



OPTiMA

ARC TRAINING CENTRE IN
OPTIMISATION TECHNOLOGIES
INTEGRATED METHODOLOGIES
AND APPLICATIONS

MINUTES – OPTiMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 15:30 – 17:00 – 01 JUL 22

ZOOM <https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/82659945432?pwd=dU5ZUIBkNFBwVTJuSW1YMFRWQXVldz09>

Password: 578299

Attendees: Kate Smith-Miles (Chair -KSM), Guido Tack (GT), Peter Stuckey (PS), Rob Hyndman (RH), Peter Taylor (PT), Doreen Thomas (DT), Charlotte Hurry (CH – minutes)

Apologies: Adrian Pearce (AP), Andreas Ernst (AE),

MINUTES

1. SAC

Jose Fernando Oliveira, yes

Natashia Boland, no

Joanna Batstone Yes

Chris Beck yes

Greet Vanden Berghe yes

Anna Lena-Sachs – Lancaster – still to ask

Jurgen - Warwick– still to ask

Barry - Cork – still to ask

KSM, what should this committee be? KSM discusses what other ITTCs are doing. PT-at ACEMS, we did not always take the advice, but it was valuable. SAC should have overseas members and/or international members. KSM has emailed ZIB but has not received a response. The EXEC suggests inviting Sebastian Pokutta. **PS** to action.

The EXEC to look at the OR people at Lancaster to ensure that ALS is the best person.

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/stor-i/about-us/academic-staff/>

CH – we need to remember gender equity.

The Agenda for these meetings could include:

-updates of the Centre

-publications/collaborations

-grant schemes

Should we have student presentations?

- as this is an ITTC, we could include a couple of students per meeting.

2. IAC

Leonie Walsh Yes

Francis Norman Yes

Michael Grogan not replied

Bronwyn Fox is considering it. DT will follow up.

Other ideas for KSM to follow up.

KSM – let's ask IBM? DT – to follow up with IBM (Iven Mareels).

Gurobi.KSM to follow up with Simon Bowly.

Lauren Peronne – Google

Leo – worked for Xpress optimisation

Smaller consulting companies like Biarri.

KSM – Let's focus on the R&D end of industry, not potential end-users.

3. Projects

KSM, CH and PS gave an update.

- a. Olya will not be involved immediately with the ABS project, due to her concerns about the relevance of the project for her research interests. For now, it will be Peter Taylor and Kate Smith-Miles. Once the project progress, we will see if it is relevant for MK or Olya.
- b. GT-SE Water student will start on 1st August.
- c. PS-Engie has all the paperwork, and it is looking promising. We need to consider adding Ariel as a CI if this goes ahead.
- d. AILECS (AFP) are interested in OtherOrg.
- e. CSL, CH, PS and Mathura to follow up. We need to consider adding Aldeida as a CI if this goes ahead.
- f. CH-Philanthropy at Monash could be an option; CH is currently in discussions with Monash.
- g. PT-Keith is leaving ProbeCX, so we need to ensure the same quality of supervision; he has already spoken to his replacement.
- h. KSM-Niall is leaving Boeing, and KSM has already spoken to his replacement.
-We need to ensure that when a PO leaves, we can still create an impact on the company to meet our KPIs.

CH will not be organising CI/AI meetings but will hold some smaller sessions for CI/AIs that missed out and are interested. PS has suggested that the next CI/AI meetings are getting to know you, but we may still get some ideas generated for new partnerships when we learn more about our people.

4. Recruitment

CH proposed changing our current year Hew 7 Outreach Officer for years four and five. Hew 7 Outreach Officer years four and five FTE 1 (7.1-7.2) (expected expenditure with indexation is \$278,184)

to

Hew 6 Education and Outreach Officer years one through to four FTE 0.5 (6.1-6.1) (expected expenditure with indexation is \$248,910)

In the first proposal, we asked for one Outreach Officer for two years at the end of the project. However, we have fewer industry partners than expected due to Covid. We understand that having good outreach and education programmes in Year one will help us advertise the value of OPTIMA to industry. Further, we have delivered a strategic plan with comprehensive education, training, and outreach programmes. The incumbent's role will be to assist the Centre Manager in delivering these programs and supplying much-needed support in the management of the Centre, rather than creating the programmes. Therefore, we can reduce the FTE and the Hew level to 6 to create salary savings that will allow us to support this staff member part-time for four years.

The EXEC agrees.

CH-we also should have asked the ARC for permission to change Level A to Level B for three years. CH has asked retrospectively and is waiting for an answer.

