported on the recent occurrences of coursework plagiarism. It was agreed that students guilty of such acts should not be allowed to pass the exams, and the Teaching Committee will put forward guidelines on the proper procedures which should be observed.

Action - Teaching Committee

Discussions are still continuing concerning CSO assistance at the Appleton Tower and support for students on the consoles there. More staff will be required to undertake teaching at the Tower, and efforts should be made to train people and give guidance to tutors.

It was felt that we should be recruiting a wider variety of students with qualifications such as HND, taking more people directly into 2nd year. This will be discussed at future teaching staff and Faculty meetings.

(c) Syllabus

RNI reported on the success of the recent BCS accreditation visit. (See Newsletter of 17 February for details of exemptions.)

It was agreed that a fresh look should be taken at the Management Science course, and ASW would like to know of anyone who wishes to be involved in revising that course.

The Committee has also met and looked at the CS2 syllabus, revising the previous one. ASW confirmed that the submission which had gone to the Board of Studies had been approved for the 2nd year, approval having also been expressed at one of the Boards for CS1b. The M.Eng. is still pending. ALI and KK

are continuing their discussions with the Mathematics Department on revision of Maths. syllabus.

Action - ALI and KK

(d) Technical Resources

Nothing to report.

(e) Equipment

JHB reported there is a strong case for using Suns for teaching at KB with the Theory M.Sc., CS4 and VLSI course and CS3/4 graphics course. It is also the intention to spend £7,000 to enhance RJP's Sun 360.

There is currently no reason for further investment on Suns at Appleton Tower, but manpower expenditure is recommended to tune the present machines up. Apple Macs are being considered for use in course administration.

Since ECSVAX is currently running satisfactorily, it seems sensible to let it run on but to also invest in microvaxes and enhance the licence.

JHB reported in more detail on the new copier which is a high volume Canon machine. It will arrive with a stapler, which is on appro., and we have the option to change this in favour of a collator. Instruction on the machine's use will take place shortly after its arrival.

SM expressed concern at the small screens on the Apple Macs, and felt that eye strain could occur. He was assured that investigations are already in hand in this regard. RNI said we need a clear policy on what document preparation facilities we expect undergraduates to use, stressing that the facilities did not require to be sophisticated.

(f) Publicity

JTB reported that the Committee had not yet met, but that an advertisement for postgraduate study had appeared in the CSU Postgraduate Bulletin in addition to the posters sent out worldwide in early January. She also reported that the new M.Sc. booklet is about to appear. 2 more UCCA visits are planned, the previous ones having been reasonably successful, resulting in an increase in our applications.

JTB also informed the meeting that the next Women in Computing Workshop will take place on 21 March. She also reported on the National Women in Computing Conference planned for July 20-22 which involves people from a group of universities. Further details can be obtained from JTB, and she would also welcome any articles which people may wish to contribute to the national press. She asked if the Department would be willing to contribute some money towards this conference, and it was agreed that an amount be given.

JTB reported that the blue undergraduate booklet is nearly out of print, and requires rewriting.

Open Day will take place on 3 June, and volunteers are required for a committee. New boards are also needed for Open Day. Transporting of equipment to the Appleton Tower is not desirable, and it is hoped to handle things differently this year. Eye-catching demos are still required. BCT pointed out a calendar clash with Open Day and KK's colloquium. ALI will handle this.

Action - ALI

(g) Library

Nothing to report.

Any Other Competent Business

Travel and Research Committee

RJP expressed his concern at the limited amount of money which this Committee is contributing to applicants who wish to travel to conferences. There appears to be a 75% blanket contribution, but RJP recommends that the Committee prioritise rather than give insufficient funds to applicants. RNI will write to the Convenor of the Committee expressing our concern in this matter.

Action - RNI

The meeting closed at 5.35 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Friday, 25 March at 3.30 p.m.



Memorandum

To Staff, Postgraduates,
Noticeboards

From RNI

Date 27th January, 1988

AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENTAL MEETING

to be held on

Friday 29th January 1988

Time : 3.30 p.m.
Venue : NEW COFFEE LOUNGE (2510)

Raised by

1. Matters arising from last meeting.

2 Chairman's business

- (a) JCMB Mail
- (b) ERASMUS
- (c) UnivEd

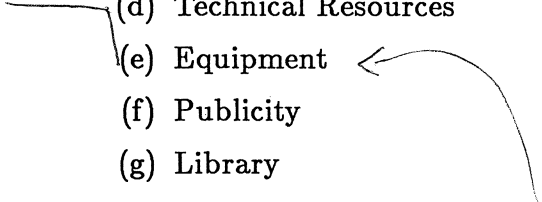
13/14 Apr Jamboree

RNI

3. Reports from Committees

- (a) Staffing
- (b) Teaching
- (c) Syllabus
- (d) Technical Resources
- (e) Equipment
- (f) Publicity
- (g) Library

ECSVAT
Mac
Sun



CR 12.30 Thw
AD Lock
Remove Printers
Downtime?

RNI

4. Any Other Competent Business

Xerox

Open Day



Department of Computer Science

Memorandum

To Staff, Postgraduates

From Roland Ibbett

Date 24th March, 1988

AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENTAL MEETING

to be held on

Friday 25th March, 1988

<p>Time : 3.30 p.m. Venue : NEW COFFEE LOUNGE (2510)</p>
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Raised by

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|---|-----|
| 1. Matters arising from last meeting | RNI |
| 2. Chairman's business | RNI |
| 3. Reports from Committees | |
| (a) Staffing | |
| (b) Teaching | |
| (c) Syllabus | |
| (d) Technical Resources (see note attached) | RAM |
| (e) Equipment | |
| (f) Publicity | |
| (g) Library | RNI |
| 4. Report from General Building Services Committee
(see note attached) | RAM |
| 5. Any Other Competent Business | |

Notes for Departmental Meeting, 25th March 1988

Item 3d - Technical Resources Committee - Report

Due to JCD absence and now my absence, this committee hasn't met. We have several items to discuss. An agenda follows with some brief description of items where relevant.

Agenda

1. Cabling in the department.
What is the current situation regarding access in all corridors? If trunking is full, can we strip out any unused cable? We must leave cables where asbestos may be disturbed.
Response to Works' Department guidelines on cabling.
2. State of the building.
Plaster cracks in rooms, laboratories and stairwells to be reported to JCD. He will pass this information on to Roger Hipkin. The JCMB Users' Committee must decide whether to order another survey of the building.
3. ERCC bid for level 2 toilets.
This has been prompted by Reprographics expansion. Works' department to survey the toilet provision.
We asked for a share of any storage area on level 2 at one time. Do we still want a storage area for large equipment?
4. Accommodation needs (various).
5. Gandalf wiring.
What is the current state? Now being looked at.
6. Review of lab use.
The use of all laboratories seems to have settled down. Do we endorse current use? Technical cover for student laboratories. Ventilation problems in new labs being investigated.
7. Technical staff rest room.
8. Emergency service provision
What do we recommend for calling up emergency services? JCD has written to Andrew Alison about telephones.
9. Implications of Equipment Committee bids.

The next meeting will be held early in April. If you have any items for the agenda, please pass them to JCD or RAM.

Item 4 - Report from General Building Services Committee

Office accommodation: Physics department have stated a need for more office space. They expect a growing number of visitors (especially Chinese) and a growth of numbers associated with the Computing Surface. I have told Stuart McKirdy that we may be able to assist in the short term, that is, until October, by sharing rooms with us on the 3rd floor. Physics have five members of staff due for retirement and we must adopt a policy on rooms for retired members of staff who continue to work.

Geophysics, in anticipation of the Earth Sciences revision, expect to have a need for four rooms by October. It would appear that room 6301, our MSc student workroom, may be lost. This is a JCMB room on long-term loan to us because no one else wanted it.

ERCC continue to take over toilets in the JCMB. They have now bid for their third? toilet conversion. I feel it has to stop somewhere.

Bicycles: The threat of a ban has again been raised and I have mailed everyone about this. Douglas Rogers will be our representative on the small working party convened by Keith Weston of Meteorology.

ERCC Front Door: This now has infra-red sensors and when you approach at night, the whole area is floodlit. I think that is all that happens.

**Notes of Departmental Meeting held on Friday, 25 March 1988 in
Room 2510**

Present: RNI, EAK, RC, BCT, DKA, JJ, PDS, SM, RM, ASW, TMH, JHB, AJS, ARCH, GLC, KK, RJG, JTB, ALI, RNP, DDR, FS

1. Matters arising from previous meeting

Mail: RNI reported that he had still not spoken to Mr. Alison re Old College mail, and does not intend to do so now on hearing that the 4 JCMB mail deliveries will restart in the near future.

New copier: This has now arrived, and we shall be retaining the collator attachment as opposed to the stapler attachment. A new electric stapler is on order. GLC reported that an automatic feed is being fitted to the copier in the 16 corridor.

University Diary: RNI reminded the meeting of the 30 March deadline for returning forms to purchase a new diary.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations: RNI reported that the external invitations had gone out on 25 March, and staff members were expected to apply for their official invitations. The cost for spouses would be in the region of six to seven pounds. RNI hopes to recruit individual staff members to show visitors around during the afternoon of 14 April.

Travel and Research Committee: RNI had not written to the appropriate person on this matter since it had already been raised at Senatus. He explained to the meeting that we are not allowed to spend the class grant on travel except in the case of postgraduate support.

Mathematics Courses: KK pointed out that the design of the new Maths. 2Y course is going very well, but we have to bear in mind that students who take this course will not be able to switch to study for an ordinary Maths. degree should they want to give up Computer Science. The meeting agreed that we accept this because 2Y is highly geared to Computer Science requirements rather than Maths.

2. Chairman's Business

RNI reported that SERC has sent information about the "Link" collaborative research. The Government has announced the first Link schemes between industry

and the science base.

Brighton Polytechnic has sent, via the Faculty Office, information on 2 Workshops to be held at Brighton Business School in April and May - one on research supervision and thesis writing and one on writing applications for research grants. Details can be obtained from RNI.

RNI told the meeting that Old College had written to all Head of Departments about the use of calculators during examinations. It was agreed that this was a matter for the relevant Boards, and that the document should be circulated to people setting examinations.

RNI read from a document sent by the Manpower Services Commission concerning enterprise in higher education. The Government has asked the MSC to launch an initiative to encourage those seeking higher education. Details may be obtained from RNI.

RNI informed the meeting that the Accreditation & Exemption Committee of the British Computer Society has now considered the report on the recent accreditation visit of 16 February. For the M.Sc. in Computer Systems Engng. the Committee decided to continue exemption from Part II (only) for a future period of 5 intakes of students (1988-1992) for those who have passed or gained exemption from Part I before beginning the course. It was suggested that some students without Part I, but having significant computing experience, might merit Parts I and II, and should be encouraged to make individual applications, detailing previous computing experience either in first degree course or in working experience. The outcome for the undergraduate courses has been published in the Newsletter.

Hackers: JHB reported that 2 students had been brought before the Dean for destroying the security of files belonging to other people. The students accepted the Dean's summary verdict and will now be denied access to all machines for the duration of the summer term. They will be given facilities to complete practical work over the summer and will resit in September. The affair highlighted weaknesses in the University's disciplinary mechanisms concerning hackers. JHB reported that this was being addressed.

3. Reports from Committees

(a) Staffing

Nothing to report.

(b) Teaching

The committee has not met again, but the business of plagiarism is being pursued. File comparison programs were run resulting in around six actions. A questionnaire was circulated to CS2, but results from that are still to be compiled. The committee have almost finished working out a procedure.

