



OPTiMA

ARC TRAINING CENTRE IN
OPTIMISATION TECHNOLOGIES
INTEGRATED METHODOLOGIES
AND APPLICATIONS

MINUTES – OPTiMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FRI 2nd July 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), Doreen Thomas (DT), Peter Taylor (PT), Charlotte Hurry (CH-Minutes)

Apologies: Rob Hyndman (RH)

AGENDA ITEMS

1. ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1.1. PO PARTICIPATION UPDATE

CH-AusNet were given until the 25th of June by RIC to respond, and they have been responding well. Once the project agreement has been drafted we can send it to this committee. No students have been interviewed yet.

KSM - Boeing has been negotiating well and is ready to meet with the proposed student.

AGL – still negotiating the agreement, but we should get the signatures soon. KSM is keen to interview a promising applicant in Denmark and two other applicants.

Melbourne Water – PhD offer made

FFT- PhD offer made

Mecca – The candidate is waiting for permission to travel.

Woodside – There are two defined projects. There are no interviews in process yet. There are candidates in the EOIs who could be good for the second project (black box) but not many for the first.

SE Water – GT has informally interviewed a candidate who has now submitted an EOI. They will interview him and another couple of people. **GT** to check the EOIs.

PS-Lendlease has decided that they will not be joining OPTiMA as a replacement for CSR

1.2. SAC TOR AND MEMBERSHIP

1.2.1. The TOR is still being developed.

1.2.2. Membership ideas:

Chris Beck at Toronto – **KSM** and **AP** to discuss if he wants to join the UoM – Toronto partnership, then ask him to join the SAC.

DT-**Natashia** Boland, although she may have retired

DT- highly recommends **Alexandra** Newman at the University of Colorado – mining background.

PT –**Martin** Groetschel from ZIB in Berlin was the former secretary of the mathematics union or we could ask him for a recommendation from ZIB, since it would be great to have a formal partnership with ZIB

KSM to contact– Natasha, Alexandra and Chris, Martin.

1.3. IAC TOR AND MEMBERSHIP

1.3.1. The TOR is still being developed.

1.3.2. Membership ideas:

KSM maybe not mining at this stage, since the Global Innovation Linkage grant was deemed ineligible. We need to think about whether mining is an important sector for us to move into at this stage.

AP – no longer believes that Adrian Beers is suitable. There are Melbourne based options, and we could put this on hold and think for a while.

KSM/AP – could invite AMIRA, but if we don't have mining yet, let us revisit this later.

DT – Chris Goodes – in Sch. Engineering is an enterprise professor that knows optimisation and mining.

KSM – Len Sciacca in defence.

AP-there is a new AI enterprise professor starting in Eng next week.

PS – Ariel Leibman is a professor of practice at Monash specialising in energy.

DT – Bronwyn Fox – Chief Scientist at CSIRO

AE – Simon Dunstall at CSIRO

KSM –

Michael Grogan, National Director Skills & Training, Advanced manufacturing growth centre, <https://www.amgc.org.au/>

[or Katie O'Connell, Research Director, Advanced manufacturing growth centre]

Francis Norman, General Manager Innovation and Strategy, National Energy Resources Australia (NERA) growth centre <https://www.nera.org.au/Our-team>

[or Roma Sharp, Innovation Programs and Partnerships, NERA]

Heather St. John Director, Research and Enterprise Development, UoM.

DT – The Bureau of Meteorology, PT – don't have enough optimisation skills yet, but it would be good to work with them.

AP – DST group, KSM, we want DST to become a partner, so maybe not for the IAC since we can't have industry partners there.

KSM to approach the following:

Leonie Walsh -Exec agrees

Michael Grogan or Katie O'Connell – Exec agrees

Francis or Roma Sharp – Exec agrees

Bronwyn Fox or Simon– Exec agrees

Heather St. John – Exec agrees

Heather's equivalent at Monash – Exec agrees

KSM – there will be UoM, Monash people involved in industry, but they will not be on the committee. BD people from the nodes can be invited as observers to these meetings. The Exec agrees.

1.4. CENTRE MEMBERSHIP

1.4.1. We need to create a policy for OPTIMA membership categories: students, affiliates.

KSM – There has been interest in OPTIMA from academics external to the Centre. We also have students in the Centre who have no OPTIMA CI as a supervisor. We need to create another category for these people and approve them in the Centre.

PT- in ACEMS, we have Associate Investigators, and we define what they do. These people are not Centre funded. CH to follow ACEMS guidelines to develop a procedure for AIs to be nominated which goes to the

Exec. For approval. See Emily COO ACEMS for their form. CH to contact ACEMS COO and raise at the next meeting the proposed Centre membership categories and approval process for Executive approval.

1.5. ARC LETTERS OF SUPPORT

After a recent request from a CI to ask the ARC for a letter of support for issuing a visa to an international student we have raised this issue to determine a procedure.

KSM-all requests for ARC support must go through the Centre Manager to RIC.

Regarding who may ask:

PS – we should only ask the ARC for those OPTIMA students working with OPTIMA industry partners.

AE – there are other schemes that are classed as a high priority, so there are other options for applicants.

PT – Academics can write them themselves or request that the Directors write the letter, but ARC letter should only be requested for students working on industry partner funded projects with ARC scholarship. The EXEC agrees to all the above. CH to add to Centre policy.