Level A postdoc – CH-we still have a five-year position that is not filled. The Exec – we would like to wait a bit longer to see what new projects we bring on board. We could have options to split this into two postdocs or change to a level B if the ARC agrees. **CH** to add to the next meeting.

5. ARC Stipend Monash

Monash has responded to let us know that if they released the ARC stipend, they would still like to get the HERDC associated with that. CH proposed that we send the FFT income to Monash as FFT is based at Monash anyway. – **The Exec Agrees**

They have also indicated that they will remove one of the seven Monash stipends from the project. CH-The EXEC already agreed to this. CH has let Monash know that this action removes our obligation to bring new POs to the project at Monash, which means

no HERDC for that project. However, CH proposes we wait to see if Monash can secure enough new partners before September before we make our final decision. – **The Exec Agrees, CH** to inform Mathura.

6. PO contributions

CH-The rate has now been set at \$100,000 for the life of the project or \$125,000 if using a Monash Stipend. **The Exec Agrees**

PS – explains that some potential POs have been quoted \$100,000 when using Monash stipends, which we need to honour due to some confusion. New POs will be given the correct rates. CH -we will need to charge future partners more to cover these losses; she has already spoken about this with Mathura.

7. Innovation week at Melbourne Connect

CH-OPTIMA have been invited to submit an EOI for this event. It is an excellent event to promote OPTIMA to industry. Ideas were discussed. The EXEC agreed on a panel discussion with a network event. **CH** to organise.

8. Update from the sub-committee

E&T

The EXEC discussed the MOOC. It was decided that Coursera would be a suitable provider. We would co-brand it with MON/UoM/OPTIMA. The course should be introductory and suitable for our industry partners and the public. It should discuss the breadth of optimisation. We should include a case study of many ways to approach a problem. It needs a good title. Find an advisor in professional jobs to help target it correctly. We could look at two angles, technical and professional. It should not be modelling but working out how to model a problem—also handling uncertainty.

KSM – we could involve Mspace at UoM and see if we can link it to a Microcert.

CH to arrange a meeting with KSM/**PS** and Jane McAlear in Mspace.

CH to arrange a meeting with CI/AIs interested in developing a MOOC.

9. Student Exchange Programs

CH – The E&T committee have sent the webpage's first draft for international exchanges. For national exchanges, we have a student visiting in September from the Adelaide ITTC. **CH-** will contact Adelaide to arrange a formal exchange for our students. **CH** will also complete the task of compiling a list of ITTCs and highlighting ITTCs that use/need optimisation.

Prospectus/Video

The meeting ended - **CH** will send a follow-up email.

10. CSIRO Next-Gen

The meeting ended - CH will email the program to see if we are eligible to apply for a future round.

The meeting ended at 17:10

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1	Sub-committees and Theme Leaders to hold meetings	Discuss and prioritise actions from the Strategic Plan	CH/KSM/PS/Theme Leaders	ASAP	In progress
2	Scientific advisory committee membership	Plan for 1st meeting in November 2022. Finalise membership.	KSM	1 Aug 22	In progress
3	Optimisation Training Centres and CoEs	Compile a list	CH/KSM	1 Apr 22	overdue
4	Industry committee membership	Plan for 1st meeting in November 2022. Finalise membership.	KSM	1 Aug 22	In progress
5	Industry partners	Set up a meeting with ARC ITTCS to discuss collaboration	CH	1 Jul 22	Pending
		ARC -arrange a meeting to discuss industry joining options.	CH	29 th July	Pending
		Follow up on industry partners mentioned in minutes	CH/PS/KSM	29 th July	In progress
6	Als	Contact Chris Manzie	DT	04 Apr 22	Completed
7	Student exchange	Create a program and website, follow up.	CH/E&T	ASAP	In progress
8	Centre launch	Finalise venue/proceedings and speakers	CH	15 Aug	In progress
9	AI Induction	Add further info	CH	04 Jul 22	In progress
10	Recruitment	Follow up with ARC and advertise the Outreach position	CH	29 th July	In progress
		Add Level A discussion to the next meeting	CH	29 th July	In progress
11	ARC stipend	Inform Mathura	CH	29 th July	In progress

12	Innovation week	Submit EOI	CH	ASAP	Complete
13	MOOC	Set up meetings	CH	ASAP	Complete
14	CSIRO Next GEN	Email regarding eligibility	CH	ASAP	Complete
15	Prospectus	Email for feedback	CH	ASAP	Complete