In this connection, PDS requested that the following change be made to the previous Departmental notes: Sentence 2 of the para. on plagiarism should read, "It was agreed that students guilty of such acts should be awarded 0 marks for the exercises concerned; in addition, they should suffer other penalties as appropriate to the particular circumstances. The Teaching Committee will recommend guidelines on the procedures which should be observed. This was agreed.

(c) Syllabus

The committee has not met again. The major item is the CS2 syllabus, and SOA and GORDON are still involved in discussions on that. ASW reported that the Management Science B.Comm. is still pending.

(d) Technical Resources

The notes attached to the Departmental meeting agenda were discussed by the meeting.

(e) Equipment

The committee had not met, but JHB has been very busy working on the list of items to be submitted to the Equipment Panel. He briefed the meeting on the major ones required, namely 6 colour Sun workstations (or equivalent), a disk for RJP's Sun, a new Epson printer, a final batch of Wyse terminals and DEC microvaxes. The meeting commended JHB for his thoroughness.

(f) Publicity

JTB reported on the success of the recent Women in Computing Workshop which 180 pupils had attended. She has been making a small video which she

will arrange for staff to view. BCT will assist with the Open Day arrangements. JTB requires concrete text for the new boards. The demos will be carried out on the Suns at the Appleton Tower. She also reported that Audio Visual are happy to produce a publicity video for us. The meeting thanked JTB for all her sterling efforts.

JHB commentend on the latest Higher Syllabus involving a 16-bit micro to run the practical work. It was thought that the cost involved could discourage schools who would be unable to afford the kit. SM will take this up with the SUC Panel.

Action - SM

(g) Library

Nothing to report.

4. Report from General Building Services Committee

RNI reported on the tabled item which states the need by the Physics Dept. for more space in the JCMB. On RAM's return from the U.S. the accommodation problem will be reconsidered. DDR raised the question of the wind tunnel, and he was informed that the new Convener of the JCMB Users' Committee would no doubt be very concerned about such matters.

The safe storage of bicycles within the building was discussed, and the meeting assured DDR of their support.

Any Other Competent Business

Allocation of teaching duties - SM queried whether the meeting regarding this is being held early enough. The committee will look into this. It was also proposed that there be a separate allocation of CO duties meeting. This was agreed.

Action - RNI

There being no other competent business, the meeting closed at 5.35 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Friday, 29 April.

Memorandum

To All Staff,
Postgraduates

From Roland Ibbett

Date 27th April, 1988

AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENTAL MEETING

to be held on

Friday 29th April, 1988

Time : 3.30 p.m.
Venue : NEW COFFEE LOUNGE (2510)

1. Matters arising from last meeting
2. Chairman's business
3. Reports from Committees
 - (a) Staffing
 - (b) Teaching
 - (c) Syllabus
 - (d) Technical Resources
 - (e) Equipment
 - (f) Publicity
 - (g) Library
4. Any Other Competent Business

Notes of Departmental Meeting held on Friday, 29th April 1988 in
Room 2510

Present: RNI, EAK, RC, DJW, JST, DAW, DKA, DB, SM, PDS, ASW, RAM,
BOB, DTS, GLC, JJ, JHB, BCT, NPT, RM, RJP, KEVIN.

RNI welcomed DAW back to the Department following her maternity leave.

1. Matters arising from previous meeting

New copier: RNI reported that the new copier had arrived and is working well. The copy manager has been fitted and will be used for accounting purposes. The automatic feed has now been fitted to the copier in the 16 corridor.

Silver Jubilee: The event had been a great success and external invitees had specifically written to say how much they had enjoyed it. Copies of the book presented to SM may be purchased from Old College.

Higher syllabus: RNI reported that we are obliged to replace SM on this Committee, and PDS has been volunteered. SM has written and is awaiting the Chairman's reply.

Allocation of teaching duties: RNI is still working on this.

2. Chairman's Business

RNI had been asked to pass on the Department's appreciation for the work GOR-DON has done on comms software for ECSVAX in preparation for the hand-over to DWB.

Copier: The Department now has 2 good quality copiers so there should be no need to use Computing Services for copying. Trivial amounts should certainly not be sent to Computing Services, but the need might arise if there is a queue on our machines and the work is substantial and urgent. The possibility of eventually hiring an operator is not being ruled out.

Security: RNI reported that the power had been switched off recently in our Machine Halls for no apparent reason. It is thought that someone had tampered with the circuit breaker and pressed the buttons turning the power off. Although this may have been a malicious act, staff were generally against monitoring people. However, it was agreed that the door should be kept locked. KEVIN suggested labelling the switches appropriately.

3. Reports from Committees

(a) Staffing

There have now been 7 applications received by Personnel for the joint post with Cognitive Science, and Barry Richards has been acting on this matter in the absence of Ewan Klein.

ETP letter: RNI had received a letter regarding next year's money. There is a maximum sum we can bid for, but we will not necessarily get all of it. We have to rejustify the case for what we want. RNI had discussed this with the relevant staff, and we would probably require an increase on a recurrent basis for maintenance of hardware/software. Next year it would be practical to put some money into the Library grant. There is probably a case for a part-time secretary since there is a half-post available. It might also be possible to juggle one or more of the joint lecturing posts resulting in us obtaining one and a half or two and a half posts. The closing date is 20 May, and we are currently seeking permission to advertise one lectureship now.

The CSO post is still pending. The COs request for more interesting duties, and the need to keep them all fully occupied, is being looked into.

(b) Teaching

PDS reported that FS had circulated to the Committee a document concerning the CMU "Mastery" exam. It was felt that it had some relevance to our CS1 course, and also to how we could deal with those guilty of plagiarism in CS2. Copies of the document may be obtained by mailing HLC. PDS reported on proposals for dealing with such plagiarism, and the penalty of assigning 0 marks for exercises to the guilty parties. Invigilated practical sessions along the lines of the CMU Mastery exam were proposed. The students who pass would then become eligible for a DP, but the practical mark carried forward should not exceed the bare pass mark. PDS had spoken to the Dean in this connection.

Procedures at Boards of Examiners Meetings: The Boards should retain the powers of discretion and should not be driven by numerical algorithms. There is no cause to alter the previous coding principles, and the student has to pass the exams and the practical overall. Joint degrees had not been discussed.

SM commented on student dissatisfaction at the nature of the CS2 exam paper which they felt was very biased towards factual memory.

Use of calculators in exams: This will be at the discretion of the Chairman

of the Board of Examiners, and it should be made clear to the students in advance if calculators can be used.

(c) Syllabus

The Committee will meet on Wednesday week. GORDON and SOA are working on the CS2 syllabus, and this will be discussed. Load balancing, the possibility of a Software Engineering degree and increasing the 4th year modules will also be discussed. 9 M.Sc. Quota awards remain to be filled.

(d) Technical Resources

The Committee has not met. RAM reported that Physics would like to acquire our M.Sc. workroom. RJP raised the question of converting the wind tunnel to offices.

(e) Equipment

JHB has prepared a list of items. UGC has said that all maintenance should in future be paid from the class grant not the equipment fund. It was agreed that we should indicate what we wish to spend the base allocation and class grant money on. The Committee will meet and discuss Faculty bid before the 20 May deadline. It was felt that the 4th year graphics teaching should be moved on to Suns and the APMs should be freed for greater use by 2nd and 3rd years as the number increases.

Action - JHB

(f) Publicity

DAW reported that the Committee had not met, but she reminded the meeting of Open Day on 3 June suggesting use be made of the Level 3 Lab. More demos. are being sought, and offers of help in this connection should be directed to DAW/JHB. RC remarked that a new undergraduate booklet is required, and SM suggested recruiting CO assistance for this, the handbook and the postgraduate prospectus.

Action - DAW

(g) Library

Nothing to report.

4. Any Other Competent Business

PDS reported that Faculty are producing a new Faculty plan, with proposals for savings and reorganisation in the Biological Sciences group.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 5.15 p.m. The next meeting will be on Friday, 27 May.



Department of Computer Science

Memorandum

To All Staff,
Postgraduates

From Roland Ibbett

Date 27 May 1988

AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENTAL MEETING

to be held on

Friday, 27th May 1988

Time : 3.30 p.m.

Venue : NEW COFFEE LOUNGE (2510)

1. Matters arising from last meeting
2. Chairman's business
3. Reports from Committees
 - (a) Staffing
 - (b) Teaching
 - (c) Syllabus
 - (d) Technical Resources
 - (e) Equipment
 - (f) Publicity
 - (g) Library
4. Departmental Colloquia
5. Any Other Competent Business

KK

Notes of Departmental Meeting held on Friday, 27th May 1988 in Room 2510

Present: RNI, EAK, JHB, JCD, SM, DJR, RAM, FS, DJW, DAW, PDS, JST, JJ, BCT, NPT, RC, ASW, DKA, SOA, DTS, RNP, RJP, ARCH, KK.

Apologies: CFS.

1. Matters arising from previous meeting

Allocation of teaching duties: RNI reported that almost everyone had returned a completed form.

Higher syllabus: PDS had been welcomed to the Committee which he will serve on w.e.f. October 1988.

ETP money: RNI informed the meeting that the advert for the first lecturership post would be in the press the following week, with others expected. The Vice-Dean thought we should hire a full-time secretary with the extra half secretary salary being transferred to the class grant.

2. Chairman's Business

CASE studentships: RNI explained that the rules for these have changed, and they are no longer subject to the prior approval of a project proposal. Departments are invited to submit applications in a similar manner to Quota submissions. The CASE studentships can be taken up at any time of the year. It was thought desirable to seek suitable firms but not, at this stage, projects.

Finance for R and D: RNI read from a document received from Mike Weber of UnivEd which concerns a special agreement that the University has signed with the British Technology Group on a venture capital package. Details may be obtained from RNI.

University financial situation: RNI had received a note from the Secretary which reported a deficit of three million pounds. The ways in which we can assist in the existing savings programme are by keeping stocks of consumables at a minimum level and deferring purchase of items, other than from the UGC equipment grant, until late in the University financial year.

Degree exam regulations: RNI will pass them on to PDS who will discuss with the Teaching Committee.

Action - Teaching Committee

3. Reports from Committees

(a) Staffing

There is nothing to report on the joint post with Cognitive Science as yet. The Chair Committee meets on 9 June and proposes to organise interviews. An advert has been sent off for one lecturing post, but the Dean hopes we will make some of our ETP appointments temporary ones.

The COs had been asked to complete duty forms by JHB.

It is intended that an allocation of academic duties meeting be held soon.

(b) Teaching

The Committee had not met. PDS reported on the invigilated practical session for nine students which had been held on 27 May using the APMs in the Machine Halls. It had gone fairly well, and he expressed his thanks to JHB who had carried out a check on unauthorised access. JHB also thanked DWB for his efforts.

(c) Syllabus

The Committee had met and approved the 2nd year syllabus with minor changes. 4th year modules for next year had been discussed. The teaching loads require to be looked at. SM requested that the CS2 syllabus be circulated.

(d) Technical Resources

RAM reported that the agenda and minutes had been posted on the noticeboard. ASW inquired about a lockable cupboard to store projects and RAM said there was one earmarked for this purpose. Locks have yet to fitted. JHB reported on north/south partitioning in the mainframe area of the Machine Halls. There is also currently a bid in for major revision of the cabling.

(e) Equipment

JHB tabled the equipment bids which had gone to Faculty the previous week. Around £130,000 had been bid for. More complete lists can be obtained from JHB.

Since the software maintenance on ECSVAX amounts to £6,000 p.a., it is proposed to take it off maintenance. It was agreed that helpful machine documentation is required, and this could be handled by the COs.

Action - JHB

(f) Publicity

The Committee has not met, but the meeting was reminded that Open Day will take place on Friday, 3 June.

