



OPTiMA

ARC TRAINING CENTRE IN
OPTIMISATION TECHNOLOGIES
INTEGRATED METHODOLOGIES
AND APPLICATIONS

MINUTES – OPTiMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FRI 4TH June 10:00 – 12:00

LOCATION:

ZOOM <https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/82659945432?pwd=dU5ZUIBkNFBwVTJUSW1YMFRWQXVldzO9>

Password: 578299

Attendees: Kate Smith-Miles (Chair -KSM), Peter Stuckey (PS), Andreas Ernst (AE), Adrian Pearce (AP), Guido Tack (GT), Rob Hyndman (RH), Charlotte Hurry (CH-Minutes)

Apologies: Doreen Thomas, Peter Taylor

MINUTES

1. ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1.1. PO PARTICIPATION UPDATE

1.1.1. KSM has spoken with Boeing; project IP was a sticking point. After talks with UoM legal they are happier with the terms. We still waiting for the ARC to respond regarding the security clearance and non-disclosure agreement. The PhD student will need a security clearance. We think that Boeing is not offering to pay for the clearance, so where do we get the money from? PS – it is their responsibility for the PhD. **CH** to add to a future agenda once we get a quote.

CH- the UoM research office, has contacted the ARC regarding the ARC audits; we are still waiting on a response.

1.1.2. KSM updated the committee on a new industry partner that may join- the Australian Bureau of Statistics. We have a spare ARC scholarship, so we are encouraging them to join the participants lead agreement. CH has sent them a copy of the participant's agreement to start looking at joining us.

1.1.3. PS gave an update.

CSR has officially pulled out.

AusNet has not responded to the lead agreement. PS has spoken to another part of their business, and there is a promising project there.

PS has been talking to Lendlease to replace CSR, and they are interested. We could add them on the initial deal after the Centre commencement.

PS – Woodside has agreed to a second project.

CH to confirm with the research office the last date possible for a response to ensure that the Centre commences by 31st July.

1.2. RECRUITMENT FLYERS

The pdfs of the flyers were sent out to all CIs, and applications from onshore rose to 18. The hard copy flyers have been printed but are held up due to Covid-19 restrictions.

1.3. INDUSTRY AFFILIATES FOR NEW POS

KSM gave an update based on the following feedback from the research office:

From the ARC's perspective, all participating organisations in a Training Centre must sign an agreement with the Admin Org (either participant's agreement or letter of agreement). As far as ARC is concerned, there are only the four categories of organisations.

Administering Organisation means an Eligible Organisation that submits an Application for Grant funding and is responsible for the administration of the Grant under this Grant Agreement.

Other Eligible Organisation means an organisation listed in section 4.7 of the Grant Guidelines, which is not the Administering Organisation on an application.

Partner Organisation means an organisation that is not an Eligible Organisation but is named a contributor to a Research Hub or Training Centre.

Other Organisation means an organisation that is not an Administering Organisation or an Other Eligible Organisation contributing to the research project.

The distinct difference in Partner Org versus Other Org is the role they play in the program. Partner Orgs are expected to have a distinct role and contribute cash/in-kind (depending on scheme) or other resources. They are expected to have a role in research programs and a named PI associated with their participation. Whereas Other Orgs have no cash requirements (usually some sort of in-kind) and serve more as collaborators for distinct pieces of work, or provide access to resources etc. There is no requirement to have a named PI for Other Org.

Any new organisations joining OPTIMA will need to sign an agreement with UoM and be added on RMS to inform the ARC. Their respective contribution (cash and in-kind) will also be entered in RMS and tracked via the Partner Organisation Agreed Contribution Report (POACR) which the ARC uses as a live indicator of how much PO contribution is being made to the Centre. We are expected to update these regularly as changes arise but at the very least, once a year after the annual progress report has been submitted to and approved by the ARC.

Unfortunately, there is no shortcut in the administrative processes since these are put in place to enable the ARC to have visibility of how the Hubs/Centres are progressing.

The outcome is that we scrap the idea of industry affiliates.

2. RECRUITMENT UPDATE

2.1. PS – there is a promising internal applicant for the MON postdoc, he is currently finishing his PhD. PS would like to wait until he submits his thesis before advertising externally.

2.2. CH - the three UoM postdocs will close on 17th June.

KSM - UoM -2 ARC funded, 1 Maths funded. One of these should sit in Computer Science. We have plans to put together the recruitment panel after determining the skillset of the applicants. We should create a working group to shortlist the applicants. CH to ask Joyce Zhang, Michael Kirley, along with KSM to be on the shortlist working group. CH-we need a gender balance on the interview panel. KSM suggested Michael Kirley (black box) be on the recruitment panel, the EXEC agreed. AP reminded CH that a TR1F form would need to be filled out. CH reminded the EXEC of the gender equity requirements of the ARC. As there are four positions advertised in OPTIMA, it is not good if they all go to males. KSM - there is no rush, so we could hold back a position if not all our requirements are satisfied, including if we do not get enough suitable female applicants. We reserve the right not to appoint. The EXEC agrees.

