

Board meeting

Monday, April 23, 2007, at 13.00

ICT building, Joukahaisenkatu 3-5 B, 6th floor, TUCS conferens room

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Board meeting

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Present:

Jan Westerholm, Prof

Johan Lilius, Prof.

Christer Carlsson, Prof., Chair

Sirpa Simola, Programme Development Manager

Juhani Karhumäki, Prof.

Timo Knuutila, Prof., (left during item 7)

Reima Suomi, Prof., Vice-Chair

Jaakko Kuosmanen, Managing director

Teijo Lehtonen, Ph.D. Student (not present during item 3)

Tuukka Simonen, M.Sc. Student (left during item 7)

TUCS staff:

Hannu Tenhunen, Prof., Director, Presenting Officer

Tapio Salakoski, Prof., Vice-director, Presenting Officer

Christel Donner, Administrative Officer, Presenting Officer, Secretary of the meeting

Ulrika Gustafsson, Graduate School Coordinator, Presenting Officer

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 April 18, 2007.

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

Decision: According to 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: The discussion items 8.1 and 8.2 were added to the agenda.

3. Study report (Gustafsson)

TUCS Graduate School Committee has processed the study reports (for the period 1.3-31.12.2006) of TUCS Graduate Research Assistants. Continuation or termination of TUCS status and funding is proposed according to appendix 1/03/07. The decisions will take effect on September 1, 2007.

Appendices: [1/03/07](#) Study report proposal 2007
[2/03/07](#) Salary/grant positions
[3/03/07](#) Financing statistics 2002-2006

Proposal: TUCS board approves the proposal for continuation or termination of TUCS status and funding for TUCS Graduate Research Assistants according to the appendix 1/03/07.

Decision: According to proposal. The decisions can be found in appendix [1a/03/07](#).

4. Additional application round for TUCS status (Gustafsson)

At present, it is possible to apply for TUCS Status throughout the year and the decisions are made by TUCS director. This has made it more difficult to keep track of and inform the students and also to keep the process transparent to students, supervisors and evaluators. Therefore, the Graduate School Committee has discussed the possibility to arrange a "TUCS Status application round" in the autumn. This means that TUCS Status applications would be processed twice a year: in the spring in connection with the normal application round and in the autumn in a separate TUCS Status application round.

Proposal: Hereafter it is possible to apply for TUCS Status (full-time and part-time) twice a year: in the spring in connection with the normal application round (for status starting in September) and in the autumn in a separate TUCS Status application round (for status starting in January). The applications will be processed by the Graduate School Committee.

Decision: According to proposal.

5. Application for leave of absence for Jussi Nissilä (Gustafsson)

Ph.D. Student Jussi Nissilä (Turku School of Economics) was granted TUCS Guarantee for four years starting in September 2004. During the past year he has been working as a project manager at the University of Turku. Due to his duties as a project manager he hasn't had time to conduct any doctoral research and he is, therefore, applying for a leave of absence (partly backdated) for the period 1.6.2006-31.5.2007. More information about his working history and funding can be found in appendix 4/03/07.

Appendix: [4/03/07](#) The application

Proposal: Jussi Nissilä is granted a leave of absence (backdated) for the period 1.6.2006-31.5.2007 and his guarantee is thereby prolonged to 31.8.2009.

Decision: Jussi Nissilä is granted a leave of absence backdated for 6 months and his guarantee is prolonged to 28.2.2009.

6. External evaluation of TUCS (Salakoski)

At the result negotiations with the universities in fall 2006, it was agreed that TUCS will take action in preparing an external evaluation of itself. A group on experts should be called to evaluate TUCS by its scientific, educational, and external impact. Suitable material should be prepared for the job, including a self-evaluation report.

TUCS has previously decided to form a Scientific Advisory Committee. The experts involved in the evaluation could be asked to form the basis for TUCS Scientific Advisory Committee after the evaluation.

At the previous meeting it was decided that the work group will be nominated by the Board and consists of representatives from the departments (two representatives per department at the most) and one Ph.D. student representative. The following persons have been nominated: Barbro Back (ÅA), Kaisa Sere (ÅA), Hannu Tenhunen (IT/UTU), Tapio Salakoski (IT/UTU), Iiro Honkala (Math/UTU), Jarkko Kari (Math/UTU), Jarmo Tähkää (TSE) and Tuomo Saarni (TUCS GS, deputy Teijo Lehtonen).

Proposal: The Board will nominate the work group for the external evaluation, consisting of the members mentioned above. The task of the work group is to prepare instructions on what and how to evaluate, decide what kind of material has to be prepared for the evaluation, and to propose external experts.

Decision: According to proposal. The work will start immediately and the evaluation plan will be ready for presentation at the result negotiations in the fall 2007. In addition, board members Sirpa Simola and Jaakko Kuosmanen were approved to act as external experts to the work group.

7. TUCS organisation and structure (Tenhunen, Salakoski)

This item is on the table from the last meeting, where the Board discussed about the new organization and structure of TUCS. The main idea is to distinguish within the TUCS community three kinds of actors and decision-making bodies: 1) TUCS Board headed by the Chairman and TUCS department headed by the Director; 2) TUCS Graduate School headed by the GS Committee and the GS Director; and 3) autonomous TUCS Research Centres and Departments headed by individual professors and the Department Heads.

