



OPTiMA

ARC TRAINING CENTRE IN
OPTIMISATION TECHNOLOGIES
INTEGRATED METHODOLOGIES
AND APPLICATIONS

MINUTES – OPTiMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FRI 06 August 10:00 – 12:00

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

Apologies: Doreen Thomas (DT), Andreas Ernst (AE)

MINUTED ITEMS

1. ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - 1.1. UPDATE ON IAC & SAC MEMBERSHIP
 - 1.1.1. KSM- has made some contacts, but we are in no rush. PS- Joanna Batstone has agreed to be on the SAC.
 - 1.2. TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE AGENDA
 - 1.3. BOEING SECURITY CLEARANCE
 - 1.3.1.1. Boeing has agreed to pay the security clearance for the student.
 - 1.4. TORONTO PARTNERSHIP UPDATE
 - 1.4.1. AP-Chris has not replied as he is on leave. AP will put a project together, so he has something ready to show Chris. We need two PhD proposals that align at both locations. KSM-There is a Montreal based PhD applicant, which could be an option.
2. INDUSTRY PARTNER UPDATE- WOODSIDE, NEW PARTNERS FOR AFTER COMMENCEMENT
 - 2.1. PS – Maria is meeting Woodside; they have asked to withdraw from OPTiMA as their lead investigator has left. Future communications between RIC and Monash partners should be forward to Peter/Mathura – CH. PS -the business development is low on staff. Monash is down CSR and possibly Woodside, which are three projects. FFT-a student is finalising her enrolment. Mecca – the student starts at OPTiMA in September. GT – South East Water will commence interviewing shortly from the EOI list, and one is promising. AusNet – they are finalising the project, and we will search for students soon.
 - 2.2. KSM – at UoM, we have new partners waiting. Boeing is progressing well. Melbourne Water, we have a student commencing in December (ARC scholarship). AGL is interviewing again. KSM has met with Super Retail Group; they own Rebel sport etc. KSM has offered them the \$20,000 initial deal, along with the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
 - 2.3. Brainstorming adding new partners– CH to add to the agenda for the next meeting. We need to discuss the sectors we are targeting and how best to use the BD teams to help us fulfil our goal. PT - ACEMS – data-driven queuing challenges – spoke to Probe Group who organise call centres. They were optimistic about joining OPTiMA. UoM have five in the works. RH – PT, have you considered the Bureau of meteorology? PT -they tend not to have optimisation problems, but PT will have the conversations. PS – Agilent Technologies is an interesting prospect.
 - 2.4. Mining – CH attended a meeting with the director and centre manager at ARC Training Centre for Integrated Operations for Complex Resources. They are interested in forming a cross centre collaboration, and they will help us find a suitable mining partner. KSM prefers this partnership idea to have our own mining partners.

3. CENTRE MEMBERSHIP-DISCUSS CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND POLICY FOR STUDENTS AND AFFILIATES.
CH – shared the ACEMS documents with the Exec. RH – likes the ACEMS model. KSM – If they are called Associate Investigators (AIs), they should be involved in a project. RH – or someone that is doing optimisation research. PT- we should encourage cross-institution AIs.

KSM/PT/PS – there should be enough output from our own CIs that we don't need to report the publications of AIs. We could ask if they want to contribute any papers rather than expecting it. Associate Investigators is the preferred name, and we will have a similar process to ACEMS. But if any CIs want to nominate, then they can directly ask the Exec to consider. When nominated, the Exec will look at the publications to help the decision. We should avoid unnecessary paperwork for people who are clearly in the optimisation field.

Tasks for CH -Update the website, prepare a form, ask the CIs to nominate. Once the form is ready, we can send this out to people to self-nominate.

The Exec agrees.

4. INDUSTRY PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS-HOW THE FUNDS ARE USED. SHOULD DISCOUNTS BE CONSIDERED FOR MULTIPLE PROJECTS?

CH-If partners bring on multiple projects, could we offer them a discount? AGL had a four-year commitment with two projects, whereas Woodside had a five-year commitment. SE Water is bringing on a second project, but they don't want to pay \$20,000 but might consider a top-up scholarship.

CH – showed the budget breakdown for partners contributions. It showed that a lot of the funding is still attached to the student in training and exchange opportunities. AP – the amount of money industry is paying is not a lot when paying \$20,000. KSM – when the amount goes to \$50,000, then we could discuss discounts again. AP – could we redirect some of the travel money to scholarships. KSM – yes, in future, we could discuss this if, for instance, the exchanges cannot go ahead.

GT – SE Water is working on predict plus optimise. If we could offer \$10,000 to enter, then could they join OPTIMA? PT – OPTIMA is a community, and we need partners that are signing on to the community. But at the end of the project, we won't worry if the second project only attracted \$10,000. CH -we must remember that there is also a shortfall between the Uni scholarship and the OPTIMA scholarship, so \$10,000 will only cover top up and none of the extra initiatives. KSM- is it OK to offer a \$10,000 second project to cover the scholarship/top-up difference to the initial partners. It will only be for the initial partners that have a potential second project. We won't offer the discount later. We will discuss this again in the future when partners are contributing \$50,000 per year. The Exec agrees. GT/PS to convey this information to Woodside and SE Water.

