



MINUTES – OPTiMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FRI 4th FEBRUARY 10:00 – 12:00

LOCATION: ZOOM

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

Apologies:

MINUTED ITEMS

1. Actions from previous meetings
 - a. Action 2 & 4)

KSM has contacted Leonie Walsh and Francis Norman, and they will meet to discuss. Michael Grogan has not yet responded. KSM asked the Exec if they would prefer to contact the potential committee members they know. The Exec is happy for KSM to proceed. KSM/CH, we will aim to have the first meeting after the SP is finalised. KSM to contact Bronwyn Fox (CSIRO) to join IAC but let her know that she can have a nominee in Simon Dunstall.

2. Membership Updates
 - a) Industry partners and projects

KSM-Melbourne Water 2nd project has a staff member on secondment doing a PhD with Tim Fletcher. KSM can help with their problem, so she has offered for him to join OPTiMA at a discounted rate. However, as MW has already paid Tim's Group, there would need to be an Internal transfer within UoM. We also need to develop an internal project agreement for on-campus collaboration. KSM-What other projects can we pick up with an internal agreement, are there other Uni projects that fall under this banner? PT-we need to ensure that we report to the ARC all our industry partners. We need to determine how we count these 'internal' arrangements as OPTiMA projects. KSM/PT, let's make sure we have a section in the Annual Report to reflect this. CH to action. RH – has a PhD student L.B, with a similar industry project – we should look at how we can add the industry partners from these projects. RH- these projects may not involve money but do involve data. I have a student N.P who has an external project that we could add.

AusNet - PS contacted them in January 2022 to start the project plan. He will follow up. -PS to contact.

SE Water Mon Project - GT is interviewing. GT to update CH

ProbeGroup -the student is arriving in Australia soon. PT- we don't know where we are with this project. CH to follow up paperwork and contact ProbeGroup.

KSM- ABS – there is a project, and they have committed. Olya from CIS at Melbourne will be a co-supervisor with KSM (or possibly another CI). We have spoken to procurement at ABS, and it looks as though the project will go ahead. They will join as Other Org. CH – to follow up with ABS.

AP – no project yet with Rockwell, AP to provide updates later.

KSM and BD Team are contacting LIFE BLOOD. Mark Fackrell is interested in a project with them. PT- Achini is working with Red Cross to be customer-focused. We need to discuss the possibilities further with the BD team.

PS is talking to John Grundy as he has links to industry with optimisation problems. We may be able to organise projects with these organisations.

KSM – we can look at other partners. CH to get a list of all other Training Centres and CoEs that might have optimisation problems. PS- We could look at RACE for 2030 at Monash.

b) Staff/Students

Level A – postdoc – KSM we should postpone for longer, raise again in June. **The Exec agrees.**

PS – Software Developer – internal candidate matches the role, so that we will hire him if he interviews well.

c) AIs

PT-we need self-nominated AIs to explain better what they bring to OPTIMA. They need to have an internal sponsor or a firm idea for collaboration. For instance, can they co-supervise masters students?

CH to update the form to include 'internal sponsor' and details on collaboration.

KSM – will contact A.P to see if there is a collaboration he can join; otherwise, the Exec will reject at this time.

Lusheng, PT – he has a strong background of great interest. **The Exec agrees.** We want to explore more—CH to invite Lusheng to give a seminar on optimisation. The Exec have noted stochastic programming or Nash games to be of interest CH to flag the seminar with Tansu as it falls in his area of research. There is potential here for collaboration.

DT-Chris Manzie has now expressed interest in joining as long as it does not impact his industry partnerships. The Exec agrees to develop the internal agreement first.

DT – to contact him to let him know that we are creating something. **KSM/CH** to develop the first draft of internal partnership on the MW project. **CH** to add to agenda for May.

3. KPIs

Discussed the changes requested by the ARC. The **Exec agrees** to increase the joint publication KPIs and Industry Briefings. The **Exec agrees** to push back on industry visits. **CH** to contact the ARC.

CH to add to the PhD Student agreement that they need to write a report yearly for the industry partners.

4. Masters Projects

KSM-We don't have scholarships available for Master students, so we need to consider other ways of funding them. CH-Mathura (Monash) has asked to convert the PhDs to Masters. CH explained that as the application was for PhDs, the ARC may not look too favourably on converting these to Masters. The Exec agrees to seek other options first. If an industry project comes in that will only need a Masters' project, the Exec can meet to discuss if the stipend variation request could be submitted to the ARC. **CH** to contact Mathura to ask if Monash would convert one Monash PhD Stipend to two Masters. The response will help inform future discussions on this.

Discuss further in item 6.

5. Strategic Plan

CH – showed the SP that is in development.

The EDI committee has met, the other two sub-committees have meetings planned. They will develop the Actions for their committees and the Plans. KSM queried the difference in outreach (education, active) and communication (information transfer, passive).

CH will send the updated plan before the next Exec Meeting for Exec feedback. **Exec** to provide feedback.

PT- We need to change Objective 1.5 in Priority One from "must ensure that OPTIMA's research programme is internationally competitive and informed by global perspectives" to "Ensure OPTIMA's research programme is at the leading edge of research internationally". **The Exec agrees**. **CH** to update all documents.

