

# Minutes of APTS Advisory Committee meeting (AC9) on 17th September, 2015

**Present:** Chris Brignell (Nottingham), Jochen Einbeck (Durham), David Elston (BioSS, over Skype), Barbel Finkenstadt (Warwick), Adam Johansen (APTS co-director), Robin Mitra (Southampton), Kanchan Mukherjee (Lancaster), Jonty Rougier (Bristol)

**Apologies:** Stuart Barber (Leeds), Natalia Bochkina (Edinburgh), Chris Ferro (Exeter), Colin Gillespie (Newcastle), Wilfrid Kendall (APTS co-director), Antony Overstall (St Andrews), Brendan Murphy (UCD), Hannah Pearson (EPSRC), Rajen Shah (Cambridge), Simon Wood (Bath)

**In Attendance:** Benjamin Graham (APTS Programme Manager)

**Meeting held at:** A1.01, Zeeman Building, University of Warwick

**Meeting Began:** 14:00

**Meeting Ended:** 15:00

## Overview of topics

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## 1 Minutes of Advisory Committee meeting on 11th September 2014

The previously circulated minutes were agreed.

## 2 Matters arising

### 2.1 From Advisory Committee Meeting AC8

#### 2.1.1 AC8-5 Dates and locations for APTS 2015-16

ADAM JOHANSEN The date of the Glasgow APTS week has changed.

#### 2.1.2 AC8-7 Elections

ADAM JOHANSEN Brendan Murphy continues as representative.

### 2.2 From Executive Committee Meeting EC9

#### 2.2.1 EC9-4 Outcome of the EC “election”

ADAM JOHANSEN There were 8 candidates for 8 posts: Jonty Rougier (Bristol UI) Richard Samworth (Cambridge UI) Idris Eckley (Lancaster UI) Colin Gillespie (Newcastle UI) Chris Brignell (Nottingham UI) Geoff Nicholls (Oxford UI) Simon Wood (Bath UI) Dave Woods (Southampton UI)

#### 2.2.2 EC9-5 Timetabling

ADAM JOHANSEN Timing and module leader commitments did not permit exchange of Statistical Modeling and Applied Stochastic Processes in the coming year. It will be revisited next year.

#### 2.2.3 EC9-8 Increase to module leaders’ payments; introduction of payment for local organization.

ADAM JOHANSEN The increase in student numbers has led to a surplus. This is important as EPSRC funding is ending. The fee was scheduled to rise to £240; it probably will not be necessary to raise it that far by 2020/21. The fee for the next year will stay at £135.

ADAM JOHANSEN Fees for module delivery are increasing to £3000. This is to allow for inflation and the increase in student numbers. There will also be a payment of £1000 for local organization.

#### 2.2.4 EC9-9 Changes of module leaders for 2015-2016

ADAM JOHANSEN Amanda Turner is joining the Applied Stochastic Processes module. Andy Wood has signaled that this will be his last year as Statistical Asymptotics lecturer.

#### 2.2.5 EC9-10 Leadership of APTS to remain at Warwick from 2016/17–2021/22

ADAM JOHANSEN There was one bid, from Warwick, to continue running APTS. The bid was accepted by the Executive Committee.

## 3 Report of APTS 2014–2015

ADAM JOHANSEN Susan Pitts is retiring—thanks to her for hosting many Cambridge APTS weeks, and for organizing the ‘Making a life’ events.

ADAM JOHANSEN JMP and ATASS both sponsored Academy dinners. The RSS sponsored drinks receptions at the 4 weeks.

ADAM JOHANSEN The preliminary material was looked at for about 1 day. Ideally student would spend about a week on it. Students found Statistical Asymptotics the hardest module. The cohort is getting broader. Some students found Statistical Computing and Survival Analysis too easy. JONTY ROUGIER This raises questions about the pairing of modules. The current arrangement in week 1 seems to work well, but Statistical Computing module could be made slightly more challenging. JOCHEN EINBECK The numbers looks healthy. JONTY ROUGIER The Cambridge APTS week is at capacity. ADAM JOHANSEN Recently we have accommodated everyone. There is a priority system in place if capacity is exceeded.