(g) Library

Nothing to report.

4. Departmental Colloquia

KK explained that he would be discontinuing his practice of supplying refreshments for this. In future, tokens could be obtained for coffee, tea, etc. He also expressed concern that there had been occasions when the host who had suggested a particular speaker failed to turn up to host the speaker on the day. This had resulted in a substantial loss of his own time. It was agreed that the Department ought to accept responsibility, and that the person who had invited the speaker should either act as host or find a substitute. KK also felt that the contents of the talks should be more technical, and should be survey-type talks as opposed to descriptions of partially completed projects. This was agreed. KK will alter the format of the letters of invitation to take account of this.

Action - KK

5. Any Other Competent Business

JHB informed the meeting of a draft document prepared by a working party to look at computing regulations. He invited people to mail him if they wish to see the draft.

There being no other competent business, the meeting closed at 5.30 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Friday, 24 June.



7 July 1988

To: All Heads of Departments

Dear Head of Department,

You will be aware that the University has a serious financial deficit this year and that this situation will persist at least until the early 1990s.

It is therefore more important than ever before that the University generates as much income as possible from contracts, and I am seeking your active co-operation to ensure that the University increases substantially its income from this source without compromising its academic research.

UnivEd, the University company, will be at the forefront of this effort and it is now University policy, ratified by Court at its meeting on 30 June, that -

- (1) UnivEd will negotiate all contracts with industrial and government sponsors where overheads are payable. UnivEd will be involved in accordance with the Procedure for R&D which every member of staff has now received.
- (2) UnivEd will negotiate framework agreements with certain key companies and government departments which will clearly identify the minimum levels of overheads payable by type of contract.

I now write to ask you to pursue this policy whenever you are considering entering into R&D contracts exceeding £15,000 in total, and to contact UnivEd at the earliest possible stage of the negotiations. Please make it clear to all your staff that contracts will not be accepted by the University unless they have been approved by UnivEd in collaboration with the Finance Office.

Yours sincerely,

David Smith

*copy to
Faculty Staff
+ GLC & SSB*

10TV
(59355)

19/01452 - 54868
1542 862
2474 883

29.90
236.68 / 257.00
1010.20



Department of Computer Science

Computer materials

Memorandum

To All Staff; PGs; Noticeboard

From RNI

Date 28th July, 1988

AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENTAL MEETING

to be held on
Friday 29th July

Time : 3.30 p.m.
Venue : NEW COFFEE LOUNGE (2510)

Raised by

- 1. Matters arising from last meeting
- 2. Chairman's business
- 3. Reports from Committees
 - (a) Staffing
 - (b) Teaching (see attached) PDS
 - (c) Syllabus
 - (d) Technical Resources
 - (e) Equipment
 - (f) Publicity
 - (g) Library
- 4. IED Proposals RM
- 5. CVCP Report on the British PhD We are asked to comment on: RNI/RM
 - (a) taught course components
 - (b) grading
- 6. Use of class grant for research RNI
- 7. Any Other Competent Business

REPORT OF THE TEACHING COMMITTEE

(Brief note in advance of full minutes).

1. Additional need for Computing Support Officer work.

The Teaching Committee, with Kevin Mitchell dissenting, agreed that we have the following, at present unsatisfied, needs.

- (a) About 2-3 hrs/day of a person at CSO level to carry out duties in the CS1 Lab roughly on the lines of SOA's recent mail namely:
Opening up Lab at 9 am, checking all equipment, booking sheets, administering dumps, recovering forgotten passwords, accounting, up-keep of documentation (both spare student handouts and instructions to demonstrators), and especially providing CONTINUITY of all these functions.

(If this were provided, we think we could probably defer the Demonstrator cover until 10.30 am). Kevin felt that in determining the CSO needs, we had not adequately considered how much of this could equally well be done by the demonstrator present.

- (b) Part-time services of a person at CSO level to run the 4th Dimension system to provide student records for IS1, CS1 and CS2. (Class lists, tutorial groups, marks, etc.) The CSO to be under the overall guidance and direction of a member of the CO staff and to have some secretarial support for data entry.

We did not feel it was up to us say whether or not these duties should be carried out by existing staff or a new appointee; nor whether the two functions should be carried out by the same person or different people. Nevertheless, if it turns out possible for one person to do both, this would be seem suitable. It is important that no member of staff should be expected to spend full time at the Appleton Tower.

2. Proposed changes to CS & E Honours.

The committee considered the attached document from RAM. In section 1, while the proposed "Compromise weightings" may not be ideal from our point of view, we felt they should be accepted for the sake of getting a decision. With respect to section 2, it turns out that EE are not proposing to introduce their Laboratory week until 1989/90. Nevertheless, the Teaching Committee would like to defer the (one) CS3 Class exam from week 10 of term 1 to the begining of term 2 (day 1 ?).

3. Other matters.

PDS will report verbally on a number of other matters.

Peter Schofield

Proposed changes to CS & E Honours structure

Roland has recently received two letters from Professor Denyer of EE. I received copies. With Roland's agreement, I have acted on the questions raised and met with Peter Denyer. The issues raised are as follows:

1. CS & E Honours Marking Schedule

The IT undergraduate sub-committee (ITUGSC) proposed a change to the marking schedule to give more weight to the project and fourth year examinations. The EE Course Organisers sub-committee (EECOSC) didn't like the proposals and came back with their own. We didn't like theirs and so Peter Denyer, Jim Jordan and Euan Macpherson of EE met with Gordon and me yesterday where we agreed a compromise. Both departments must now consider this third proposal for change.

	<u>Present</u>	<u>ITUGSC</u>	<u>EECOSC</u>	<u>Compromise</u>
Dissertation	14%	10%	14%	15%
Project	20%	25%	21%	25%
CS & E4	33%	35%	35%	30%
CS & E3	33%	30%	30%	30%

EE rates the dissertation very highly since it is a group activity. We have always found the dissertations in this department to be a problem. The small group meeting above agreed that, in future years, EE will manage *all* dissertations and we can forget about them. This second proposal must also be ratified by both departments.

2. 3rd year Laboratory Work

It is likely that the School of Engineering will introduce a change to the 3rd year course structure, which would drop the class examinations at the end of the autumn and spring terms. In their place would be substituted a "laboratory week". A sub-group of the five listed above, namely Peter Denyer and Euan Macpherson of EE, and myself, talked about the Implications of the change. The "laboratory week" means just that, a complete week (5 days at 9am to 5pm) of labs for full-time students. For our joint students, this would mean 2 or 2½ days which can be timetabled in the afternoons. There is no clash in term 2, and in term 1 the students miss one of our lab sessions. Tim Hopkins agrees that the latter is acceptable. I have negotiated for a week 5 timetabling of the lab-week, ie. before the Operating System Practical starts in term 1 and before the Systems Design Practical starts in term 2. I concede that this might be a problem at the OS practical deadline, but believe that to be a minor problem.

The lab consists of an "extra boost" to their Gateway work only. A week 10 timetabling is unsuitable for both departments - we have class exams and they would prefer an early "kick-start" to Gateway.

The serious implication in all of this is that EE would continue teaching and normal lab sessions into the tenth week. They wish to make better use of the tenth week. The joint students will have class exams in CS. Can we timetable our exams around EE's timetable or can we scrap term exams for 3rd year CS & E students? Indeed, can we scrap 3rd year class exams for *all* students?

Proposal to Teaching Committee

We should discontinue 3rd year class exams on the following grounds.

- It is only done for term 1 courses.
- Students do not take them seriously and generally produce very poor marks.
- They are not a good indicator of competence.
- Most Universities do not examine in 3rd year.
- We can make better use of week 10.
- The Operating System Practical is not interrupted.
- The loading will decrease slightly on both staff and students.

Problems

- We may miss some students having problems and who may be copying practical solutions.
- Lectures will continue into week 10 if we decide to use week 10.
- If we don't use week 10, then students will go home at the end of week 9. We could suggest that they progress their OS practical in week 10.

R A McKenzie

cc:-

Prof R N Ibbett,

G Brebner,

K Mitchell(3rd year coordinator and Teaching Committee secretary).

Notes of Departmental Meeting held on Friday, 29th July 1988 in
Room 2510

Present: RNI,MWM,DAW,TMH,PDS,KEVIN,RM,KJC,DDR,BCT,DKA,
DTS,JJ,JCD, GLC,SOA,RJG,ARCH,RJP,DWB,JHA,ALI,JOB,FS.

1. Matters arising from previous meeting.

Case Studentships: It was decided that a letter should be drafted and sent to companies.

Action: BCT

2. Chairman's Business.

Staff Changes: RNI invited members of staff to attend the talks for the Lectureship post. Internal candidates will give their talks on the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd August. External candidates will give their talks on the afternoon of Thursday 4th August. Feedback was welcome.

RNI welcomed Don Sannella as a full-time member of staff as of 1st October, 1988. The joint AI/CS post is now vacant and will be advertised.

RNI informed the meeting that Bob Harper will be leaving to take up a post at Carnegie-Mellon University.

Iain Conkey left to take up a post in London.

Linda Rollo will be leaving at the end of October.

Visiting Professorship: Opinion was sought regarding the possible introduction of a visiting Industrial Professorship with Stewart Reddaway in mind. The IRC proposal in Parallel Computing could provide funds. There were no discussions from the Staff present.

Rekursiv Project: DTI are to fund a £0.5M proposal from the department. Linn Smart Computing, Glasgow, will produce boards for SUN's which will then be distributed to participating Universities and other institutions in higher education. Department to get RA (James Lothian) and overheads.

Hewlett Packard: RNI informed the meeting that Hewlett Packard has agreed to donate equipment to the Department. This equipment will consist of Vectras, Logic Analysers, a Plotter and a LAN Protocol Analyser.

BEPI: Bepi has requested help from this department to assemble a new Solder-wrap machine for one of their customers. PJJ will be the person most involved.

RJP expressed his concern that this work should not take place at the start of term thus taking up valuable technician's time. Bepi will maintain the machine.

IRC in Parallel Computing RNI informed meeting that bids do not have to be submitted for some time yet, but that Professor D J Wallace will coordinate this. It is expected that Newcastle University, Manchester University, Southampton University and QMC London will also submit bids.

Action: DJW

Safety: RNI read from a letter received from Dr Sykes regarding safety procedures during visits to the department by school pupils and college students. A copy of the letter will be circulated with the next newsletter.

ETP money: RNI informed the meeting that the University has more ETP money available than was originally thought. The Department will bid for SUN's and File Server to provide 4th year students with new facilities. Bids must be submitted by 15th August.

3. Reports from Committees

(a) Staffing: Ingemarie Bethke will take up the joint post with Cognitive Science from 1st October. She will be based in Cognitive Science, but will probably also be involved in tutorials at Appleton Tower.

(b) Teaching: PDS informed the meeting that LR will be leaving the Department at the end of October/beginning November. It was suggested that a Computing Support Officer be employed to take care of the CS1 lab as well as student records and the KB facilities along with Linda Hamilton. RJP requested that a job description sheet be made available.

JHB will be asked to produce a document giving details of Computing Officers responsibilities.

Action: JHB

PDS raised the matter of the report from RAM regarding proposed changes to CS and EE Honours Structure. It was suggested that project proposals would be sought for all joint degrees and students should choose their intended project.

The Teaching Committee proposed that class examinations for CS3 be held on the first day of the spring term. TMH,FS,KEVIN,BCT had no objections to this proposal.

Course coordinators were asked to supply details regarding the level and amount of tutorial and laboratory supervision required.

(c) **Syllabus:** The Committee had not met. RJP had produced a proposal relating to Software Engineering and agreed to convene the working party.

