

Board meeting

Monday, June 16, 2004, at 15.00
DataCity A, 2nd floor, TY Neuvotteluhuone 3

Items of the agenda

1. Validity of the meeting and presence of a quorum
2. Additional items
3. New secretary for the board meetings (Järvi)
4. TUCS Budget Summary Report 01/2004 – 05/2004 and changes in the budget for 2004 (Donner)
5. Raising the TUCS grant for Ph.D. students (Donner)
6. One application round per year to TUCS Graduate School (Gustafsson)
7. Matti Vilola's status (Gustafsson)
8. Change of research laboratory, supervisor and university (Gustafsson)
9. Funding for Irina Georgescu (Gustafsson)
10. Applications to TUCS Graduate School (Järvi)
11. Application for TUCS conference guarantee (Donner)
12. Software Development Centre's (OK's) accounts (Järvi)
13. Dates for the upcoming board meetings (Donner)
14. Discussion item: Future funding possibilities of TUCS
15. Announcements
 - 15.1 Minutes of TUCS board meeting of April 26, 2004
 - 15.2 Announcements by the Director

Board meeting

Monday, June 16, 2004, at 15.00
DataCity A, 2nd floor, TY Neuvotteluhuone 3

Present:

Members of the board:

Ralph-Johan Back, Prof., Chair
Christer Carlsson, Prof.
Jouni Isoaho, Prof.
Tapio Salakoski, Prof.
Reima Suomi, Prof., Vice-Chair
Jaakko Kuosmanen, CEO, arrived during item 6
Paula Steinby, Ph.D. Student
Hannu-Pekka Kulta, M.Sc. Student

TUCS staff:

Timo Järvi, Prof., Director, Presenting Officer
Mats Aspнас, Coordinator, Presenting Officer
Christel Donner, Administrative Officer, Presenting Officer, secretary of the meeting
Monika Eklund, Administrative Officer
Ulrika Gustafsson, Administrative Officer, 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 June 11, 2004.

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: Discussion item 14 was added to the agenda.

3. New secretary for the board meetings (Järvi)

As part of the arrangements in TUCS office, I propose that administrative officer Monika Eklund will act as the secretary of the board meetings starting from the next one held in September 2004.

Proposal: Monika Eklund will be appointed as the secretary of the board meetings starting September 2004.

Decision: According to proposal.

4. TUCS Budget Summary Report 01/2004 – 05/2004 and changes in the budget for 2004 (Donner)

A presentation of TUCS summary budget report for the time period January – May 2004 and an updated budget for 2004 can be found in appendix 1/04/04.

Appendix: [1/04/04](#)

Proposal: The report and the updated budget for 2004 are approved.

Decision: According to proposal.

5. Raising the TUCS grant for Ph.D. students (Donner)

The TUCS grant for Ph.D. students is for the moment 1.180 euros/month (1.200 euros for health insurance holders). Due to lower income taxes and rises in the salaries during the past years the grant is too low compared to the net salary. According to TUCS rules the grant should be comparable to the net salary. The raise will cause an additional cost of 960 euros/year/student.

Proposal: The TUCS grant for Ph.D. students will be raised by 80 euros per month. Starting September 1st 2004 the TUCS grant will be 1.260 euros/month for Ph.D. students without an insurance and 1.280 euros/month for health insurance holders. The board also recommends that the departments will apply this raise for students receiving grants from projects.

Decision: According to proposal.

6. One application round per year to TUCS Graduate School (Gustafsson)

The possibility of removing one of the application rounds to TUCS Graduate School was discussed at the last board meeting. Due to financial uncertainties TUCS won't be able to accept as many new students as before. As both the number of applications and the number of positions available traditionally has been lower in the autumn than in the spring, it would be preferable to remove the autumn's application round. Also, in this spring's application round, it has been taken into account that one of the application rounds probably will be removed.

Proposal: The autumn's application round to TUCS Graduate School will be removed and the application round in the spring will remain.

Decision: According to proposal, but in exceptional cases the Board can accept students during the year.

7. Matti Vilola's status (Gustafsson)

During the handling of the study reports at the last board meeting, no decision was made concerning doctoral (part-time) student Matti Vilola. TUCS office has now been in contact with Vilola who reported that he does not at the moment have the possibility to conduct doctoral studies.