5. SCHOLARSHIP DISPARITY FOR PHDS - REQUEST ARC TO SPLIT FUNDS, 7 MON AND 3 UoM.
Charlotte has asked the ARC to split one of the existing scholarships to cover the gap between university scholarships and the ARC rate. This is only for students assigned to an industry partner. They have agreed in principle, but we are awaiting a response to the formal request. KSM – explained the gap between the Mon and UoM scholarships and the ARC rate, as discussed in the last Exec meeting. KSM – proposes one of the seven MON scholarships be used to top-up the rates across UoM and Monash, especially as the more significant scholarship gap is at Monash.

The EXEC agrees – the conversation is dynamic. We will discuss this later. CH to ensure that the gap is paid to the current OPTIMA industry-based students.

6. RECRUITMENT UPDATE-PHD, POSTDOCS

6.1. UoM – KSM, we interviewed five people, and three stood out. We are preparing an offer to one candidate for a level B in CIS. The two other candidates performed well in the interviews, and they have been invited to give a seminar. If the level B does not accept, then the second candidate who has similar skills to level B will be offered the role.

KSM-The third candidate has robust bushfire modelling, epidemiology skills – in spread and optimisation of controlling the spread. We don't have a current industry partner for this skillset, but I do think that OPTIMA should be looking more broadly than industry. If we can have a postdoc that could collaborate more widely across the university and in other areas, that could work to tackle broader optimisation challenges. Before offering a position, we would ask this person to attend onsite and talk directly to key people in these areas to see if they are suitable in OPTIMA.

6.1.1. PS- Monash has externally advertised their postdoc, applications close 15 August.

6.2. PHDs – recruitment has been discussed in the industry update (Item 4). PS/KSM – We are looking at the EOIs from July.

6.3. Intern – A subsidy was agreed by UoM for a three-month intern, and CH will recruit an intern to start on 18 August.

7. STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING-AGENDA ITEMS, INVITEES, DATE OF THE EVENT

CH proposes a meeting in December – it will either be half-day or one day, depending on the program. It is different to the launch, which will showcase what the Centre is about. The strategic planning meeting will be about developing the direction of the Centre and bringing everyone together.

KSM – on 18 August, there is an OPTIMA seminar. We could look at the research themes and ask for feedback from CIs on what we may want to add to OPTIMA.

IDEAS:

CH/KSM - We could discuss the themes – fleshing them out, we have leaders, but we want to know who is working within each theme. We could bring up the table in the proposal and update it to assign the CIs and PhDs.

CH-KPIs/Milestones

KSM, ask CIs for a five-minute introduction.

CH-Strategic initiatives.

CH- Breakout session, Centre induction for PhDs.

CH/KSM-Session on not creating silos. – a discussion on the difference in philosophy between disciplines.

Add a networking session.

CH we would invite all Centre members and industry partners. We could give the industry partners a forum.

The Exec agrees.

CH – ask for feedback, get potential dates, put together a program, share the backbone of the strategic plan, update the table in the proposal. Present to the Exec Committee for their approval in September.

8. IAC TOR

The EXEC signed off on the TOR, removed 3.5, and made 6 more support than demanding. Advice on opportunities to raise OPTIMA profile, including through advocacy where appropriate.

CH to make the changes and change from the draft.

- 9. SAC TOR – postponed
- 10. OUTREACH COMMITTEE TOR– postponed
- 11/12/13/AOB – None

Meeting finished at 11:50

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1	Terms of reference	IAC TOR-make the approved changes	CH	03 Sept 2021	Pending
		-develop terms of reference and policies for the sub-committees	CH	03 Sept 2021	Pending
2	Recruitment	Interns- process for hiring interns	CH	01 Nov 2021	Pending
3	Scientific advisory committee membership	Update the terms of reference	CH	03 Sept 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	03 Sept 2021	Pending
4	Industry committee membership	Membership - Contact Natasha, Alexandra and Chris, Martin.	KSM	03 Sept 2021	Pending
5	Industry partners	Forward emails from Monash partners directly to PS and Mathura	CH	ASAP	Completed
		Set up a meeting with ARC ITTCS to discuss collaboration	CH	December	Pending
		Speak to the Bureau of Meteorology regarding optimisation problems.	PT	December	Pending
		Update industry partners on the second project discount	GT/PS	ASAP	Completed
6	International partnerships	Discuss a Toronto partnership with Chris Beck-put a project together	KSM/AP	ASAP	Pending

7	Centre Membership	Associate investigators - Update the website, prepare a form, ask the CIs to nominate. Once the form is ready, send this out to people to self-nominate.	CH	03 Sept 2021	Pending
8	Scholarships	Action the disparity issue	CH	ASAP	Completed
9	Plan the strategic planning meeting	Dates, program, events	CH	03 Sept 2021	Pending
10	Add to future meetings	Financial incentives for associate investigators	CH	30 Nov 2021	Pending
		Call out for committee membership	CH	04 Oct 2021	Pending
		Brainstorming adding new partners	CH	03 Sept 2021	Pending