(d) **Technical Resources:** The Committee had not met. Nothing to report.

(e) **Equipment:** The committee had not met. Nothing to report.

(f) **Publicity:** The Committee had not met; however, departmental publicity documents were in the process of being updated and therefore cooperation was sought.

(g) **Library:** BCT asked that more details of journals be made available. This would help decide which journals are of interest to the department and which journals should be ordered. MRJ will be asked to report.

Action: MRJ

4. IED Proposals.

GLC gave a summary of the organisation of the funding and the implications this held for applicants. Initial proposals, which have to be collaborative, to be submitted by 12th August. LFCS propose to boost industrial link.

5. CVCP Report.

(a) Taught course components:

RM suggested it was an opportunity to define the differences between theory and systems PhD applicants. RNI felt that the department should require students not taking part in a taught course for the first year to be involved in some form of study or research and perhaps give a presentation of their work during that year.

It was agreed to call a meeting of the Teaching Staff to discuss this in more detail.

A reply to the Faculty PGS Committee to this effect would be formulated.

Action: RNI

(b) Grading:

It was felt that the grading of PhD's was not acceptable and this will also be discussed by the Teaching Staff at the next meeting.

6. Use of Class Grant for research.

In the absence of any Class Grant available for research this year, this item was postponed.

7. Any Other Competent Business.

RJP brought attention to a recent AUT circular regarding a tenured lecturer at Hull University who has recently been dismissed from his post. A copy of the AUT circular is available from RJP.

There being no other competent business, the meeting closed at 6.45 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Friday, 2nd September.



University of Edinburgh

Personnel Office, 63 South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1LS.

031 - 667. 1011, ext 4510.1,2,3.
12 September 1988

TO: ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

EDUCATION REFORM ACT 1988

In the latter stages of its passage through Parliament it became difficult to keep track of the changes being made to the Education Reform Bill to determine its likely effect on academic tenure etc, and the work of the University Commissioners. The Act will be published shortly and a copy of it has recently been received from DES of the relevant provisions. We have taken the opportunity for our own purposes to make a side-by-side comparison of the sections concerned and it may be useful for you to have the opportunity to study the enclosed document.*

** I have the document. please let Alison know if you would like a copy. R.N.4*

While a fuller study of the detailed provisions is still necessary it now seems possible to determine the most important aspects as they will affect staff:

1. All current staff, on promotion on or after 20 November 1987, will lose tenure in the sense that they could subsequently be declared redundant by the University. "Promotion" will include a move from Lecturer A to B, from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer/Reader and to Professor and all promotions on the related staff structures. It will not, however, include promotion from Senior Lecturer to Reader, movement to the discretionary points of the Senior Lecturer, etc. scale, nor the payment of temporary allowances for assuming specific roles, such as head of department. Purely administrative change, such as a sideways move from an administrative to a computing grade will not count as promotion.
2. All new staff, i.e. those appointed on or after 20 November 1987, will not enjoy tenure as described above.
3. All staff, regardless of when appointed, will become subject to new "good cause" disciplinary procedures whereby they may be dismissed (on suitable grounds) by an "appropriate officer or any delegate of such". This will be subject to procedures laid down by the Commissioners, and will be subject to an appeals mechanism similarly determined.
4. The Commissioners will also determine a suitable procedure for an academic member of staff seeking redress for any grievance relating to his/her employment.
5. An "academic freedom clause" is included, in Section 202, para. 2(a) which appears on the front page of the enclosure.

The University Commissioners have now been named as Lord Fraser of Tullybelton (Chairman), Lord Butterworth, Mr Alan Gregory, Sir James Munn and Professor David Williams.

R F Mackie
Director of Personnel

RFM/KC

Further copies of the enclosure are available on request

Head of Department:

Professor R.N. Ibbett

Professors of Computer Science:

Professor R. Burstall

Professor S. Michaelson

Professor R. Milner

Professor G.D. Plotkin



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14 September 1988

M H Lucas Esq
Assistant Secretary
Faculty of Science Office
West Mains Road

Dear Mike,

The changes to our under graduate courses outlined in the last update of our Academic Plan are taking effect quite smoothly. The new syllabus of CS2 has been finalised and will be given this year for the first time. Some changes will also be made to CS1A and CS1B in the light of experience last year. We have altered the organisation of the teaching by introducing the notion of a "Course Team" in order to provide better integration of the different parts of the first and second year courses. No major changes are planned for honour years although some new CS4 modules will be introduced.

Two new developments for which we are planning are the introduction of a BSc/BEng in Software Engineering and as MEng in Information Technology. The former will run in parallel with and overlap considerably with the existing single Honours Courses. The latter will be run in conjunction with A.I. and E.E.

The new MSc runs for the first time this year and it will be interesting to see how it progresses. Professor Fourman will be involved in it and I am hoping that he will be instrumental in further developing the VLSI theme. We plan to respond (with EE) to the EC initiative on VLSI teaching and have organised a Scottish Academia/Industry Seminar.

For our Ph.D students we are discussing plans to provide some structured training for all of them. Currently the "theory" students undergo 6 months of full-time teaching; for non-theory students we plan individual, tailored schemes.

Our ETP numbers seem to be looking good. There will be problems over accommodation in JCMB next year. We think we can get by this year, despite having given up 6301 to the Geophysicists, but next year we will see the effects of ETP in both third and fourth years and will need more space.

Yours sincerely

Professor R N Ibbett

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

ACADEMIC PLAN 1988/89

Computer Science is a subject which is constantly evolving and this is reflected in both the teaching and research of the Department. At first year undergraduate level the two separate courses CS1A and CS1B ran for the first time in 1986/87 and these courses have now begun to evolve separately. Both will benefit from the radical changes being brought about in 1987/88 by the introduction of powerful Sun workstations as the vehicle for teaching practical work. The course for non-science students, Information Systems 1, has largely completed a move to Apple Macintosh computers which will provide a solid basis for the introduction of further relevant applications software over the next few years.

Changes introduced in 1987/88 in CS1A will allow a rationalisation of second year courses from 1988/89, allowing all single and joint honours students to take common course and thus to have the necessary pre-requisite knowledge to undertake any appropriate modules available in third year, and allowing professional studies to be taught to those students for whom they are relevant.

The third year modules have been changed quite considerably recently, but are expected to change less rapidly over the next few years. In fourth year a number of new modules are being planned and these will involve cooperation with other departments.

The joint honours courses are an area where particularly exciting developments are expected in the next few years. The third year of the course with Artificial Intelligence is running for the first time (1987/88) and both departments are learning from the experience. The joint course with Electronic Engineering will be subject to careful review over the next few years, and following the recent change in the structure of the joint course with Mathematics, this course is expected to evolve in a way which will draw considerably on the strength of theoretical research in Computer Science. The Department is also involved in discussion with the Departments of Artificial Intelligence and Electrical Engineering on plans to introduce an M.Eng. in Information Technology.

At postgraduate level the M.Sc. course is being thoroughly overhauled to allow the introduction of a number of alternative themes which students may pursue. These will include VLSI, parallel and distributed systems (areas already quite well represented), and from 1988/89, theoretical topics. The Department expects to maintain, and probably increase its number of Ph.D. students, which now stands at around 30.

An important aspect of the Department's future research plans is greater co-operation with industry, and good relationships are being established with a number of firms. The planned "Systems into Silicon Skill Centre", which will bring together existing strands of work in the Department, will be particularly important in this respect. An appointment to the newly created Chair of Software Systems is expected to re-establish the Department's place at the forefront of research in this important field of engineering.

Several research projects, mostly concerned with computation theory and with rigorously based software tools for reasoning about computer systems, are integrated into the Laboratory for Foundations of Computer Science (LFCS). Its research funding is principally from SERC, with some from Industry, supporting about 14 RA's; Alvey have also provided funding for support staff and equipment. The principal purpose of LFCS continues to be fundamental research. Edinburgh intends to maintain its leading position in frontier computer science research, and this requires a strong community of researchers on strategic non-contractual projects. An additional purpose of LFCS is to make this research better known to Industry, and thus better guided by experimental application; for this purpose, LFCS will continue to run courses for Industry and has initiated an Industrial Affiliation scheme and Visitors scheme. Collaborative research projects with Industry, involving pilot studies in application of new theories, are under negotiation.

Teaching Committee Meeting

21st September 1988

Room 2509, 11 am

(Coffee will be provided)

Agenda

1. Matters arising from minutes.
2. University Computing Regulations PDS
(see notes 1 & 2)
3. CS1 regulations proposed SOA/RJP
4. Plagiarism PDS
5. Computing requirements for courses PDS
6. Tutorial & Lab Supervision needs (see note 3) PDS
7. Teaching Committee remit.
8. Date for next meeting.
9. AOB

cc. PDS, RNI, KEVIN, SOA, RJP, CPS, GORDON, ALI, NPT,
ASW, KMH, KJC, DAW, DJW, Coffee Room

For information. For 1988/89, it will also refer to Computing Regulations

SPONSIO ACADEMICA

I, student of the University of Edinburgh, do give my sincere and sacred promises and wish this my signature to testify thereto for ever, that I will be dutiful and industrious in my studies; and by this promise I acknowledge that in all matters relating to the teaching and discipline of the University I have willingly placed myself under the jurisdiction of the Senatus Academicus, and I recognise that if, in the opinion of the Senatus, my studies or my conduct are unsatisfactory, it has authority to forbid my continuance upon courses qualifying for a degree; and I engage that as a deserving alumnus of my University I will pay my debt of gratitude and goodwill on every occasion to the best of my powers, so long as I live.

Date.....

Signature

HAND IN THIS FORM WHEN YOU MATRICULATE

Undergraduates
Postgraduates

enrolling for this course for the first time must also complete Matriculation Form B
enrolling for this course for the first time must also complete Matriculation Form C

Please enquire when you matriculate if you have not been given the appropriate form

To appear in University Calendar for 88/89.

Regulations for the use of computing facilities in the University of Edinburgh

1. These Regulations cover the use by staff and by students, and by staff in outside institutions authorised to use these resources, of all computing facilities administered by the University. These resources include central services such as those provided by the Computer Service and the Library; departmental machines, microcomputers, peripherals and any software associated with these.
2. Facilities shall be taken to include computer systems, peripherals, networks and all programmable computing equipment as well as software either in stored form or as data in transit.
3. University computing facilities are made available unless otherwise authorised under paragraph 9 below solely for University purposes, i.e. by staff in connection with their departmental and other University duties and by students in connection with their University courses of study.
4. Authority may be required to use particular facilities. Such authorisation may impose restrictions on the use of specific facilities additional to those contained in these Regulations. Passwords are issued in order to restrict access to, and to protect, certain facilities. Users are responsible for maintaining the security of their passwords. Use of another person's password is not normally permitted and may in some circumstances infringe the Data Protection Act.
5. No person or persons shall by any wilful or deliberate act jeopardise the integrity of the computing equipment, systems programs, or other stored information.
6. Anyone authorised to use computing resources shall be expected to treat as privileged any information provided or generated elsewhere which may become available through access to the computing resources. No-one shall copy, modify, disseminate, or use any part of such information without permission from the appropriate person or body.
7. Users must comply with any additional conditions imposed under licence agreements with third parties for access to proprietary products. Much computer software is copyright. Users must comply with the provisions of the Copyright (Computer Software) Amendment Act 1985 and any other relevant statutes.
8. Any person using computing resources for the processing of personal data as defined in the Data Protection Act 1984 must comply with the provisions of that Act and with any University requirements governing the holding or processing of such data.
9. Any person who has been authorised to use computing resources as an external user; or for private purposes including consultancy; or for any other work outside the scope of normal departmental duties, functions or course of study shall be personally responsible for reimbursing the University by a specified date. The rate for the cost of resources used shall be determined from time to time by the University Court.
10. Breaches of this code by students will normally be dealt with under the Code of Discipline. When appropriate, staff or students may have their right to use the University computing facilities immediately suspended pending an investigation by an authorised officer in the University.