6. CSIRO NextGen Graduate Program

AP- explained the NextGen Graduate Program <https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-us/funding-programs/programs/Next-Generation-Graduates-Programs>. There have also been contacts through Howard, GT and AP. We need to find a challenge that fits the criteria. KSM/PY/PS -we could go in for the next round.

KSM-Can have PhD, Masters, Honours? KSM- if we can bring in Masters, then it brings in a lot more opportunities. We could ask all our current partners if they'd like to join an application for this scheme.

AP, GT and CH will go to the information session on Monday.

The information below was provided during the later info session but has not been discussed with the Exec, added here for recording purposes:

CH- The programs can range from highly specific projects around applications for various situations, but they must have a theme.

You can have any makeup of partners that you like, and you don't need to have 10 PhD students; you can have a mix of honours, 1-year masters and Mphil/PhD students to decrease the industry contribution. The ten projects need to form a 'program' where the projects all contribute to a larger goal. We can mix and match PhD and Masters. 10 PhDs is \$600,000 or 10 Masters is \$134,000. They expect that not all cohorts can start together, but they must be able to do the coursework simultaneously.

Here are no blanket rules for IP. CSIRO is the holder of the project agreement, but they won't own IP.

No double-dipping into commonwealth research funds. – CSIRO will provide clarity soon.

Encouraged to use CSIRO academics, but it is not required.

There will be multiple submission rounds

Coursework will be offered in mixed mode, with a large part being offered remote or in a local CSIRO/Data61 office

The industry placement is not a workplace experience in the way that an internship might be considered. It is an integral part of the PhD. The industry partner is required to be Australian. There may be restrictions on participants leaving Australia immediately after the PhD, but more details will come.

Further information from CSIRO

Funding may be provided by Universities on behalf of Small Businesses and Start-up companies under the following circumstances.

Small Business means an Australian-owned and managed organisation which has fewer than twenty full-time employees who reside in Australia. The business must have a staff member who is based in Australia capable of providing the required student supervision.

Start-up means a company that is commercialising research and development (R&D) activities and has an average annual revenue over the previous two years of income that does not exceed \$5 million per year. The start-up must have a majority of its

employees (by number) and assets (by value) inside Australia. The business must have a staff member who is based in Australia capable of providing the required student supervision.

Data61/CSIRO may require more information as to the proposed funding and placement arrangements in order to make a determination on the application.

These details have now been updated on the website and in the guidelines.

7. Update from Themes (SI*)
8. Update from Sub-committees (SI*)
9. AOB

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	In progress
		Budget Plan	CH	23 March 22	Pending
		Governance Plan	CH	23 March 22	Pending
		Data Management Plan	CH	23 March 22	Pending
		Outreach Plan	Out Comm	23 March 22	In progress
		Equity and diversity policy	EDI 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	4 Mar 22	Pending
3	Optimisation Training Centres and CoEs	Compile a list	CH/KSM	4 Apr 22	Pending
4	Industry committee membership	Plan for 1st meeting in March 2022. Membership. Membership - Contact Natashia, Alexandra and Chris, Martin.	KSM	4 Mar 22	Pending
5	Industry partners	Contact AusNet for project agreement.	PS	4 Mar 22	Pending
		Set up a meeting with ARC ITTCS to discuss collaboration	CH	1 Mar 22	Pending
		Speak to the Bureau of Meteorology regarding optimisation problems.	PT	1 Mar 22	Pending
		ProbeGroup – follow up and complete the project agreement template.	PT/Mark Fackrell/ CH	ASAP	In progress
		zipgen.com – contact regarding the project.	KSM	4 Mar 22	Pending
		AGL – follow up on the second project.	KSM	4 Mar 22	Pending
		SE Water-updates CH on recruitment	GT	4 Mar 22	Pending

		ABS follow up Rockwell	CH AP	ASAP 04 May 22	In progress Pending
6	Strategic Plan	Follow up committees	CH	25 Feb 22	In progress
		Change wording for Objective	CH	25 Feb 22	Pending
7	Annual Report	Count these 'internal' arrangements as OPTIMA projects. Add a section in the Annual Report	CH	04 May 2022	Pending
8	AI form	Update	CH	4 Apr 22	Pending
9	Als	Contact Lusheng for Seminar and flag Tansu Contact A.Pal for collaboration Contact Chris Manzie	CH KSM DT	ASAP ASAP 04 Apr 22	In Progress In Progress In Progress
10	Add to future meetings	Financial incentives for associate investigators Level A postdoc discuss CSIRO NextGen Graduate Program	CH CH CH	04 May 22 06 Jun 22 04 Mar 22	Pending Pending Pending
11	Centre launch	Start planning	CH	04 May 2022	Pending
12	First draft of internal partnership	Develop as part of the MW project at UoM	CH/KSM/RIC	04 May 2022	Pending
13	PhD Student agreement	Make changes	CH	04 May 2022	Pending
14	KPIs	Contact ARC	CH	ASAP	Completed
15	Masters	Discuss Mon stipends with Mathura	CH	ASAP	Pending
16	Strategic Plan	Provide feedback Add updated from these minutes	Exec CH	04 Mar 22 ASAP	Pending In progress