2.3. PhDs

Twenty-three applicants have been rejected. The projects are as shown below with the current PhD assignments:

PO	Lead node	PhD Student
Boeing Aerostructures Australia Pty Limited	UoM	Have a potential Student

CSR Limited	Monash	?
Future Fibre Technologies	Monash	Interview in progress
Mecca Brands Pty Ltd	Monash	The student has been assigned
AGL Energy Limited	UoM	?
AGL Energy Limited	UoM	?
Ausnet Services (Transmission) Pty Ltd	Monash	?
Woodside Energy Ltd.	Monash	?-PS to lead-asked to look at the EOIs
Woodside Energy Ltd.	Monash	?
Melbourne Water Corporation	UoM	Interview in progress
South East Water Corporation	Monash	?-GT and MB asked to look at the EOIs

KSM- there are lots of good female PhDs from Iran and Sri Lanka in the EOIs. – need to somehow distinguish between them., they all have very similar profiles We will probably have ZOOM interviews.

KSM and PS agreed to look through the current list of EOIs and update CH.

3. OPTIMA CENTRE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

- After last month's meeting, CH added some further points to the TOR. The EXEC agreed to the new TOR, and CH will change these from DRAFT to final. Refer to the website for the updated file (<https://optima.org.au/centre-resources/>)

5. INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CH has requested to the UoM research office that we change the Industry TOR. In its current form, it states that we need a member on the committee from every industry partner. This goes against the ARC recommendation that the advisory committees' members are independent and unbiased. Also, if we have twenty industry partners the committee will be too large. The EXEC agreed that we should ask to change the Industry TOR to reflect these concerns and change the meeting schedule to a minimum of one meeting per year. The EXEC will review the Industry TOR in the next meeting after we have received feedback on these updates.

The EXEC discussed potential members:

Leonie Walsh, former lead scientist.

Director-industry growth centres.

KSM it could be strategic to have mining – Newport and Newcrest Mining are potential projects

Advanced manufacturing – try to find people here.

AP –Adrian Beers CEO Mets Ignited Australia.

AE – hard to find the right person in mining, but there always is demand in optimisation problems.

AP – is sustainable resources is an excellent way to go.

KSM – senior people such as Heather St. John at UoM works in RIC.

PS-will check for Heather's equivalent at Monash.

KSM – someone with broad industry experience.

KSM will make a list to circulate to the EXEC. The EXEC to update this list before the next meeting. CH to also distribute the ARC expectations.

6. SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The EXEC read through the TOR – Refer to the website for the updated file (<https://optima.org.au/centre-resources/>)

The EXEC agreed to remove mention to OTHER ORG and change the meeting schedule to a minimum of one meeting per year. CH to contact legal and revise section 2 based on feedback.

The discussion moved to the people we could invite to take part. KSM – we could try to be strategic to include representatives from 'future' international partners.

Already included are:

Lancaster- strength in operations research
Warwick- strength in interdisciplinary maths
Cork-strength in constraint programming

Further suggestions were,
Toronto,
Natasha at Georgia Tech

CH and KSM suggested the diversity should include geography, discipline, and gender.

KSM to start the list for **CH** to circulate it for additions by the committee. The EXEC agreed

7. EQUITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SUB-COMMITTEE TOR

CH shared the TOR for the new sub-committee- refer to the website for a copy. **CH** to update with suggested changes and redistribute to the EXEC.

8. INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

KSM – this standing item is when we can mention new potential opportunities/partners. The role of AP is not a conflict of interest so that he could direct industry to OPTIMA. PS – add to the next agenda an item on mining, **CH** to add to the agenda.

9. UPDATE FROM THEMES

None

10. UPDATE FROM THE SUB-COMMITTEES

No committees have been established yet.

11. AOB

None

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1	Executive committee terms of reference	Terms of reference			
		-plan the first strategic planning meeting (point of discussion updates of projects during student milestones)	CH	02 July 2021	Pending
		-develop terms of reference and policies for the sub-committees	CH	31 July 2021	Pending
2	PO participation	Removal of POs.			
		Ausnet – email the Exec.	CH	21 June 2021	Completed
		Inform AusNet of the new cut off date (20 June)	PS	ASAP	Pending
		Boeing and AGL – wait until the responses at the end of May, then contact ARC.	CH/KSM	01 June 2021	Completed
3	Scientific advisory committee membership	Update	CH	02 July 2021	Pending
4	Industry committee membership	Discuss -refer to the terms of reference	Postponed	02 July 2021	Pending
		Circulate a list of potential members	KSM/CH	30 June 2021	Pending
		Request a change to wording, update and redistribute to the EXEC	CH	02 July 2021	Pending
5	Add to future meetings	Financial incentives for associate investigators	CH	30 Nov 2021	Pending
		Mining – partners discussion	CH	30 Nov2021	Pending
		Boeing security clearance cost – future agenda	CH	02 July 2021	Pending
6	EOIs	KSM and PS sort through the current list of EOIs	KSM/PS	ASAP	Completed