Tutor/Demonstrator Requirements 1988/9

ISI

- 10 - 14 tutors (including CPS and JST), depending on class numbers (1 hour per week, at Appleton Tower). Teaching Staff, COs, CSOs, or PGs.
- 12-15 people for Lab supervision (including CPS and JST). 2 hours per week, at Appleton Tower. Teaching Staff, COs, CSOs, or PGs.

CSI

- 25 tutors (1A) + 13 Tutors (1B) Teaching Staff, COs, CSOs, or PGs.
- 24 demonstrator slots - CSOs, PGs, 4th year students ?

CS2

- 15 tutors for the first and third terms. Tutors must be prepared to make an effort to span systems and theory. Anticipate most tutors will be members of staff.

- 10 laboratory supervisors for the second term (three hour slots). Anticipate supervisors equally divided between staff and PGs

CS3

Analysis of Algorithms

- Five competent people (probably filled by members of teaching staff)

Computability

- 3 staff tutors + 4-5 PGs

Computer Architecture

Ten tutors, or five tutors giving two tutorials a week.
Filled by an equal mix of staff and PGs.

Computer Design

4 staff + 4 PG demonstrators for 3 hours (+ lab support given by ARCH)

Database Systems

4-5 tutors, mainly staff?

Digital Communications

Six people (including Gordon) with a knowledge of comms.

LS&I

Six tutors (filled by RM, Kevin, + RAs and PGs)

Operating Systems

8 people including 3-4 PGs

Programming Methodology

Five tutors (filled mainly by staff + 1 PG)

VLSI

3 staff + 2 PGs

Operating Systems Practical

6 people including 3-4 PGs

Systems Design Practical

6 people, all staff.

CS4

none

MSC

Software Tools

Tutorials given by PDS (two groups of 5-10 students)
Operating Systems

1 more tutor for CS3 Operating Systems

Database Systems

1 more tutor for CS3 Database Systems

Computer Graphics

None

Computer Communications

Tutorials arranged informally and all taken by ASW

Advanced Computer Architecture

No official tutorials

Distributed Systems

None

Software for Parallel Computers

Five three-hour afternoon sessions in weeks 3 and 4 of second term. Two people in the lab during first week and one in second. For tutorials four groups for seven weekly tutorials (last year WEX, JHB and DKA).
VLSI 1

Three groups of approximately 5 students (Staff or PGs)

VLSI 2

One tutorial group given by DKA meeting in weeks 8 and 10.

CAD for VLSI

?

Formal H/W Verification

?

Language Semantics and Implementation

1 more tutor for CS3 course

Computational Complexity,

Applicative Programming and Specification,

Formal Programming Language Semantics,

Pure & Applied Logics,

Communicating Systems,

Algebraic Complexity

No formal tutorials

Notes of Departmental Meeting held on Friday, 28 September 1988 in
Room 2510

Present: RNI, EAK, KEVIN, DJW, DAW, JTB, JCD, SM, JST, PDS, RAM,
DJR, RC, BCT, ASW, KJC, PJJ, AJS, RJP, RM, RJG, MIKEF, DKA, FS, DTS.

Apologies were received from GLC.

1. Matters Arising

CASE studentships: BCT reported that he had discussed this with GDP who has consulted academic staff members on this in time for the 21 November deadline.

English language tuition: EAK had informed the new PGs about free English lessons.

Safety Audit: RNI reported that this had been carried out and a report had gone to Old College.

Joint CS and Maths. degree: RNI explained that there had been confusion between our Dept. and Maths. concerning weighting of the project in the joint honours Maths. They refer to 3 modules where we refer to thirty-seven and a half percent.

Syllabus: ASW told the meeting that some matters had been given thought.

Safety Handbook: JCD reported that students had been issued with this.

At this point, RNI welcomed MIKEF in person to the meeting.

2. Convenor's Business

Board of Studies in Physical Science: RNI reported on the material they wish to receive.

Visit by Hitachi: RNI reported on the visit which will take place on 31 October and 1 November. Martin Fransman had initiated the visit which will involve a reception at Old College on Monday evening with talks and a lunch at KB the following day.

IRC in Parallel Computing: RNI informed the meeting of the short-listed institutions involved in this which included the Edinburgh consortium.

3. Reports from Committees

(a) Policy

The academic plan had posed no problems. RNI reported that Larry Paulsen from Cambridge would visit the Lab. for a year. The staff progress reviews would be completed this year. GLC will liaise with the appropriate staff to ensure Ph.D. theses appear as Departmental reports.

Action - GLC

(b) Teaching Staff Subcommittee

Applications had been received for the AI/CS post, and interviews will be held next month. An ETP vacancy still remains to be filled, and Ferenc Devai who had applied some time ago will be coming to give a talk in the Dept. It might be possible to offer him a temporary post up to September 1989 depending on the fluency of his English in lecturing to students.

(c) Computing Staff Subcommittee

RNI reported that KMH had handed in her notice, and would be leaving the Dept. in order to take up a post with Clan Systems. It is to be decided whether or she will be replaced in the short term. JHB discussed the tabled list of CO duties which had been prepared before KMH's departure had been announced, and DJR (Convenor) invited interested people to contact him with respect to taking over some of KMH's duties in the meantime. RJP volunteered to be one of the teaching staff committee members on the above committee, but one more is still sought and anyone interested should contact DJR.

The management of the 2419 copier will now be handled by JE in conjunction with JHB.

RJP raised the question of database software for course marks, pointing out that CAROL and LINDA should not have to bear responsibility for the maintenance of this. This was agreed. JHB will work out lines of communication in this connection with CPS.

Action - JHB

(d) Teaching

PDS reported that the committee had not met, but now had regular meetings planned.

(e) Syllabus

The committee had met, and RNI reported that some changes require to be made to the CS1a, CS1b and CS2 syllabus material for Board of Studies. Some time was spent discussing the joint AI/CS degree. RAM will prepare something to send to Jim Howe at AI with regard to one or more AI modules for CS4. AI do not plan that AI2 will be available as a half course.

Action - RAM

ASW reported that he would be meeting with Peter Denyer in connection with the M.Eng. It was noted that a mistake had been made in the notes where mention had been made of CS and Electronics students being able to go on to do the M.Eng. This was not true.

Little progress has been made relating to the Software Engineering degree until we know what SE will be taught in CS. Remark was made of the fact that we do not teach much in the area of programming beyond 1st year level. It was suggested that this required attention by the committee, and views should be directed to RJP.

(f) Technical Resources

The committee had not met.

(g) Equipment

The committee had not met, but JHB reported on the 8 new colour Suns and the work carried out on them by AJS. He also reported on the practical problems with the Gandalf and Gould. Thanks were passed on to AJS for all his recent efforts. MIKEF raised the question of comms from KB to the CS1 lab at the Tower. A discussed ensued and it was decided that this would continue in the Equipment Committee forum.

Action - JHB

Re CS4 projects, AJS suggested that a CO look at them with a small committee to ascertain the computing needs. He agreed to do this. The Equipment committee should find out what resource requirements there are.

(h) Publicity

The committee had not met.

(i) Library

The committee had not met, but people were urged to keep sending requests in for acquisitions.

4. Summer School for teachers of H-grade Computing

DAW reported on the likely introduction of a week long course organised by ourselves and Moray House for computing teachers. The intention is to base it on topics covered in H-grade computing (i.e. Knowledge Based Systems, Communications and Networks and Interfacing and Control), but to extend it by covering some topics from CS1 and IS1. It is expected that some element of choice for the teacher would be involved. The question of funding was raised, and RJP suggested industrial sponsorship ought to be encouraged. Anyone who would like to be involved in this venture should contact DAW.

Action - DAW

5. Proposal for M.Sc. in Computing and Education

DAW reported on Moray House's suggestion for the introduction of the above for teachers who see themselves becoming principal teachers of computing or curriculum developers. Something along the lines of a 16-module course involving lectures, tutorials, practicals, project/dissertation, etc. had been suggested although some credit would be given to teachers who already had a Diploma. It was acknowledged that such a degree would have to be awarded by the University perhaps in conjunction with the CNAA. The meeting felt it was worth pursuing, but discussions should take place with the S.E.D., other funding bodies and the teachers concerned.

Action - DAW

6. Any Other Competent Business

Mention was made of an idea being floated of a merger between the School of Information Technology and the School of Engineering. Further discussions at Faculty level will ensue.

JHB reported on a short course of training sessions which he intends arranging for technical and secretarial staff.

RNI mentioned the newsletter item on the Rekursiv Project Workshop which takes place in Abden House on 4 November, and involves participants who have bid for a Rekursiv board.

The next Departmental meeting will take place on Friday, 25 November at 3.30 p.m. in Room 2510.



Memorandum

To Staff, Postgraduates,
Noticeboard

From Roland Ibbett

Date 29th September, 1988

AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENTAL MEETING

to be held on

30th September 1988

Level 3 use

Time : 3.30 p.m.
Venue : NEW COFFEE LOUNGE (2510)

Raised by

1. Matters arising from last meeting.
2. Convenor's business
3. Arrangements for Freshers' welcome.
4. Reports from Committees
 - (a) Staffing
 - (b) Teaching
 - (c) Syllabus
 - (d) Technical Resources
 - (e) Equipment
 - (f) Publicity
 - (g) Library
5. Committee structures 1988/89
6. Any Other Competent Business

10.45 Tuesday

RC 6 floor C.R.

RNI

Notes of Departmental Meeting held on Friday, 30th September 1988
in Room 2510

Present: RNI, EAK, JCD, PDS, TMH, AJS, KJC, GDP, JTB, DJW, GLC, DJR, DKA, RC, ASW, KK, RNP, JHB, ALI, RJP, SM, RAM, BCT, DWB, JST, MIKEF, SOA, MRJ, ARCH.

1. Matters arising from previous meeting

CASE Studentships: BCT reported that he is still in the process of writing to companies.

Action - BCT

IRC in Parallel Computing: RNI reported that a joint proposal involving Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt and Stirling Universities had been submitted. He will inform the meeting on further developments in due course.
Action - RNI

Computing Officers Responsibilities: JHB told the meeting that he had a last draft of this document for circulation.

CVCP Report: RNI reported that a reply had been sent to the Faculty Postgraduate Studies Committee re taught course components.

2. Convenor's Business

Staff Changes: RNI welcomed Mike Fourman, our new Professor, to the meeting. He also welcomed GDP back after his one-year sabbatical in the U.S. He reported that TMH would be on the lecturing staff w.e.f. October 1989, and that DTS will make a sideways move from being joint lecturer in AI/CS to being a full lecturer here w.e.f. this October. ALI will also be on the lecturing staff this coming year, as will DJW, Ingemarie Bethke (joint post with Cognitive Science) and Peter Thannisch of Heriot-Watt who will start in January.

Carol Anstruther will join us on 12 October as the new CSO, and Jean Eaton has already joined us as the new secretary for the Enquiries Office.

MCN will be leaving us for a post in Sweden, MARK for a post on the Meiko Project in Computing Services and LR for a post elsewhere.

Departmental Accommodation: It was reported that we have lost R6301 and R3309 is being used as a workroom as opposed to a meeting room.

Faculty changes: RNI reported that Mike Lucas will be moving to Old College.