1.6. SCHOLARSHIP DISPARITY – PHDS

Currently, we have three different scholarship amounts, ARC, MONASH and UoM. We want the scholarships for students working with the OPTIMA industry partners to be the same across the Centre. Monash has agreed to provide seven scholarships, and to ask their future industry partners to contribute extra to resolve the disparity. The main issue is when we bring in students who have already won a scholarship of their own, there is no agreement with industry partners to provide the extra money. KSM cannot split existing stipends from the ARC to top up these scholarships. KSM/PT – as per ACEMS, could we use travel money to fill the deficit? The Exec agrees that we can use travel money to fill the deficit. CH to action this after the Centre commences. KSM – I don't believe that we should backdate the top-up scholarships. PT, in future, we could try to create a pot of money for scholarships. In ACEMS, they created a pot of scholarship money. We reallocate the ARC to use the travel money -the EXEC agrees.

1.7. RECRUITMENT UPDATE

1.7.1. PHDs – the EOIs are still coming in but more slowly. CH to do another recruitment drive this month.

1.7.2. Postdocs

KSM – we have seven green applicants (worth interviewing) and 41 orange applicants undergoing the second review. KSM will send all green applications to the Exec to provide feedback and suggestions for the interview panel. AE would like to be on the interview panel since he is also recruiting for another position.

PS-Monash – we are ready to advertise externally. PS is waiting until August for his current PhD student to submit his thesis.

1.7.3. INTERN

CH has dropped to 0.87 FTE; she has applied for a UoM intern to help research management for three months.

KSM – UoM has a group (MSPACE)ace which develops Microcerts. She suggests in future hiring an intern, possibly a Master of mathematics student, to help develop Microcerts for industry training and some website content. CH is looking into this.

1.8. FUNDING REQUEST FOR FFT PROJECT

1.8.1. The student on the computer vision project with FFT requires a high-tech computer. A quote of ~\$5000 has been put forward to the Exec to provide the equipment. However, FFT has agreed to buy a unit, but there are concerns regarding IP. The Exec does not agree to provide extra funding for this unit and suggests a workaround is reached as we currently have with other partners. **PS** to discuss the requirements with Hamid/FFT and find a solution.

1.9. EQUITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SUB-COMMITTEE

1.9.1. CH showed the committee the changes she has made to the EDI TOR. The Exec agrees to the changes, and the TOR can be changed to final.

1.9.2. **CH** to add to future meetings to discuss when members can be invited to participate in the committee.

1.10. INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

KSM has a joint project with Leuven and would like to have a similar collaborative project with Toronto. UoM has a [scheme](#) where we can get two scholarships in optimisation. The candidate receives two PhDs and joint-supervision. PS – we could approach Chris Beck in Toronto; he works in CP. KSM – AP, do you have a lot in common with Chris to make this a partnership? AP- yes, **KSM/AP** to collaborate on a submission.

Monash – potential future partnerships with joint PhD supervision could be with Warwick, IITB academy

1.11. OPTIMA WEBSITE

CH showed the completed website and asked the Exec to sign off. The Exec agrees.

1.12. SEMINAR SERIES

KSM talked through the new AI-Based optimisation seminar series, which will be fortnightly. It is advertised on the events page.

AE – could work with other groups such as ASOR-Simon Dunstall. ANZIAM's MoCaO seminars.

AP – could host them fortnightly.

1.13. EXEC MINUTES

The Exec minutes will be placed in the Centre Resources Section of the Website, with sensitive information removed. The Exec agrees.

BD contacts at the nodes will access the required information through connections with the directors.

1.14. OUTREACH COMMITTEE TOR

Postponed

1.15. INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

KSM – we put in a global grant with Hyam Rubinstein with Newmont Mining Colorado, but instead, the deal was struck with Newmont Australia, and the application was deemed ineligible since there was no international partner.

PT – in mining, they go boom and then bust, so it is not always a safe option

The meeting was concluded at 11.54 am.

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS – still to be updated

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	06 Aug 2021	Pending
		-develop terms of reference and policies for the sub-committees	CH	06 Aug 2021	Pending
2	Recruitment	Readvertise PhD projects	CH	06 Aug 2021	Pending
		Postdocs -send the 'green' applications to the Exec for review	KSM	ASAP	Pending
		Interns- process for hiring interns	CH	01 Nov 2021	Pending
3	Scientific advisory committee membership	Update the TOR	CH	06 Aug 2021	Pending
		Membership– Contact Leonie Walsh; Michael Grogan or Katie O'Connell; Francis or Roma Sharp; Bronwyn Fox or Simon; Heather St. John; Heather's equivalent at Monash	KSM	06 Aug 2021	Pending
4	Industry committee membership	Update the terms of reference	CH	06 Aug 2021	Pending
		Membership - Contact Natasha, Alexandra and Chris, Martin.	KSM	06 Aug 2021	Pending
5	Add to future meetings	Financial incentives for associate investigators	CH	30 Nov 2021	Pending
		Boeing security clearance cost – future agenda	CH	06 Aug 2021	Pending
		Call out for committee membership	CH	01 Sept	Pending
6	EOIs	Check the EOIs.	GT	ASAP	Pending

7	International partnerships	Discuss a Toronto partnership with Chris Beck	KSM/AP	ASAP	Pending
8	Associate Investigators	Contact ACEMS COO for their procedures, prepare and present to Exec	CH	06 Aug 2021	Pending
9	Policy	Add letters of support decision to policy	CH	06 Aug 2021	Pending
10	Finding request	Contact Hamid to discuss computer needs – Exec refused the request	PS	ASAP	Pending