

Resources Requirements for Recruitment and Outreach Activities

Since the appointment of a Schools Liaison Officer in 2007, the school has become involved in new activities that did not have to be resourced before. In particular:

Computing Support:

Current CO/CSO resources are targeted at supporting teaching and research. There is no explicit agreement that recruitment activities should be supported by computing staff. The school should agree some measure of support for recruitment activities such as -

Workshops: Many planned workshop activities can't be run under Linux. This may require that some lab machines are re-installed as windows machines for the duration of a workshop, and then restored to their former condition.

Equipment: The School Liaison officer has set aside several Dell 240s that were to be de-commissioned, in order to keep them available for future workshops. CO effort may be required, for example in order to network these if they are to be used in-house.

Events:

A lecture for 300 school pupils was held on 28th November 2008, in which four members of academic staff and twenty research students were involved, as well as the school liaison officer.

A large "computing careers" workshop is to be held on May 28th in the Appleton Tower. This will invite up to 300 school pupils to try a variety of workshops run by the School of Informatics, Heriot Watt and Napier Universities, and local employers. This event will use much of the third and fifth floors, the lecture theatres and the AT foyer. As Informatics will be expected to produce good workshops in order to attract pupils to study here, effort from academic and research staff will be very important. Assistance on the day will require the input of student helpers and some admin assistance will be required. Computing support staff expect to be busy with the move to the new building at this time, but CO assistance in developing some of the workshops may be needed and CSO assistance in getting the labs ready for the workshops will be essential.

Informatics Demos Service

Some academic and research staff have expressed willingness to provide demos for outreach and publicity purposes. Up till now, each demo has tended to be engineered to run on one laptop – making it difficult to manage as the number of demos grows, and as demos age and their creators move on. We would like to resource a "demos server" so that as many demos as possible can be hosted on the web. This will require significant disk (and backup) space. We should also consider how demos are to be maintained in order to extend their usefulness.

Summary

We ask that the PRC consider the resources required as a result of these new activities and alert the appropriate committees and heads of institute as required.

Morna Findlay and Diana Sisu, 8th January 2008