English language tuition: RNI read from a document sent from the Institute of Applied Language Studies concerning English requirements and tuition for overseas students. EAK will inform new foreign PGs who might wish to avail themselves of English lessons.

Action - EAK

Safety Audit: JCD's report is not yet complete. Certain tests cannot be done until Christmas, and he requires further information.

Action - JCD

3. Arrangements for Freshers' welcome

RC explained that it would be held in the 6th floor Common Room on 4 October at 10.45 a.m. There were 124 new undergraduates plus 6 non-graduating students. The Directors of Studies would be in attendance, and other staff were welcome to attend.

RNI sought volunteers to give a lecture to 1st year students at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday next in Lecture Theatre B.

New staff and PG students welcome party: This will take place at 4.00 p.m. in R2510 on Friday, 7 October.

4. Reports from Committees

(a) Staffing

ETP vacancy: This matter is still in hand. Applications have been received for the joint AI/CS lectureship.

(b) Teaching

The committee had met on 30 September. PDS reported on regulations which had been produced for students to sign. It was agreed that course organisers should make the rules clear to the students at the beginning of the course, and each person setting coursework should make clear to the students if special arrangements apply or if the norm applies.

The Mastery exam in CS1 had been discussed further, also the joint CS and

Maths. degree and the question of what weight the project should have in the final year. After some discussion on fixing a percentage figure on the projects with the Maths. Dept. it was decided that RNI should speak to Maths. suggesting a meeting between the staffs of the two departments. An opening figure of 50% could be offered in the hope that Maths. might be persuaded to increase their original figure. KK, MRJ and GDP would be willing to take part in a meeting.

Action - RNI

(c) Syllabus

The committee had not met. RJP stressed the need to talk about the Software Engineering degree, and felt that an ad hoc working party of the committee should be set up. RJP and Mike Fourman will get together to discuss proposals.

Action - RJP,MIKEF

M.Eng. degree: ASW acknowledged the fact that some action needs to be taken in the next few weeks.

Action - ASW

Theoretical Computer Science degree: GDP will give thought to SM's suggestion regarding this.

Action - GDP

(d) Technical resources

The committee had met a month ago, and the Minutes had been duly posted up. The need to observe Departmental safety regulations was stressed. All staff and students should receive a copy of the Safety Handbook. It was agreed that something standard be produced by the Safety Adviser for all undergraduates to sign.

Action - JCD

(e) Equipment

The committee met on 29 September. Paul Anderson has now replaced Bob Harper on the committee, and Mike Fourman has joined the committee. LR has been acting as secretary so another one now requires to be found. The meetings have so far been irregular, but will now be at fixed times twice a term. JHB reported on new equipment purchases: 8 colour Sun 360s and a second batch of about 6 more workstations and another file server due by Christmas. The Macs have almost all been linked up to the Ethernet. Money is available in the Faculty base allocation for small purchases of equipment. The committee had also looked at ways to improve the support of Apple Macs for teaching, and had been

discussing Departmental strategy. A Sun is likely to be moved down to the Tower. The LFCS is about to take delivery of a high level resolution laser printer for the 16 copier room.

(f) Publicity

RNI reported that our University (and this Dept.) had been selected to take part in a schools video on computing which is being produced by the Scottish Development Agency.

New Departmental Handbooks and Postgraduate Booklets are being prepared.

(g) Library

MRJ will be convening a meeting quite soon, and has been reviewing the list of journals subscribed to in preparation for the next review. He named the 4 journal suggestions, and asked that any additions be e-mailed to him. A vote will then be taken. It was decided that the BCS Computer Journal should be added to the list since the Maths. Dept. had stopped its subscription.

5. Committee structures 1988/89

RNI suggested we have a Policy Committee which would involve a group of people formulating an academic plan. The members would consist of the Professors plus senior staff members and convenors of the Departmental committees, and it would meet approx. once a month. The Staff Committee would become the Teaching Staff Subcommittee. The new Computing Staff Subcommittee would discuss personnel issues of COs. PDS had made minor changes to the remit of the Teaching Committee. No change has been made to the Syllabus Committee wording, but the Technical Resources Committee has added to its remit: "To advise the Head of Department, in appropriate cases, on matters relating to technical staff development, appraisals and promotions." The wording of the Library Committee had a minor alteration. JHB outlined the changes made to the Equipment Committee wording. These were all approved. There was general approval of the structures of committees, and all that remained was that major committees should fix times to meet during the year.

Action - Convenors of Committees

RAM pointed out that no mention had been made of heaters at the Technical Resources Committee. It was reported that JCD is in the process of purchasing more heaters.

PDS raised the question of JCMB committees, and he was informed that RNI is the ex-officio member, RAM is on the General Building Services Subcommittee

and JCD is on the Safety Committee. CPS is on the Appleton Tower Committee and GDMR and JHB on the Computing Services ECUC.

PDS offered the meeting's congratulations to RNI on being elected to the University Court.

6. Any Other Competent Business

None.

The next meeting will take place on Friday, 28 October at 3.30 p.m. in R.2510.



Telephone Number
031 667 1011
Ext. 4246

Old College
South Bridge
Edinburgh
EH8 9YL

Our Reference: DB/80031/NH

14th October, 1988

Your Reference: -

Professor R.N. Ibbett,
Department of Computer Science,
King's Buildings.

Dear Professor Ibbett,

1987/88 Annual Accounts Adjustments (Accruals)

You may be aware from your August tabulation of a change in the treatment of charges for goods and services provided before the 31 July but paid in August.

Universities are now required to comply with a new accounting standard approved by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors & Principals and the UGC.

In the past payments (Casuals and Traders) were charged in the year in which they were paid.

Under the new rules the Finance Office make an accounting adjustment (accrual) charging July 1987 with the cost of goods and services provided up to the 31 July but paid after the year-end.

This change affects only a few departments, of which you are one.

The effect of the adjustment is as follows:

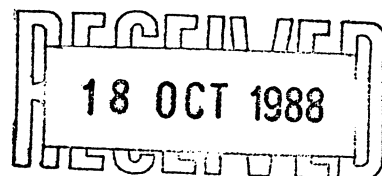
- 1 Payments to suppliers will go through in the normal way.
- 2 Finance Office will raise a journal entry charging relevant payments into the old year.
- 3 The adjustment will affect the departmental balance at 31 July 1988 and a revised tabulation will be issued.
- 4 A compensating credit for the charge to the old year will be raised, by Finance Office, in the new year.

I would like to emphasise that the adjustments only effect a transfer between years and do not change the resources available to your department.

If you have any questions or difficulties please telephone Mike Roarty
Ext. 4261.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Brown,
Director of Finance.





Department of Computer Science

Memorandum

To Staff; Postgraduates;
Noticeboard

From Roland Ibbett

Date 27th October, 1988

AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENTAL MEETING

to be held on

Friday 28th October

Time : 3.30 p.m.
Venue : NEW COFFEE LOUNGE (2510)

Raised by

1. Convenor's Business
2. Reports from Committees
 - (a) Policy
 - (b) Teaching Staff Subcommittee
 - (c) Computing Staff Subcommittee (see attached note)
 - (d) Teaching
 - (e) Syllabus
 - (f) Technical Resources
 - (g) Equipment
 - (h) Publicity
 - (i) Library
3. Summer School for teachers of H-grade Computing.
4. Proposal for MSc in Computing and Education
5. Any Other Competent Business

JHB
 Dist list
 Vax Disc / Kpa / G andalf.
 Suns here.
 /slay up. Term 2 worry
 Rest < Xmas. AJS.
 AT -> Net.

DAW

DAW

} Training

Not to CS4 re/slay

Text Support only

AJCD

CO Duties 1988/89

John Butler

October 27, 1988

It seems that every time I redraft this, someone leaves. This list does not make allowance for Kathy leaving. Could everyone check it over and let me know of any errors?

Provisional Assignments

Key:		
=	No change	
...	No support	
Item	1987/88	1988/89
Course support		
IS1	JST	
CS1a	RJG/KMH/CSOs	=
CS1b	RJG/KMH/CSOs	
CS2 Systems	DWB/JST	
CS3 H/W	ARCH	=

General Services

Services	JHB	
BEP1 Machine, P-CAD	ARCH/RWT	=
VAXen	AJS	=
WAN Comms/Mail	GORDON	=
Gandalfen	DWB	DWB
Machine Halls	LINDA	=
User Accreditation	LINDA	=
First-line Advice	LINDA	=
Mac advice	LINDA	=
KB Suns	...	AJS

Text Processing	GDMR/DMB
Secretarial Computing	DAW
Compilers	RS
Documentation	JHB
Admin Databases	LINDA/CA/KMH
Non-LFCS Unix Support	RJG
Edinburgh Computer Users Committee/	
Computing Policy Committee	JHB
Gould Users Committee/E.C.U.C.	GDMR

Specialised Support

Concurrency	...	JTB
LFCS	MORNA	=
Orion	LINDA	=
Posie	...	
VLSI tools	KJG/DDR/JST	
Graphics teaching support	KJC	
Database support	KJC	
APM	GDMR/AJS/RWT	GDMR
APM Operating system	AJS/RWT	=
Rutherford Lab. liaison	KJC	†
Fireflies	...	JTB
ML	...	RJG
Admin		

Publicity	JTB/DAW	DAW/(JTB)
UGCA visits	...	JTB
Open Days	DAW	DAW/JHB
Freshers Week	DAW	=
Schools Liaison	DAW	=
Departmental Handbook	DAW	=
Publicity Videos	GDMR/AJS	=
New staff arrivals	DAW	
Telephones	GLC	DAW
2419 Photocopier	MWM/JHB	

JMKC?

Duties listed by person

Key:

- (t) Tutorials
- (l) Labs
- (p) Projects or Practicals
- = Anticipates no change
- Would reduce commitment given the chance
- + Would increase commitment given the chance
- † Commitment dies naturally

DWB Gandalf=, WAN Comms+, CS2 Systems, CS2 RTS, CS3 Comms(t), ISI(t,l)=
 JTB Publicity-, Fireflies+, CS4/MSc CCS+
 JHB Service, CS4(p), CS1(t)+
 KJG Databases, Graphics+, Applications+, VLSI tools, CS1a(t), CS2(l), CS3(t)
 MORNA LFCS
 RJG CSI-, Suns=, Non-LFCS Unix Support, ML+
 LINDA Backups-, Advice, First-line troubleshooting,
 user accreditation, CS1 Suns+
 ARCH CS3/4/MSc H/W support, CS3(l), CS4(2p)
 KMH Suns+, ISI-, CS1a+, CS1b+
 DDR VLSI=, KB Suns+, VSLI (t), CS3 h/w (l),
 CS4(p), CS3 VLSI(t), CS1b(t), CS3 WHIZZO (l), House sec.=
 GDMMR Filestores=, INet, Utilities, CS3(t), CS4(p)
 AJS O/S+, Graphics+, H/W design+, CSI-, CS2-
 RS VMS=, APM O/S=, Unix+, Applications+, CS1(t)-
 RWTT Compilers=, Small stuff+, CS1b(t)
 JST BEPI, APM O/S, H/W+, POSIE+, Sparse m/c+, CS4(2p), CS3 WHIZZO(p)
 DAW ISI= CS2 RTSt, Prolog+, ISI(t,l), CSI(t), CS2(l)
 Admin, Chemistry HCI Ph.D. supervision, ISI(t), CSI(t)+

Sources:

1987/88 duties: DM paper 17/9/87

1988/89 duties: Responses to questionnaire, conversation.