ADAM JOHANSEN Use of the Oxford R lectures is going down: it would be helpful if sending institutions could reiterate the importance of R to their own students. Some students are unprepared for the computer

labs. Students are not having trouble bringing laptops in place of having computer labs. However, the numbers attending practical sessions is going down as a results.

ADAM JOHANSEN The alumni questionnaire response rate is 30%, which is about as good as possible. The feedback is broadly positive. Statistical Asymptotics is found useful in hindsight. APTS is found useful in their PhD studies and beyond. 100% would recommend it to other students.

## 4 Programme for APTS 2015–2016

1. Cambridge 14–18 December, 2015  
Statistical Computing (Finn Lindgren)  
Statistical Inference (Jonty Rougier)
2. Nottingham 11–15 April, 2016  
Statistical Asymptotics (Andy Wood)  
Statistical Modelling (Antony Overstall and Dave Woods)
3. Lancaster 4–8 July, 2016  
Applied Stochastic Processes (Stephen Connor and Amanda Turner)  
Computer Intensive Statistics (Adam Johansen)
4. Glasgow 22–26 August, 2016  
Nonparametric Smoothing (Adrian Bowman and Ludger Evers)  
Survival analysis (Ingrid Van Keilegom)  
(N.B. Previously scheduled for 31 August – 4 September 2016)

## 5 Dates and Locations for APTS 2016–2017

1. Cambridge 12–16 December, 2016
2. Oxford 20–24 March, 2017
3. Durham 3–7 July, 2017
4. Glasgow 21–25 August, 2017

ADAM JOHANSEN Bids for 2017–18 will be requested in January.

## 6 Elections

### 6.1 Advisory Committee representative to the Executive Committee

ADAM JOHANSEN Antony Overstall's term is at an end. He has agreed to stand again. No other nominations were forthcoming.

**Agreed:** Antony Overstall is elected for another 2 year term.

## 7 Underwriting Institution status

ADAM JOHANSEN APTS is formed by 15 Universities. The agreement is time limited, finishing at the end of the 2015/16 academic year. We are currently drafting a preliminary version of the new contract which is as similar as possible to the old one. We will consult with current UIs as soon as it is available.

ADAM JOHANSEN UIs have deposited £2000 in case of emergencies. New UIs are welcome and this would be a very convenient time to join their number. Advantages are representation at EC. The agreement recognizes APTS is owned by the UK statistics community. Our lawyers have noticed that student numbers have increased and are currently asking if the £2000 deposit needs to be increased.

CHRIS BRIGNELL Do we have reserve lecturers? ADAM JOHANSEN We have people we can probably call on. Having two lectures per course is a safety net. JONTY ROUGIER Can the surplus replace the deposit? ADAM JOHANSEN It needs to be kept separate for accounting reasons. ADAM JOHANSEN Paperwork will go out after the EC meeting. Negotiation with legal teams will be needed.

## 8 Any other business and general feedback

JOCHEN EINBECK Is Peter Diggle's course Spatial and Longitudinal Data Analysis course gone? ADAM JOHANSEN It has been replaced by Ingrid Van Keilegom lecturing Survival Analysis.

DAVID ELSTON Looking at the numbers on the AC report, most of the students come from member institutions. Can we reach more students from other Universities and departments? ADAM JOHANSEN We are happy to receive students from other sending institutions and note that there is little cost or administrative burden associated with becoming one. We'd be very interested to hear any suggestions on how best to reach those who might most benefit from APTS in less traditional settings but have limited resources available.

KANCHAN MUKHERJEE Manchester do not make much use of APTS. ADAM JOHANSEN This is in part because of the interaction with Magic and the LTCC has a similar impact upon London although such students are very welcome and we do see some students from these institutions. JONTY ROUGIER Member Institutions can do more to raise awareness of APTS within their university. JOCHEN EINBECK Can a member institution send students from other departments? ADAM JOHANSEN Not ordinarily, but there is no cost to the other department becoming a sending institution.

BARBEL FINKENSTADT Where do APTS students come from? ADAM JOHANSEN Most of the students are UK based. A few students come from the Republic of Ireland and Denmark. The travel costs make it difficult to attract large numbers of foreign students.

### 8.1 Date of Next Meeting

Planned time 15th September 2016, 14:00.