Vilola's supervisor Kaisa Sere has given the following statement of Vilola:

Matti Vilola has been a PhD student in my group, but working within industry (TOT). Unfortunately, due to frequent changes of companies as well as visits abroad he has not been able to really initiate his studies at TUCS.

Proposal: Matti Vilola's TUCS status will end September 1st 2004.

Decision: According to proposal.

8. Change of research laboratory, supervisor and university (Gustafsson)

Mr. Kim Solin was accepted as a TUCS doctoral student (with guarantee) from the beginning of January 2003. After receiving his Master's degree in January 2003, he started his doctoral studies in February 2003. During the period 1.2.2003-31.8.2004 he has been financed by a project in CREST (Department of Computer Science/Åbo Akademi University).

As it is likely that Solin's supervisor Joakim von Wright will leave Åbo Akademi University in August 2004, Solin has handed in an application to TUCS Director in which he applies for permission to switch TUCS research laboratory (appendix 2a/04/04). He would like to change from the Learning and Reasoning Laboratory to the Discrete Mathematics for Information Technology Laboratory starting 1.9.2004.

Solin has already been accepted as a doctoral student by the University of Turku and Professor Magnus Steinby has agreed to supervise him (appendix 2b/04/04) . Solin's research area would remain the theory of Kleene algebras and its applications, but it would be carried out as research in mathematics.

The Discrete Mathematics for Information Technology Laboratory has no available project money for Solin. Since Solin has TUCS guarantee he would be financed by TUCS.

Appendices: [2a/04/04](#): Solin's application
[2b/04/04](#): Steinby's statement

Proposal: TUCS Board accepts Solin's change of research laboratory, supervisor, and university. His salary will be paid by TUCS from the beginning of September 2004.

Decision: According to proposal.

9. Funding for Irina Georgescu (Gustafsson)

Irina Georgescu started her doctoral studies at TUCS in June 2001. In her study report for the period 1.3.2003-29.2.2004 Georgescu did a mistake and stated that she would graduate in August 2004, when she in fact has estimated her graduation to August 2005. Based on the fact that Georgescu would graduate in August 2004, TUCS Board decided to pay TUCS grant until 31.12.2004. Georgescu has written a letter to TUCS

Board (appendix 3/04/04) where she explains her mistake and asks TUCS Board to make a new decision.

Appendix: [3/04/04](#): Georgescu's application

Proposal: TUCS will pay a grant to Irina Georgescu for the period 1.9.2004-31.8.2005.

Decision: TUCS will pay a grant to Irina Georgescu for the period 1.9.2004 – 31.5.2005 (4 years rule).

10. Applications to TUCS Graduate School (Järvi)

TUCS Graduate School Committee held a meeting on June 3rd, 2004, where the 41 applications that had arrived by the deadline of May 15th, 2004 were examined. This time 9 applicants were evaluated to 3- or 2½. In addition, 11 applicants were rated as 2+ (2,3 means a big plus, 2,2 means a small plus). The listing of all the applicants is marked 4a/04/04. It also contains the GS committee's evaluation of the applicants as well as my proposal for the selection. The applicants are ordered firstly by the GS committee's scores and secondly by last name.

The application forms, research interests and recommendation letters of the students who scored 2 or higher is attached (4b/04/04). The rest of the applications can be viewed at the meeting or in the office of Administrative Officer Ulrika Gustafsson.

TUCS has at most 3,4 salary positions open for the Autumn 2004. There are 0 grant positions available. We have asked the laboratories and all professors whether they can take new Ph.D. students using project money.

My proposal is presented in the last three columns of the table (appendix 4a/04/04). I have tried to find all possible sources of financing. In this aspect the situation in TUCS seems to be rather positive. Most of the laboratories have reached a steady stage with many research projects. I feel that the overall funding of TUCS has increased although the Information Industry funding is heavily decreasing. I propose to accept all decent students (above 2) where we have got funding even for a shorter time. I admit that this is a risky strategy. The supervisors should take care that the studies will be completed as soon as possible (max 4 years) and apply money for present as well as for new students.

Otherwise I have used the following principles:

- Salary or guarantee depends on the starting funding of the applicant. The laboratory should apply research funding also for salary students when applicable. The students can not refuse project salary.
- 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 or those starters who have other funding but not so high scores.

Appendices: [4a/04/04](#): Listing of the applicants

[4b/04/04](#): Parts of applications of potential students of the TUCS GS

[4c/04/04](#): Salary and grant positions 2004

[4d/04/04](#): Financing statistics

Proposal: As in appendix 4a/04/04.

