

Turku Centre for Computer Science - TUCS

Board meeting

Monday, June 9, 2003, at 13.00

DataCity A, 5th floor, Meeting room Monologi

Items of the agenda

1. Validity of the meeting and presence of a quorum
2. Additional items
3. Applications to the TUCS Graduate School (Järvi)
4. Postdoctoral applications (Järvi)
5. Victor Tsygankov's study plan (Le Grand)
6. Dates for the upcoming board meetings (Le Grand)
7. New members to the Advisory Committee (Aspnäs)
8. Discussion item: TUCS Seminar (Gustafsson)
9. Discussion item: ICT House (Aspnäs)
10. Announcements
 - 10.1 Announcements by the Director
 - 10.2 Minutes of the TUCS board meeting of May 12, 2003

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Minutes

Present:

Members of the board:

Ralph-Johan Back, Prof., Chair
Jouni Isoaho, Prof.
Juhani Karhumäki, Prof.
Tapio Salakoski, Prof.
Kaisa Sere, Prof., Vice-Director
Reima Suomi, Prof., Vice-Chair
Jaakko Kuosmanen, CEO
Paula Steinby, Ph.D. Student
Henry Lönnbäck, M.Sc. Student
Niko Railo, M.Sc. Student

TUCS staff:

Mats Aspnäs, Coordinator, Presenting Officer
Christel Donner, Administrative Officer, Presenting Officer
Ulrika Gustafsson, Administrative Officer
Pia Le Grand, Administrative Officer, Presenting Officer, secretary of the meeting

1. Validity of the meeting and presence of a quorum

The notice of a board meeting has to be sent three weekdays before the meeting takes place. The meeting must be valid and the members present have to constitute a quorum. The meeting constitutes a quorum when the chairman and at least five members of the board are present.

The notice of this board meeting was sent on Wednesday, June 4, 2003.

Proposal: The validity of the meeting and presence of a quorum will be recorded.

Decision: According to the proposal.

2. Additional items

The agenda of possible additional items will be handed out in the beginning of the meeting.

Proposal: Possible additional items will be presented.

Decision: Items 7 and 9 were added to the agenda.

3. Applications to the TUCS Graduate School (Järvi)

TUCS Graduate School Committee held a meeting on May 27th, 2003, where 49 of the 64 the applications that had arrived by the deadline of May 15th, 2003, were examined (15 applications had been rejected by Timo Järvi and Mats Aspnäs). This time 10 applicants were estimated to 3- or 2½. In addition, 11 applicants were rated as 2+. A listing of all the applicants is marked 1a/05/03. The GS committee's evaluation of the applicants is summarized in 1c/05/03.

The applications of the potential TUCS students have been sent to the members of the Board prior to the BM (paper format, marked 1b/05/03). The rest of the applications can be viewed at the meeting or in the office of Administrative Officer Pia Le Grand.

At present TUCS has 4 salary positions open for Autumn 2003. There are 3 grant positions available. We have asked whether the laboratories can take new Ph.D. students using project money: Carlsson has given a positive reply concerning 1-2 positions. (On the other hand he wants to move BenMoussa from project funding to grant.) Karhumäki promises to pay project funding for 2 Finns during the rest of the year and he hopes to be able to continue this for 1 person next year. Isoaho has undecided applications in the Academy of Finland and wonders whether TUCS can accept students conditionally.

My proposal is presented in a table (appendix 1e/05/03). I have used the following principles:

- For salary or grant position the laboratory must have some outside funding.
- Second doctoral degree is not funded.
- Salary and grant positions are meant for relatively young researchers.
- Status has been proposed only for those, who have already begun their Ph.D. studies.

Appendices: 1a/05/03: Listing of the applicants (electronic)
1b/05/03: Applications of potential students of the TUCS GS (paper)
1c/05/03: Evaluation of the applicants by the GS committee (electronic)
1d/05/03: TUCS Ph.D. student positions (electronic)
1e/05/03: Proposal (electronic)

Proposal: As in appendix 1e/05/03. The requirements must be fulfilled before TUCS starts to pay salary/grant.

Decision: The item was left on the table.

4. Postdoctoral applications (Järvi)

TUCS has received 11 postdoctoral applications.

The applications are in appendix 2a/05/03. TUCS has asked statements about each applicant from two lab leaders (appendix 2b/05/03).

Christel Donner has given information about current status of TUCS post docs (appendix 2c/05/03). We got only one salary position from the Academy of Finland. The other position (Smed) will continue until the end of 2004. It is possible to use savings to hire one post for the rest of the current year. Provided TUCS funding will continue on the same level than 2003, we can give two grants up to the end of 2004. I suggest that two grants lasting one year would be given with an option to continue for another year.

I have collected the information in the statement into numerical form (appendix 2d/05/03). The grading is crude and based on my personal estimation of the statements.

