

Agenda for APTS Advisory Committee meeting (AC8) on 11th September, 2014

Present: Antony Overstall (St Andrews), Jochen Einbeck (Durham), Barbel Finkenstadt (Warwick), Adam Johansen (APTS co-director), Wilfrid Kendall (APTS co-director), Geoff Nicholls (Oxford), Chris Sherlock (substituting for Brian Francis, Lancaster), Brendan Murphy (UCD, over Skype), PIERALBERTO GUARNIERO (Warwick, Student Representative), David Pell (Cambridge, Student Representative, over Skype), Kevin McConway (Open), Nick Monk (Sheffield), Susan Pitts (Cambridge) Simon Wood (Bath), Dave Woods (substituted for Robin Mitra and invited to lead discussion for item 6)

Apologies: Natalia Bochkina (Edinburgh), Leonid Bogachev (Leeds), Chris Brignell (Nottingham), David Elston (BioSS), Chris Ferro (Exeter), Robin Mitra (Southampton), Jonty Rougier (Bristol), Julian Stander (Plymouth),

In Attendance: Benjamin Graham (APTS Programme Manager, 2013/14)

Location: A1.01, Zeeman Building, University of Warwick

Meeting Begins: 14:00

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1 Minutes of Advisory Committee meeting on 12th September 2013

The previously circulated minutes were agreed.

2 Matters arising

2.1 From Advisory Committee Meeting AC7

2.1.1 AC7-2.1.2 Core material

WILFRID KENDALL It was decided that the preliminary material should contain problem questions. Modules leaders have been asked to include this.

2.1.2 AC7-2.1.3 Sponsorship

WILFRID KENDALL Two companies, ATASS and JMP sponsored Academy dinners in 2013/14. It remains a challenge for APTS member institutions to find additional sources of sponsorship.

SIMON WOOD What is the cost of sponsoring an APTS week? ADAM JOHANSEN The cost of sponsoring an Academy dinner is between £2000 to £3000.

2.1.3 AC7-2.2.2 Change in constitution (see also EC8 item 4.1)

WILFRID KENDALL This change has been enacted.

2.1.4 AC7-6 Response to Questionnaire ("Did you bring your own laptop?") (see also EC8 item 6.1)

WILFRID KENDALL APTS week questionnaires show that most student bring a laptop.

2.1.5 AC7-8.1 Making a Life

WILFRID KENDALL Susan Pitts requested permission to run session called "Making a Life" at the Cambridge APTS week. WILFRID KENDALL I attended the session and found it was moving and a very good addition to the APTS week.

2.2 From Executive Committee Meeting EC7

2.2.1 EC7-5 World Bank funds and attendance at APTS by foreign PhD students

WILFRID KENDALL A question was raised regarding availability of funds to facilitate foreign students to attend APTS week. Upon investigation, this seem to be unlikely to succeed due to World Bank funding priorities.

2.2.2 EC7-6.2 "How long is an APTS week" (see also APTS web page FAQ 1.3)

WILFRID KENDALL Information has been added to the APTS website FAQ.

2.2.3 EC7-8 Registration fees for 2014-2015

WILFRID KENDALL Fees will rise according to the long term plan for financial sustainability. GEOFF NICHOLLS Will Warwick subsidize APTS in terms of staff time? WILFRID KENDALL APTS plan for financial sustainability includes funding secretarial assistance and the programme manager's time.

3 Report of APTS 2013–2014

ADAM JOHANSEN This year was the largest APTS cohort ever. Leeds bring the number of institutions to have hosted APTS weeks to 10, thanks to Leonid Bogachev for hosting the week. Thanks to Simon Wood, who is handing over the Statistical Computing module to Finn Lindgren. Thanks to Peter Diggle for running the Longitudinal and Spatial statistics; the module is being replaced by Survival Analysis (Ingrid Van Keilegom). WILFRID KENDALL Now all founding lecturers have stepped down and been succeeded.

ADAM JOHANSEN The student feedback mostly satisfactory. The large cohort has resulted in more students finding it difficult. A larger proportion are not using the Ruth Ripley's Oxford R lecture notes resulting in them being unprepared for some of the modules.

ADAM JOHANSEN Next year host institutions will not be required to provide computer labs. GEOFF NICHOLLS Labs are good for controlling the software environment; some software is hard to install. ADAM JOHANSEN In practice it works well. DAVE WOODS I was initially against the change. However, I have changed my mind after finding it to work well in practice. Most people attended the lab session. A large room is needed to allow people to interact. SUSAN PITT At Cambridge banks of plugs were provided for students. BARBEL FINKENSTADT Do other departments provide there students with laptops. SIMON WOOD said no, KEVIN MCCONWAY said yes. ADAM JOHANSEN Not every student needs a laptop. DAVE WOODS Some computer should be made available for students without laptops.

ADAM JOHANSEN noted the feedback from the Alumni questionnaire was generally positive.

PIERALBERTO GUARNIERO I am very satisfied with my experience with APTS. It was a great opportunity to get insight about statistics and make links with other PhD students. I enjoyed the fact that APTS lectures contained introductory material and recent research. Many students found the Statistical Asymptotics lecture difficult. DAVID PELL I found APTS to be very enjoyable and useful for meeting people. I have been asked by students from the Oxford APTS week to raise concerns regarding the accommodation. For some of the, the notation used made following the lectures difficult. WILFRID KENDALL Beverley Lane, the Oxford APTS week organizer, is contacting St Anne's about the accommodation.