Decision: The Ph.D. applicants listed below will be accepted as new TUCS Ph.D. students, starting September 1st 2004 (if no exceptions are mentioned). The supervisor is mentioned in brackets.

Ganesan, Sivakumar	TUCS guarantee, when proof of MSc degree (J. Lilius/R. Back)
Grandell, Linda	TUCS guarantee (Ralph Back)
Hollanti, Camilla	TUCS salary (Jyrki Lahtonen)
Lahdenoja, Olli	TUCS status (Ari Paasio)
Li, Hongxiu	TUCS status (Reima Suomi)
Malik, Qaisar	TUCS guarantee, when proof of MSc degree (Kaisa Sere)
Nigussie, Ethiopia	TUCS status (Jouni Isoaho)
Nissilä, Jussi	TUCS guarantee (Jussi Puhakainen)
Pänkäälä, Mikko	TUCS status (Ari Paasio)
Suvtie, Eeva	TUCS guarantee (Matti Jutila)
Taati, Siamak	TUCS guarantee, when proof of MSc degree (Jarkko Kari)
Tarkkanen, Kimmo	TUCS status (Markku Nurminen)
Torikka, Tommi	TUCS status (Esa Tjukanoff)
Tsivtsivadze, Evgeni	TUCS grant, when proof of MSc degree (Tapio Salakoski)
Tuominen, Johanna	TUCS guarantee (Jouni Isoaho)
Vesalainen, Laura	TUCS guarantee (Ari Paasio)
Qiu, Xuemei	TUCS grant (Christer Carlsson)

The decision can also be found in appendix [4e/04/04](#).

11. Application for TUCS conference guarantee (Donner)

The TUCS Board has received an application from Prof. Juhani Karhumäki concerning a conference guarantee for the joint conference ICALP'04 and LICS'04. The amount applied for is 8.000 EUR. The conferences will be held in Turku July 9 – 18, 2004.

IEEE will charge 10 % of the expenses of LICS'04. This could be used as guarantee for LICS'04

Appendix: [5/04/04](#): Prof. Karhumäki's application

Proposal: The ICALP'04 is given the TUCS conference guarantee to the amount of 8.000 EUR. The LICS'04 will not be given the guarantee.

Decision: According to proposal.

12. Software Development Centre's (OK's) accounts (Järvi)

In the BM on March 15, 2004 it was decided to get a clarification of the OK operation.

Donner, Järvi, Lilius, Mertanen, and Sunell had a meeting on April 23 where the two year accounts of OK were presented by Donner (appendix 6a/04/04) and Mertanen (appendix 6b/04/04).

As a summary we noted, that the net costs of the operation were 242 k€ for TUCS and 889 k€ for Turku Polytechnics. No misuse of money was noticed.

Sunell had written a report about OK but it seemed to be very one sided. So the whole story of OK seems to be filled by many incidents where the total goal was not seen by anybody. It is difficult to tell whether anybody else than those involved would learn from the final report if it had been written.

Appendices: [6a/04/04](#): OK/TUCS accounts 2002 – 2003
[6b/04/04](#): Accounts at Turku Polytechnics 2002 - 2003

Proposal: The board will accept the accounts.

Decision: The clarification of the accounts was brought to the Boards notice.

13. Dates for the upcoming board meetings (Donner)

The dates for the upcoming board meetings should be decided.

Proposal: The board meetings will be held on September 27 and November 29, 2004. The meetings will start at 13.00.

Decision: According to the proposal.

14. Discussion item

The chairman of the Board, Ralph-Johan Back, raised a discussion about the future funding possibilities of TUCS. He suggested that TUCS should concentrate on 1-3 major research interdisciplinary themes. They could be in unison with the themes of ICT Turku strategy. Possible themes are e.g.

- Bioinformatics
- Health and welfare technology
- Language and learning technology

In addition to university overheads (15%) TUCS should also receive a certain percentage of the funding. The Board will handle the item at the next meeting.

15. Announcements

15.1 Minutes of TUCS board meeting of April 26, 2004

http://www.tucs.fi/about/organization/board/minutes/2004/board_20040426.pdf

15.2 Announcements by the Director

Appendix: [7/04/04](#)

Turku, June 22nd, 2004

Ralph-Johan Back
Chairman of the Board

Timo Järvi
Director

Christel Donner
Administrative Officer

Ulrika Gustafsson
Administrative Officer