1619 Photocopier JMKR/GLC KAM/GLC
 House secretary DDR =
 A.T. Users Committee RNP CPS

CO Duties 1988/89

John Butler

October 27, 1988

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Services	JHB		
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VAXen	AJS	=	
WAN Comms/Mail	GORDON	=	DWB
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User Accreditation	LINDA	=	
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Mac advice	LINDA	=	
KB Suns	...		AJS

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Secretarial Computing	DAW	
Compilers	RS	=
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Specialised Support		
Concurrency	..	JTB
LFCS	MORNA	=
Orion	LINDA	=
Posie	..	
VLSI tools	KJC/DDR/JST	
Graphics teaching support	KJC	
Database support	KJC	
APM	GDMR/AJS/RWT	GDMR
APM Operating system	AJS/RWT	=
Rutherford Lab. Liaison	KJC	†
Fireflies	..	JTB
ML	..	RJG
Admin		
Publicity	JTB/DAW	DAW/(JTB)
UCCA visits	..	JTB
Open Days	DAW	DAW/JHB
Freshers Week	DAW	=
Schools Liaison	DAW	=
Departmental Handbook	DAW	=
Publicity Videos	GDMR/AJS	=
New staff arrivals	DAW	
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2419 Photocopier	MWM/JHB	=

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 JTB Publicity-, Fireflies+, CS4/MSc CCS+
 JHB Service, CS4(p), Csi1(t)+
 KJC Databases, Graphics+, Applications+, VLSI tools, CS1a(t), CS2(l), CS3(t)
 MORNA LFCS
 RJG CS1-, Suns=, Non-LFCS Unix Support, ML+
 LINDA Backups-, Advice, First-line troubleshooting,
 user accreditation, CS1 Suns+
 ARCH CS3/4/MSc H/W support, CS3(l), CS4(2p)
 KMH Suns+, ISI-, CS1a+, CS1b+
 DDR VLSI=, KB Suns+, VSLI1 (t), CS3 h/w (l),
 CS4(p), CS3 VLSI(t), CS1b(t), CS3 WHIZZO (l), House sec.=
 GDMR Filestores=, INet, Utilities, CS3(t), CS4(p)
 O/S+, Graphics+, H/W design+, CS1-, CS2-
 AJS VMS=, APM O/S=, Unix+, Applications+, CS1(t)-
 RS Compilers=, Small stuff+, CS1b(t)
 RWT BEPI, APM O/S, H/W+, POSIE+, Sparse m/c+, CS4(2p), CS3 WHIZZO(p)
 JST ISI= CS2 RTS, Prolog+, ISI(t,l), CS1(t), CS2(l)
 DAW Admin, Chemistry HCI Ph.D. supervision, ISI(t), CS1(t)+

Sources:

1987/88 duties: DM paper 17/9/87
 1988/89 duties: Responses to questionnaire, conversation.

1619 Photocopier JMKR/GLC KAM/GLC
 House secretary DDR =
 A.T. Users Committee RNP CFS

Present : D.J. Rees (convenor), J.H. Butler, R.J. Pooley, G.D.M. Ross

1. No-one has volunteered for the second committee member from the teaching staff. Someone will need to be co-opted.
2. Take over of Kathy Humphrey's Duties.

After long discussion, it was agreed to recommend that Rosemary Soutar take over from Kathy in organising/administering CS1. Rosemary has, hitherto, been trying to use GAG to produce a Modula-2 Compiler for Sun. This has proved unproductive and Rob Pooley agrees that it is not sensible to continue in that direction for the moment. Her current duties therefore do not need to be replaced.

3. 4th Dimension

Linda Rollo having left, it is felt that a CO should gain some expertise in 4th Dimension and oversee what (the other) Linda and Carol do with it. In the hope that the necessary CO involvement would be rather infrequent once the system is set up and running, the committee suggested that Ken Chisholm be asked to be the CO. This would accord with his stated desire to learn about 4th Dimension but not to be involved with it on a day-to-day basis.

[Subsequent to the meeting it has emerged that the system is not yet set up for CS1 as completely as had been thought. Some more work is still required before it can be left in a stable operating state. Ken has reservations about doing this.]

4. CS1 Sun System Maintenance

In order to relieve Russ Green of his arduous duties, George Ross has volunteered to take over. The committee accepted with alacrity. The change-over is slated for the New Year, after Kathy has left. In the meantime, George was asked to look at how long it would take to put into service his part of the new APM system i.e. the NFS access methods. If at all possible, we should like this to be done before he takes over CS1 duties, so that something can be salvaged from the remnants of the 'Mouse' efforts. It was felt that the multi-process operating system was a non-starter in view of acquisition of ever increasing numbers of Suns.

Russ will then be able to look after Skye more effectively and update it to OS4 etc.

5. UNIX expertise

With the increasing numbers of Suns being acquired for teaching it was felt that more CO expertise in UNIX was rapidly becoming necessary. Any CO wishing to go in this direction is encouraged to make his or her aspirations known. Notwithstanding this, if Kathy's post is refilled, we should aim for someone with UNIX knowledge.



Memorandum

To Staff, PGs, Noticeboard

From Roland Ibbett

Date 24th November, 1988

AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENTAL MEETING

to be held on

Friday 25th November, 1988

Time : 3.30 p.m.
Venue : NEW COFFEE LOUNGE (2510)

Uncle Sealed

Could → EUS

Raised by

1. Convenor's Business
2. Reports from Committees
 - (a) Policy
 - (b) Teaching Staff Subcommittee
 - (c) Computing Staff Subcommittee
 - (d) Teaching
 - (e) Syllabus
 - (f) Technical Resources
 - (g) Equipment
 - (h) Publicity
 - (i) Library
3. Open MSys in Software Engineering
4. Any Other Competent Business

*Goald
CSI*

*Exabyte
Spiderport
Disc
Mac.*

RNI

Citi

**CRANFIELD INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE LIMITED**

10 November 1988

Professor Robin Milner
Department of Computer Science
University of Edinburgh
The King's Buildings
Edinburgh EH9 3JZ

Dear Robin

Open MSys in Software Engineering

A number of people believe that a masters degree in software engineering, jointly run by a group of institutions having special competence in the field, would be of academic and industrial value. A meeting of those who could contribute views as individuals on this idea, and who could also evaluate its interest to their own departments, would seem to be an appropriate first step if something is to be done. That is the purpose of this letter, which I am sending to about a dozen recipients.

Among the characteristics of such a scheme might be the following.

It would be a part time, block release, transferable credit scheme, with the aim of upgrading the skills of those who are (or aspire to become) software engineers.

The scheme would be a partnership between a number of industrial partners and a number of academic partners.

Students would be in employment with industrial partners, and would have an appropriate first degree and appropriate work experience. Their fees would be paid by their employers.

Students would do a core module, a set of option modules and a project.

A core module would be equivalent to a normal academic term, but at an intensive rate of study, perhaps of four to six weeks' full-time duration.

Option modules would typically be of two weeks' duration, with or without an interval between the first and second weeks. They should cover a wide span of topics.

Projects would be part employer-based and part home-based, typically lasting six months.

There would be two classes of academic partners: major and minor.

Major partners would register students and award degrees, and offer core modules. They could also offer option modules and supervise projects. While there would necessarily and desirably be differences between the core modules offered by different major partners, there should be a defined common core of material.

Minor partners would offer option modules. They could also supervise projects. They would transfer credits to major (degree-awarding) partners.

The above sketch is tentative, and does not preclude alternative approaches; it is included in order to give enough flavour for you to make a preliminary judgment of whether you are interested. A number of major issues would need to be addressed before such a scheme could be brought to fruition: they include defining the scope of software engineering, syllabus design, regulations, fees and finance, administrative structures, and accreditation.

A partnership approach is necessary on the assumption that few if any institutions would be able to mount a sufficiently wide-ranging scheme on their own.

Please write or call me to say how you react. If responses are positive I should like to arrange a meeting during the Christmas vacation, at which initial decisions could be taken. The immediate next step would be to approach a small number of potential industrial partners, before embarking on serious development work.

Yours sincerely



Colin J Tully
Head of Group, Systems Engineering

Notes of Departmental Meeting held on Friday, 25 November 1988 in
Room 2510

Present: SOA, KEVIN, RJP, DJW, RC, GDMR, AJS, JCD, RAM, DJR, MIKEF,
PDS, SM, ASW, DAW, JHB, CPS, RM, RNI, EAK, GLC, JJ, ALI, NPT, KJC,
DTS, MADS.

1. Convenor's Business

Staff changes: RNI reported that Dr. Alan Small has been appointed to the joint CS/AI lecturer post w.e.f. 1 January 1989. Ferenc Devai has been offered a temporary lecturing post until September 1989, Tony Cunningham has been employed as an RA on the Sparse Project and a new technician, Gilbert Inkster, has also been appointed. Lorraine Edgar has joined the LFCS as a secretary. RNI also reported that BOB would be leaving on 25 November to take up an appointment at CMU. KMH will leave at the end of December to begin work for Clan Systems, but will continue her CS1b tutorial duties until the end of the 1st half course. RNI informed the meeting that PDS will take up an endowment fellowship in 1990, and will then work part-time only. RM has applied for a year's leave of absence from September 1989.

Asbestos situation: RNI reported on this, explaining that some of the advice given had been inconsistent. The Health and Safety people, however, had advised closure of the affected corridor while the necessary cleaning procedure was carried out. RNI read out a letter which he had sent to the Secretary to the University (plus his reply) expressing his distress over the recent events. The JCMB Users Committee meets on 14 December, and RNI and JCD will prepare material they wish to raise in connection with asbestos safety and labelling in this building. SM queried whether such labelling was up-to-date in the Appleton Tower, and JCD agreed to check on this. SM also complained that the tutorial room corridor at the AT had recently been "swimming with polish" to a dangerous degree. CPS, as a member of the AT Users Committee, will register a complaint.

Action - RNI/JCD/CPS

Japanese visitors from Hitachi: RNI reported on their recent visit, and the proposed scheme whereby people from here could visit their labs. for up to one year at Japanese expense. Anyone interested should contact RNI.

Progress reviews: This exercise had proved valuable, and it is likely to be continued with others who had not taken part previously. MIKEF should be involved in conducting these, and JHB and GLC will organise a meeting of the COs to discuss their involvement in the exercise.

Action - JHB/GLC

Consultancy: The University Court has approved a document from the Staffing Committee defining consultancy. RNI will check up on staff in the Department who undertake consultancy work so that he can reassure the University that it will not be liable for anything.

Action - RNI

Staff visits abroad: RNI informed the meeting that the Alumni Relations Officer would be grateful to know details of foreign visits made by staff members so that hospitality/welcome parties could be arranged if appropriate.

New academic appointments scheme: A new scheme has been announced by the UGC whereby if a member of staff retires after 1 August 1989 and before 1994, consideration will be given to their replacement with UGC bridging funding.

Matters Arising

Syllabus: RAM has something in preparation to be sent to Jim Howe at AI in connection with one or more AI modules for CS4.

CS4 projects: AJS reported that nothing has been done as yet.

Action - AJS

Reports from Committees

(a) Policy

The committee had not met, but a strategy document is sought to aid its direction.

(b) Teaching Staff Subcommittee

Nothing to report.

(c) Computing Staff Subcommittee

The computing staff have barely been able to keep up with the demands made on them, and staff may find they have to do more for themselves. RNI will talk to

Mr. Cornish in this connection. Training others in the use of Unix is required, and JHB will take the appropriate action.

Action - RNI/JHB

(d) Teaching

PDS reported that CS1 driving tests were proceeding, and SOA mentioned the possibility of moving to Modula 2 for 1st year teaching in future years. JHB had circulated mail on this, and it was agreed that a working party should look at the implications involved. SOA will convene it, and will talk to course co-ordinators.