4 Programme for APTS 2014–2015

1. Cambridge 15–19 December, 2014
Statistical Computing (Finn Lindgren)
Statistical Inference (Jonty Rougier)
2. Southampton 23–27 March, 2015
Statistical Asymptotics (Andy Wood)
Statistical Modelling (Antony Overstall and Dave Woods)
3. Warwick 6–10 July, 2015
Applied Stochastic Processes (Stephen Connor)
Computer Intensive Statistics (Adam Johansen)
4. Glasgow 31 August -- 4 September, 2015
Nonparametric Smoothing (Adrian Bowman & Ludger Evers)
Survival analysis (Ingrid Van Keilegom)

WILFRID KENDALL Glasgow begins on a bank holiday. Accommodation for Sunday night may be included in the accommodation costs. The lecture line-up is changing. Simon Wood is stepping down. Antony Overstall is joining Dave Woods. Ingrid Van Keilegom is lecturing a new course. DAVE WOODS asked about the possibility of a design of experiments module.

5 Dates and Locations for APTS 2015–2016

1. Cambridge 14–18 December, 2015
2. Nottingham 11–15 April, 2016
3. Lancaster 4–8 July, 2016
4. Glasgow 5–9 September, 2016

WILFRID KENDALL Locations are settled 2 years in advance. The RSS has not yet set date for 2016 conference, so it may clash. 2014–2015 will be the last year in which I will be involved as co-director in finding locations for APTS weeks.

6 Discussion of continuation of APTS after the first 10 years (led by Dave Woods)

[This is Advisory Committee's opportunity to discuss the criteria for selection of the group to continue leading APTS after the first 10 years.]

DAVE WOODS This is to let the AC know about the process, and a chance to give feedback. APTS started in 2007/8. Warwick has coordinated APTS and done sterling work. For the past two 5 year cycles there has been EPSRC funding. This is ending so it is a natural point to consider a change. A small committee (myself, Adrian Bowman and Simon Wood) devised a plan to allow institutions to bid for the role of leading APTS for the next 5 years; the call for bids has been distributed with the meeting's papers. Bids were restricted to underwriting institutions. However, it is not necessary to be so restrictive. The competition is technically 'closed', but there is small window for extra bids. Any interested parties should contact Wood/Bowman/Woods at their earliest convenience. Institutions are asked to identify potential co-directors, and for the department to commit to the role in terms of the co-directors and programme managers time. WILFRID KENDALL Registration fees are rising to be fully sustainable including staff time. ADAM JOHANSEN With the increase in student numbers per week from 60 to 90, financial sustainability is easier to achieve.

DAVE WOODS There has been one expression of interest, from Adam Johansen at Warwick. GEOFF NICHOLLS Are Warwick happy to do it? ADAM JOHANSEN Yes, but we will not be offended if other institutions offer. DAVE WOODS Warwick will look to the community to revise the APTS scientific programme. WILFRID KENDALL Warwick has learnt how to run APTS. We would be happy to share the information. We could not run APTS without other institutions hosting weeks, or providing module leaders. SUSAN PITTS Warwick has done well running APTS. WILFRID KENDALL We have achieved a collaborative model, we are happy to continue and happy to hand it over.

GEOFF NICHOLLS The founders were senior academics. The proposed co-directors are mid-career academics. ADAM JOHANSEN APTS is already established, so it is easier to keep APTS going than it was to start it.

KEVIN MCCONWAY Open University now has a joint department of maths and statistics. For the math students, OU has joined the LTC. This may make it difficult in future to justify sending students on APTS courses. WILFRID KENDALL APTS has been living with this tension for 8 years. Two London institutions send to APTS. I am on the on board of LTC. APTS welcomes competition; the LTC is placed to offer more specialist courses that APTS can. ADAM JOHANSEN The fixed cost of being LTC members makes it hard for institutions to use APTS. WILFRID KENDALL Maths could learn from APTS and build a basic programme of modules from which all PhD mathematicians would benefit together.

DAVE WOODS Are there any concerns about how APTS fits into evolving funding framework? Should we be working harder to get competing bids? JOCHEN EINBECK Durham did not feel they have been asked to host APTS weeks. ADAM JOHANSEN The call for bids to host APTS weeks has historically gone out annually to Uls and anyone who had informed the co-directors that they would be interested in hosting a week (anyone should feel free to notify us). Should Warwick continue in its leadership role it will be more actively seeking the involvement of all of our member institutions in the hosting of APTS weeks. DAVE WOODS It seems other institutions don't really want to run APTS as Warwick is doing a good job, but might be willing to take over if needed. WILFRID KENDALL Thanks to the committee for their work. APTS belongs to everyone, and everyone should be able to contribute.

7 Elections

WILFRID KENDALL Two AC members serve as representatives on the EC. Previously it was Brendan Murphy and Carl Donovan. Antony Overstall has taken over from Carl Donovan. Antony will be moving from St Andrew to Glasgow. Is the AC happy for Antony to continue?

Agreed: Motion carried.

WILFRID KENDALL Brendan Murphy's 2 year term has come to an end. Brendan is willing to continue. Anyone else wishing to nominate themselves should stand forward by Thursday 18th September. In future, details of elections will be included in the agenda.

8 Any other business and general feedback

No other business.

8.1 Date of Next Meeting

WILFRID KENDALL Date for next meeting. Planned date 17th September 2015, 14:00.