



OPTiMA

ARC TRAINING CENTRE IN
OPTIMISATION TECHNOLOGIES
INTEGRATED METHODOLOGIES
AND APPLICATIONS

MINUTES – OPTiMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FRI 1 APRIL 10:00 – 12:00

LOCATION: ZOOM

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

Apologies: Adrian Pearce (AP), Peter Taylor (PT)

MINUTED ITEMS

1. Actions from previous meetings
 - a. Action 2 & 4) IAC
KSM will follow up with the committees after Easter. Bronwyn has not yet replied, and neither has Simon Dunstall.
DT will speak to Bronwyn.
 - b. CSIRO NextGen
This was raised as the next round is April 22. CH showed the Exec minutes from February that outline some of the feedback from the Next Gen information session. AE-as OPTiMA already has government funding, so we may not be a good applicant for this program. KSM believes we may have a case to put forward. However, we need more time to consider what kind of bid we could put in, so we won't go for the next round. CH to add to the agenda for the future.
 - c. Centre Launch. Charlotte will go ahead and plan for a December date at Melbourne Connect. We will plan the annual meeting and advisory meetings at the same time. CH to find the date and check Melbourne Connect venues.
2. Strategic Plan
PT provided feedback to the SP by email. The suggestion to put Equity as a Strategic Priority was rejected as this has previously been discussed, and equity is considered to fit well in the E&T plan. It is better to treat it as pervasive throughout all we do rather than as a separate priority. It was agreed to update the wording on the Actions so that they are all clearly Actions. Other updates were agreed to, and CH will now edit the plan.
The data management plan was shown to the Exec. A few minor edits were suggested on how data will be stored—CH to update.
3. ARC STIPEND VARIATION REQUEST
In the Aug 2021 minutes, the Executive agreed to ask the ARC for permission to use one of the ARC stipends as a top-up for students that have Uni stipends. The ARC has

now given permission. As Monash holds seven of the ten stipends, the Exec agreed to ask Monash to allow the release of one of the stipends held there to split to pay the scholarship gaps. The money will be used to top-up stipends, with the money to be divided between Monash and UoM. CH will ask Monash via Mathura, and CH will send the budget to show that we have no other available funds for this purpose. If Monash only agrees to the provision that they remove one of the agreed Monash scholarships, then we are willing to undergo this loss if we have no choice.

4. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

People: Ellie has agreed to be an AI. Gleb Belov has moved from Monash, but the Exec is happy to keep him as an AI. Three PhDs in Uwe's team and a Masters in Hamideh's team will join the Centre.

Industry:

AusNet- PS and Ariel will come up with a project. PS – will first follow up with Ganesh from Ausnet as per email advice from James Seymour from C4NET passed on by KSM on 9/2/22.

SE Water - a student who has accepted and has applied for a visa.

MW – we have developed an internal agreement and will be paid through the TR1F process.

Probe group – they want a liability cap of \$200,000, so we are trying to draft a Project Agreement that suits both parties.

KSM – offering up ABS to another CI to supervise; anybody interested should contact Kate.

CSL- Aldeida is having conversations with CSL.

5. NEW CIs

CH showed the response from RIC regarding adding new CIs. She noted that UoM has 12 CIs, and Monash have six. It was agreed that we should consider adding new CIs to the Centre, especially if the proposed CIs were leading the supervision of industry projects. All OPTIMA CIs will vote on new CIs. There were no objections from the Exec. New CI proposals can be raised at future meetings.

6. MASTERS STUDENTS

It was discussed if we should ask POs to pay for Masters students. The Exec agreed that if we have Masters by Research, we will ask for the same yearly cash commitment from the POs but over a shorter time scale. We will offer Masters by Coursework for free if it is attached to a current project. The Exec agreed we will concentrate for the moment on the current PhD projects before exploring Masters projects.

7. POSTDOC FUNDING

The Exec agreed to create a line item in the budget for postdoc travel. This will be for OPTIMA paid postdocs with no access to these funds. There will be no money in year one, but as more POs join, CH will move funds onto this line item. KSM discussed the opportunity for creating consulting funds for the postdocs based on consulting opportunities; CIs should consider this if they have available opportunities for the postdocs.

8. AI INDUCTIONS

CH asked for feedback on the induction process for AIs. The feedback was that we need to outline what the AIs get from OPTIMA. CH and KSM to draft.

9. Update from Themes (SI*)
10. Update from Sub-committees (SI*)
11. AOB

Meeting ended at 12:00.

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1	Terms of reference	-develop terms of reference and policies for the sub-committees	CH		
		Education and Training Plan	E&T Comm	23 March 22	completed
		Budget Plan	CH	23 March 22	overdue
		Governance Plan	CH	23 March 22	completed
		Data Management Plan	CH	23 March 22	completed
		Outreach Plan	Out Comm	23 March 22	completed
2	Scientific advisory committee membership	Plan for 1st meeting in March 2022. 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	1 Apr 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 March 2022. Membership. Membership - Contact Natashia, Alexandra and Chris, Martin.	KSM	1 Apr 22	Pending
5	Industry partners	CSL – follow up with Monash	CH/Aldeida	asap	Pending
		Set up a meeting with ARC ITTCS to discuss collaboration	CH	1 Mar 22	overdue
		Speak to the Bureau of Meteorology regarding optimisation problems.	PT	1 Apr 22	overdue
		AusNET – follow up with Ganesh	PS	ASAP	Pending
		ARC -arrange a meeting to discuss industry joining options.	CH	04 May 22	Pending
		Rockwell	AP	04 May 22	Pending
6	Strategic Plan	Make final edits	CH	27 Apr	Pending
7	Annual Report	Count these 'internal' arrangements as OPTIMA projects. Add a section in the Annual Report	CH	04 May 2022	Pending

8	Postdoc travel funds	Create line item	CH	ASAP	pending
9	Als	Contact Chris Manzie	DT	04 Apr 22	overdue
10	Add to future meetings	Financial incentives for associate investigators	CH	04 May 22	Pending
		Level A postdoc discuss	CH	06 Jun 22	Pending
		CSIRO NextGen Graduate Program	CH	1 Jun 22	Pending
11	Centre launch	Start planning	CH	1 Apr 22	Pending
12	ARC stipend split	Contact Mathura	CH	ASAP	pending
13	AI Induction	Add further info	CH	04 May 22	pending
14	Y3 forms for POs	Create and set date	CH	1 Oct 22	Pending