Action - SOA

(e) Syllabus

The committee had not met, but would meet in the week following with MIKEF convening the meeting. One item for discussion would be the possibility of having a Software Engineering degree or a computer science degree in which students could select a theme containing software engineering modules.

(f) Technical Resources

RAM reported that the committee had met, and the minutes had been duly posted.

(g) Equipment

JHB reported that the committee would be meeting soon to discuss an extra tape drive to ease the back-up problem, the Spider port, one more big disk drive and an additional Mac to help support the CS1 admin. database.

(h) Publicity

RNI reported that this committee will now be abolished due to lack of support. He commented that DAW has been carrying out publicity work in an exemplary manner, but staff should help her in any way they can when approached about publicity.

(i) Library

Nothing to report.

3. Open MSys in Software Engineering

RNI reported on the letter from Colin Tully (attached to the Agenda). There was little enthusiasm from the meeting so RM will reply explaining that we do not wish to be involved.

Action - RM

Any Other Competent Business

School of I.T.: The Dean will be talking to the committee on 29 November with a view to the notion that the School be merged with Engineering. There appeared to be little enthusiasm for this venture.

The meeting closed at 5.20 p.m.

AGENDA FOR TEACHING STAFF MEETING

to be held on

Friday 16th December, 1988

<p>Time : 3.30 p.m. Venue : NEW COFFEE LOUNGE (2510)</p>
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“What is Computer Science and where is it going?”

Stuart Anderson is a member of a Working Party set up by the Conference of Professors of Computer Science, and would like to go forward with a Departmental view of the answers to the above question. Attached are relevant draft papers for discussion at our meeting.

Roland Ibbett

**Conference of Professors of Computer Science
Future Directions in Computer Science
Draft Report**

In response to a request from Bill Mitchell of SERC, the Conference of Professors has set up a working party chaired by M. H. Rodgers of Bristol University to write a report entitled "Future Directions in Computer Science". The aim of this document is to attempt to answer the questions: "What is C.S.?" and "Where is C.S. going?". Roland has nominated me as the Edinburgh representative on the working party. The first meeting of the working party is scheduled for the end of the year or the beginning of next year. In advance of that meeting a (very rough) draft paper has been produced by some of the people on the working party. Those attending the meeting have been invited to comment on the draft before the meeting takes place. In order to take account of the views of the department I am circulating this document for discussion amongst members of teaching staff. Please mail your responses to the document to me. I will then collate the views expressed by the staff and circulate that document before responding to the request for comment to the working party.

The document attached is a very early draft and thus cannot be said to reflect the views of the Conference of Professors. Because of this please do not circulate the document beyond members of the department.

Stuart Anderson

DRAFT - DO NOT COPY

Future Directions for Computer Science.

A Report by the Conference of Professors of Computer Science.

1. During the past year there has been considerable activity in drawing up plans for future work in Information Technology, and the three IED documents - Systems Engineering, Systems Architectures and Silicon towards 2000 set out a strategy which will form a basis of a pre-competitive research programme in Information Technology. They cover a range of areas and specific problems which are close to the market-place and which will undoubtedly be of crucial importance to industry in the short term. There is no doubt that the academic Computer Science community in the UK is now in a position to make a substantial contribution to this programme, particularly in view of the expansion and general impetus given to Departments by both the Alvey programme and the various UGC initiatives over the past five years. Given adequate funding and support by SERC, DTI, business and industry, there is no reason why most of the targets listed in these three reports should not be achieved. However, these proposals do nothing to solve the problem of supporting basic research in Computer Science, and it is this which is of great concern to the Professors of Computer Science.

2. Computer Science, in common with every other scientific discipline, cannot flourish and remain viable without the existence of a stable, well-founded basic research activity which is continually adding to a pool of theoretical and experimental knowledge as well as producing tools and techniques which can be used in future generations of products and applications. There is no doubt that one effect of the Alvey, IED and ESPRIT programmes has been to divert the academic community away from basic research and if this is allowed to continue over a long period, then subsequent R and D programmes will have little innovative work to exploit. In many ways, the situation regarding Computer Science resembles that of Mathematics; virtually all research activities in the physical sciences and in engineering use mathematics as a tool to varying extents, but this does not dispense with the need to support a basic research activity in the subject, which of course SERC does through its Mathematics Committee of the Science Board. If the present SERC policy of

supporting R and D aspects of Computer Science jointly with DTI via the Information Engineering Directorate is to continue, then a logical consequence of this may be to transfer responsibility for basic research in Computer Science from the Engineering to the Science Board. However this is organized though, it is essential that there is a stable source of funding for basic research in the subject, which is consonant with the size of the academic community, reflecting the additional resources which have been provided principally by the UGC over the past five years, and which is sufficient to enable all alpha-rated projects to be supported. The problem of supporting basic research in Computer Science is not confined to this country; in the US, a strategy report outlining a five year plan for maintaining US supremacy in Computer Science was submitted to Congress last year. The report, entitled 'Research and Development Strategy for High Performance Computing' was produced by the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (FCCSET) Computer Research and Applications and is having a significant effect on current activities. The federal government is spending about \$500 million per year on all aspects of high performance computing at present, but the incorporation of all the activities listed in the report would increase this by \$545 million per year in five years, thus doubling current support levels. The breakdown of projected spend is as follows:

	Current Funds	Additional Funds				
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
National Research Network	50	50	50	100	95	95
Joint Research in Computational Science and Engineering	150	30	60	90	120	150
Basic Research in Computer Science and High Performance Computing	300	60	120	180	240	300
TOTAL	500	640	730	870	955	1045

3. Unlike an R and D programme it is foolhardy to attempt to spell out a detailed list of specific topics for future basic research; the recent history of developments in the mathematical theory of chaos illustrate

this clearly. Instead it is probably more useful to define some of the areas of basic Computer Science where research will be important over the next decade.

a) Parallel Computation.

There are now several machines in the market-place which exploit parallelism in particular ways, but we are a long way from possessing the knowledge and understanding to construct practical parallel computing systems for arbitrary applications. Research into parallelism is needed in many branches of Computer Science including:

Machine Architectures

Systems Software (including operating systems, device drivers)

Parallel Programming Languages

Algorithm Design and Analysis

Program Development Tools

Application-oriented software

Formal Methods for the Specification and Verification

of parallel systems (including both hardware and software)

Indeed, many of the advances made in Computer Science over the past decade or more need to be reexamined in the context of parallelism and this in itself constitutes a major basic research programme.

Such work cannot be done in the absence of suitable equipment, and it will be necessary to support the construction of several experimental machines in order that their performance can be studied and understood.

b) Networking/Databases.

Networking is set to grow vigorously in the near future, and we must now look ahead to the consequence of the widespread availability of data transfer rates in the gigabit range. This, coupled with the improvements in secondary storage technology (laser discs and similar devices) will mean an order of magnitude jump in data storage and retrieval capability. More generalized data structures, together with the programming languages and the database management systems to handle them, will be important research areas, as will the exploitation of improved display and other input/output devices.

c) Interfacing.

The development of interfaces to biological, chemical and other environments can be expected to become an important topic; an example of this is the design of an artificial retina recently described. Such hardware devices will need new software supporting systems, where again parallelism will be required in a fundamental way. A related area is the design and production of human-computer interfaces, which in turn points the need for work in natural language processing.

d) Reliability and Security.

The increasing use of computing systems in sensitive areas (medicine, air traffic control, the nuclear industry, defence etc.) will require a far higher standard of safety than hitherto. Again, much work has been done in this area in this country, but the advent of parallel systems adds major complexity to the task and this will remain a research area for some time to come.

e) New Programming Languages.

This has already been mentioned, both in the context of parallel systems and generalized data structures, but there are other factors which reinforce the importance of this subject. There is considerable interest in looking at languages based on the lambda calculus, and others on higher order logics and other mathematical paradigms, while the recent progress in integrated programming environments could well lead to new advances.

It must be emphasised that this list of research areas is merely illustrative, and is not intended to be an exhaustive list of topics. What it does do however, is to indicate the scale of support that is required for basic research in Computer Science in order to complement the existing R. and D. programmes.

This is one early response to the report.

7th July, 1988

Professor M.H. Rogers,
Department of Computer Science,
University of Bristol,
University Walk,
BRISTOL BS8 1TW

Dear Mike,

I'm not sure how I can help with the report on Computer Science initiated at the recent meeting in Durham. However, let me air some thoughts ... most of which you have probably considered. However this note will let me sleep easier at night!

General Observations

1. The Report is clearly terribly important. Although it needs to be produced quickly it needs to mention all the significant issues associated with Computer Science - even if just to say that more information can be provided or to refer to other documents. If anything is omitted it will only rebound on us and be identified as unimportant.
2. The document should be written primarily for SERC. However it will be used for other purposes e.g. CPVC and within Universities themselves. Consequently it needs to convey important messages and not be too technical.
3. This one may seem strange. I believe the document needs to put the case for the continued existence and increasing importance of strong Computer Science Departments. There are those in Universities (some technical people in IT and other departments) who believe or hope that in a few years Computer Science will disappear all the problems having been solved. It will then just be part of other disciplines. This argument is often made as an addendum to a discussion about schools' computing!
4. Have any other similar reports been produced for SERC? Can copies of the successful ones be used as a guide?

Defining the subject

This can be done in a variety of ways:

- (a) giving a succinct definition and from this defining the central concerns of the subject (simple and easy to understand)
- (b) giving a catalogue of the interests and concerns of computer scientists
- (c) saying what it is not.

Of these (a) is most desirable since succinct phrases are memorable. Additionally the aims of the central concerns need to be identified and shown to fit in with the succinct definition.

In looking at the various concerns I believe it is important to address the following:

formal methods - should these be purely for the purposes of producing software or is there a more general aim? Presumably complexity theory, etc., included. The SERC need to be told why these are not branches of mathematics. This same problem is occurring in Universities.

communications, VLSI design - where does the legitimate interest of Computer Science stop and those of Electronic and Electrical Engineering start.

likewise there are problems in: interfacing and control, robotics, digital systems, telecommunications, vision, signal processing, etc.

again there are interfaces with the business community (systems analysis and design, project management, decision support systems, etc.), the O.R. community (simulation, modelling, etc.), CIM, CAD.

A.I and HCI (and psychology?) should be included and this inclusion justified; does cognitive science, etc., come within this sphere?

Assessment issues, matrices of all kinds to be included.

Importance of the subject

Importance from a national point of view. However, additionally a strong research emphasis will lead to a wider set of benefits for all.

7th July, 1988

3.

The Problems

1. The rate of change of the subject and the consequences of this need to be identified. In particular, if it is changing so fast why are there no publications?

Note the need for yearly updates of syllabi, laboratories, etc.
2. Resources generally are a problem. The UGC place Computer Science with Geography - need to explain why this is unreasonable. Two points: computer centres often cloud the issue where they are combined with academic departments (e.g. Cambridge and Newcastle!) and Computer Science departments nationally differ considerably in terms of their requirements (hardware based departments tend to be more expensive). Fighting for resources takes an enormous amount of time especially when our needs are not generally understood. See (3) below.
3. The nature of the subject means that Computer Science does not neatly fit either Engineering or Science Faculties. In addition the demands do not easily match with other disciplines, e.g. support staff generally need to be high quality and not technician level. (See Edinburgh's profile).
4. There is a lack of skilled personnel - problem of salaries from industry, etc. This can be overcome to some extent by providing attractive environments but this goes back to the resources issue.
5. Students generally need to be given access to up-to-date equipment and software --- expensive!
6. Funding mechanisms have recently been affected unduly by political tinkering and indecision.

All this is a bit rambling partly because I am off on holiday in the next day or so. But if I can help in any way, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

(Professor A.D. McGettrick).