For the salary positions I rank the applicants as follows:

1. Vesa Halava
PhD thesis award (Tietotekniikan tutkimussäätiö)
2. Tero Aittokallio
PhD thesis award (Rolf Nevanlinna –instituutti), has had a two year period
3. Kalle Ranto
almost as good as Halava, same lab
4. Marianne Maass
PhD thesis award (Radiological Society of Finland), interesting interdisciplinary background
5. Lauri Heikkilä
slow speed

For grant positions I rank the applicants as follows:

1. Vladimir Kvassov
former TUCS student, now ‘överassistent’ (IS/ÅA)
2. Evan Griffiths
PhD in Math, Uni of Wisconsin Madison, USA
3. Lixing Hang
PhD in CS, Nanjing Uni, China
4. Ibrahim Jaluta
DTech in CS, HUT
5. Deo Parkash Vidyarthi
6. George Rapakov

(Places 5 – 6 are equal.)

Appendices: 2a/05/03: Postdoctoral applications (electronic)
2b/05/03: Statements from lab leaders (paper)
2c/05/03: Financing situation of postdoctoral positions (electronic)
2d/05/03: Grading of applicants (electronic)

Proposal: Ph.D. Vesa Halava will be selected for post doc (salary) position for period 1.1.2004 – 31.12.2005 (according to application).

Ph.D. Tero Aittokallio will be selected for post doc (salary) position for period 1.9.2003 – 31.12.2003.

ED Vladimir Kvassov and PhD Evan Griffiths will be selected for post doc (grant) position for period 1.8.2003 – 31.7.2004. Their continuation will be decided later.

Decision: Vesa Halava and Tero Aittokallio are selected for post doc salary positions according to the proposal. The decision concerning the grant positions was left on the table.

5. Victor Tsygankov's study plan (Le Grand)

According to the decision made by the board on their meeting on May 12, 2003, Ph.D. student Victor Tsygankov has submitted a study plan for the remaining part of his doctoral studies (appendix 3/05/03). Tsygankov's supervisor Prof. Reima Suomi has seen the study plan and proposes that the financing of Tsygankov's doctoral studies will be continued until 31.12.2003, when a new assessment will be done.

Appendix: 3/05/03: Tsygankov's study plan (paper)

Proposal: The financing of Victor Tsygankov's doctoral studies will be continued until 31.12.2003, when a new assessment will be done. The Board expects to see visible progress by that time. A decent performance until the end of the year 2003 is that of at least 20 new gained study weeks and the production of at least two new articles accepted for publication.

Decision: According to the proposal.

6. Dates for the upcoming board meetings (Le Grand)

The dates for the next board meetings should be decided. One important date in the autumn is the deadline for applications to the Graduate School (September 30). The board meeting, in which the decisions in this issue are made, should be about 5 five weeks from the deadline.

Proposal: The board meetings will be held on September 8, October 6, November 3, and December 8, 2003. As usual, the meetings will start at 13.00, and they will take place in meeting room Monologi.

Decision: The board meetings will be held on September 15, October 6, November 3, and December 8, 2003. The meetings will start at 13.00. The TUCS Administration will find out if the meetings could take place in another meeting room than in Monologi/Dialogi.

7. New members to the Advisory Committee (Aspnäs)

The present members of the Advisory Committee are appointed for the period 1.6.2003-31.5.2006. Currently, the committee has 21 members. TUCS has received two suggestions for new members for the committee. Professor Tapio Reponen from the Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, and Jukka Mäki from Tekes/V-S TE-keskus have been proposed as new members. Reponen and Mäki are both interested in participating in the TUCS Advisory Committee.

Proposal: The board appoints Professor Tapio Reponen and Jukka Mäki as new members to the Advisory Committee.

Decision: According to the proposal.

8. Discussion item: TUCS Seminar (Gustafsson)

The organizing of a TUCS Seminar has been discussed twice on the advisory committee meetings.

Conclusions from the discussions:

- the awareness about TUCS and the TUCS image could be enhanced by arranging a seminar series
- the seminar subjects can vary from time to time
- the target group depends on the subject of the seminar, but the seminar should attract both researchers and people from companies
- the subjects of the seminars are chosen based on suggestions by the research laboratories and departments
- the presentations should be of high quality

It has been suggested that the subject for the first TUCS seminar would be “Digital Television”. The DigiTV group will discuss different possibilities on their next meeting. The first TUCS seminar could be arranged in October or November.

9. Discussion item: ICT House (Aspnäs)

The plans for the new facilities for the TUCS administration and Graduate School in the new ICT-house were discussed (appendix 4/05/03). The TUCS administration and Graduate School have about 540 m², which includes office rooms for the administrative personnel (about 10 rooms) and office space for Ph.D. students and researchers.

The board concluded that the office space for Ph.D. students and researchers should consist of an even mix of 1, 2 and 4 person office rooms.

Appendix: 4/05/03: Plan (electronic)

10. Announcements

10.1 Announcements by the Director

Appendix: 5/05/03: Announcements by the Director (electronic)

10.2 Minutes of the TUCS board meeting of May 12, 2003

Appendix: 6/05/03: Minutes of the TUCS board meeting of May 12, 2003 (electronic)

Turku, June 4, 2003

Ralph-Johan Back
Chairman of the board

Mats Aspnäs
Coordinator

Ulrika Gustafsson
Administrative Officer

Pia Le Grand
Administrative Officer