

CRS Forum 21 Minutes – 13 December 2005

Apologies

Shona Agarwal (Health and Community Medicine), David Bacigalupo (Computer Science), Mark Barrow (Chemistry), Tat Gan (WMG), Dawn Hindle (CELTE), Christine Hirst (Centre for Education and Industry), Josh Neufeld (Biological Sciences),

Present

Ruth Ayres (CAP), Stephan Bathe (Biological Sciences), Christine Coe (SHSS), Mairi-Ann Cullen (CEDAR), Marie Garnett (CAP), Miguel Juarez (Statistics), Roger Thorpe (Engineering: Civil & Mechanical), Chris Kent (Psychology), Jenny O'Leary (Careers).

Chair: Marie Garnett

Notes: Ruth Ayres

Welcome & Introductions

Marie Garnett welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the history and role of the CRS Forum. Attendees introduced themselves for the benefit of the new CRS reps.

Roberts Skills Update

Marie Garnett outlined the background to this project and reported that the University has received Roberts funding for skills development for postgrads and research staff over the last 2 yrs. There is now agreement in principle to the CAP-led proposal to implement the Roberts agenda for research staff and an advertisement has been prepared for a full-time Roberts Skills Training Coordinator to commence work in 2006.

£55K has been allocated to departments to enable them to deliver departmental or faculty-based skills development provision from 2006. For this academic year only, due to timing, funding will be allocated to departments pro-rata, based on the number of Research Council funded grade 1A researchers in the department

http://www.grad.ac.uk/cms/ShowPage/Home_page/p!ecddL contains useful information on this area, together with the Joint Research Councils Skills statement.

Priority requirements of researchers surveyed in the focus groups run by Ruth Ayres and Marie Garnett last year have been used to inform the research strand of the new PCAPP programme- Hence there are a number of workshops on these topics e.g. *'Managing Research Projects: Getting the Funding Right'* which will be delivered

within the PCAPP framework and will form a core part of the skills training for research staff.

ESRC Project

Marie Garnett circulated an outline of the 3year ESRC funded 'Managing Research Projects' project which will be conducted by CAP staff in collaboration with academic colleagues in the Faculty of Social Science. . There will be obvious links between this research and the development of support for researchers in this area.

Departmental updates

Mairi-Ann Cullen reported that there are half-termly meetings in CEDAR which act as a useful feedback mechanism between the department and the CRS Forum. Minutes from the CRS Forum meetings are circulated. Mairi-Ann reported that researchers in her department are questioning the title of the group *i.e.* CRS, given the job evaluation and changes in contract types and titles – *e.g.* research only contracts.

Chris Coe explained that she has a notice board in SHSS, where she puts up minutes from the CRS Forum and any other relevant information. There are also annual meetings which give people the opportunity to talk.

Roger Thorpe reported that he is from a big department (Engineering: Civil & Mechanical), which obviously makes it more challenging to disseminate information amongst colleagues – He plans to put up a notice board to display relevant information. Casual meetings are held within the department at present, where colleagues have expressed concerns regarding the *Fixed Term Employees Regulations*.

Miguel Juarez (Statistics) has only recently become a CRS rep and reported that there is only a small group of researchers at present in Statistics. He is considering options in his new role as CRS rep, but currently, there is just one meeting a year with other researchers in the department.

Stephan Bathe (Biological Sciences) reported that there are currently about 60-70 CRS within his department. Like Miguel, he is considering his new role as CRS rep, having only taken on the role jointly with a colleague 2 months ago. At present, a mailing list is used to disseminate information amongst fellow researchers in the department, but he plans to establish meetings with colleagues in due course.

Updates from Careers

Jenny outlined her role in supporting CRS in Careers for the benefit of the new CRS reps. This role includes offering one-to-one 40minute careers interviews with CRS, if desired. She also summarised the range of external groups with which she is involved and drew attention to the careers website which has been specifically designed for CRS staff available at <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/services/careers>.

Two future sessions were highlighted as being valuable for CRS:

Jan 31 - *Networking Skills* – 2.00-4.30pm (See the CAP website for further details and booking information:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/cap/events/programme/>)

March 16 – *Future Focus* – 9.30-4.30 focusing on Career Management & options (See the Careers website for further details and booking information:

<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/services/careers.>)

Actions: Jenny will circulate some posters amongst CRS reps to advertise these events.

Jenny is proposing to offer *Researcher drop-ins* weekly or fortnightly – Jenny will provide further updates about this at the next CRS Forum. She will also be offering mock interviews on request.

Future meetings

Marie Garnett & Ruth Ayres asked CRS reps to discuss the current CRS arrangements with researchers in their departments and consider whether people wanted to update/modify existing arrangements in any way. CRS reps were asked to report back on their findings at the next CRS Forum.

There was also a request from CRS reps for an update on Job Evaluation and an opportunity to discuss a change in title for this group.

Actions: CRS reps to discuss the naming of the group and the extent to which colleagues would like to continue/modify existing arrangements and report back at the next CRS Forum.

Jenny to feedback at a future CRS Forum on a conference she is attending at Bristol for researchers

A.O.B

There was no AOB.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 27th February 2006 from 12-2 p.m. in the Microteaching Room, CAP Office (2nd Floor, University House).

For this meeting: Chair: Chris Coe & Secretary: Mairi-Ann Cullen.