Darwin College Computer Committee – Minutes

Meeting date: Thursday 8 October 2015

Present: Alan Blackwell (chair), Andrzej Bugajski, Matthew Edwards, Isak Herman, Espen Koht, Andy Pitts

No declarations of interest were recorded

Apologies: Andrew Melzer, Carl Rasmussen

Minutes of the last meeting were approved

Matters arising: **Action: EK** to distribute revised College IT strategy to Bursar, and to members of committee, after which it will be forwarded to Council. AB reports to Governing Body once a year at the college AGM, which is the customary time for IT strategy to be considered by the Fellowship.

751. Website update

Mira Nair does not yet have a contract. **Action: ME** to update casual employment contract for webmasters.

First task for MN on main site will be to restructure lecture series archive in preparation for 2016 series

Departments have reviewed 'local' content sections, contents of information book will in future be distributed into those sections as appropriate

Accommodation pages are to be expanded, including floor plans for flats

752. DCSA site update

Access permissions have been set up for individual clubs and societies, but content is not yet active

Discussion of Facebook usage: There are many FB groups created by Darwin students. There are some resulting problems with name contention (e.g. with Darwin College, Kent). The committee confirmed previously agreed policy that Darwin students should not be required to use FB. It was also agreed that we should retain a central aggregation point via DCSA website, and that FB should only be used for transient content, with the College servers used to host any content having value beyond the current year (e.g. policy, constitution, historical records). Where a particular FB group is expected to remain useful over several years, it would be beneficial if a Fellow or member of staff was added as a long-term (passive) administrator, to deal with cases where DCSA loses contact with previous student administrators. **Action: IH** to suggest to DCSA that AB plays this role.

753. Computing facilities status

Working with St Edmunds, EK has developed an open source issue tracking system "osTicket" that will be deployed for online reporting and requests to college departments. There is an instance of osTicket running on Darwin servers.

Cabling work for network deployment is currently slower than usual, due to staff availability issues

754. University information systems

EK noted that incoming students seem to have a poor initial experience, owing to multiple levels of authentication and issuing of credentials from apparently independent systems (CamSIS, Raven, Hermes …?)

Darwin has subscribed to the Microsoft EES package recently negotiated for use across Cambridge. These EES licenses are for use by College Staff (fellows and students will have EES access via their departments).

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 3 February 2016

Alan Blackwell
9 October 2015