According to TUCS statutes, we further distinguish four functions within the TUCS community: 1) coordination and infrastructure; 2) research; 3) joint PhD education through TUCS Graduate School and joint MSc education; 4) societal and regional activities, including knowledge and technology transfer (the 3rd task).

The main duties and responsibilities of the organizational bodies with respect to the four functions are briefly described below. Details are worked out in practice.

TUCS Board is the general legislative body as defined by the statutes of TUCS. It

- is responsible for the development of TUCS
- decides on TUCS budget, including GS
- sets up TUCS GS and nominates the GS Director and the GS Committee by preparing the application to the Ministry of Education/Academy of Finland
- decides on general principles to be followed by the GS Committee, such as
 - quality control
 - the funding period
 - the matching funding principle
 - the genus perspective
 - fair and balanced division of the GS positions among the participating units

TUCS Graduate School Committee and the GS Director comprises the general executive body of TUCS GS. It

- operates within the given budget consisting of direct GS funding allocated by Ministry of Education and any additional funding allocated by TUCS Board
- develops the GS according to the guidelines set by Board
- evaluates and accepts GS students
- evaluates and accepts the financing plan of each GS student
- evaluates the progress and decides about the continuation of the GS students

TUCS Research Centres / Departments

- are comprised of real organizational units at the departments, such as financial responsibility areas
- operate through their official university organization
- decide autonomously on research
- hold the employer responsibility for GS students through departments
- provide supervision and matching funding for GS students
- initiate, apply, and administrate research projects
- affiliate themselves with the home university and TUCS
- participate in joint TUCS projects on a voluntary basis
- can request help from TUCS department for any activities, emphasizing joint activities

TUCS Director is the executive body for Board decisions. These include

- coordination and reporting on research and education
- development of common infrastructure and networking
- facilitation and catalysis of inter-university collaboration by developing instruments for cooperative administration and joint project funding

TUCS department provide administrative staff and infrastructure for operations decided by the executive bodies. The department is funded by three main sources:

- regional funding by the stake holders, i.e. the basic funding by the universities as well as the support from the City of Turku through Turku Polytechnic and Turku Science Park (to be negotiated)
- Ministry of Education funding for TUCS GS coordination
- project funding from various national and international sources for networking, administrative development, marketing, joint events, and other similar activities as well as joint educational initiatives. Also, upon request, preparation and administration of research projects initiated by one or more of the TUCS research centres

According to TUCS statutes, the members of TUCS Board are nominated by the universities. These can include external stakeholders. In addition, the Board nominates

one external stakeholder. The TUCS Director is nominated by the Rector of Åbo Akademi University. The GS Director and GS Committee members are decided by TUCS Board in the GS application to the Ministry. The Board and GS Committee elect their own Chairmen.

The TUCS organization is further described in the appendix 5/03/07.

Appendix: 5/03/07 TUCS structure

Proposal: The Board approves the new structure and organization of TUCS as described above. The change will take effect immediately. Possible further refinements of the organization as well as changes among the members of the Board and GS Committee are subject to additional decisions by the Board.

Decision: According to proposal. The required delegation decisions will be made later.

8. Discussion item: The Student Associations' Club-house "Sotilaskoti"

The Student Associations' club-house "Sotilaskoti" at the Sirkkala Garrison will probably be pulled down. This is the second time in a quite short time that the Student Associations are about to be left without a club-house. What can TUCS do to support the Student Associations?

Conclusion: The Graduate School Coordinator will contact the department heads and a joint effort will be made to inform the rectors and the owner of the property – Senaatti-kiinteistöt.

8.1 Discussion item: Status report of activities 2007

The status report of activities can be found in appendix [6/03/07](#).

8.2 Discussion item: DIMATIA

DIMATIA is a Center for Discrete Mathematics, Theoretical Computer Science and Applications. Prof. Juhani Karhumäki asked for TUCS willingness to be part of the DIMATIA network. The conclusion was that it is important for TUCS to be a part in different networks.

9. Announcements

9.1 Minutes of TUCS Board meeting of March 12, 2007

http://www.tucs.fi/downloads/minutes/board/board_20070312.pdf

9.2 The outside representatives of the Board

Anne-Mari Virolainen has resigned from her position as the outside representative of the Board in March 2007. The deputy member, Jaakko Kuosmanen, has also informed that he will quit ICT Turku July 31, 2007.

9.3 TUCS short course

The short course *Algorithmic Number Theory* will be paid by TUCS. The course is arranged by the Department of Mathematics and will take place May 8-11, 2007. The invited speakers are Prof. Henry Cohen, University of Bordeaux, Prof. Alf van der Poorten, Macquarie University and Dr. Nitin Saxena, Kanpur and CWI.

9.4 Continuation of financing for GS-students

Ph.D. student Denis Shestakov has been granted an extension of financing of three months.

9.5 TUCS status granted

TUCS Status granted in 2007:

Matti Mäntymäki	Turku School of Economics	27.2.2007
Jani Paakkulainen	University of Turku	10.4.2007
Satu Jääskeläinen	University of Turku	10.4.2007

Turku, April 23, 2007

Christer Carlsson
Chair of the Board

Hannu Tenhunen
Director

Tapio Salakoski
Vice Director

Ulrika Gustafsson
Graduate School Coordinator

Christel Donner
Secretary of the meeting