



## NERC Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Oil & Gas

Training Academy Committee, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, Room 2.02, Postgraduate Centre, Heriot-Watt University

**Present:** Andy Aplin (Chair), Anna Clark, Keith Gerdes, Kate Gormley, Ole Martinsen (by Skype from 3 p.m.), Lorna Morrow, Jonathan Redfern, Zoe Shipton, John Underhill

### 1. Welcome and apologies

JU opened the meeting with an HSE briefing. Keith Gerdes was deputising for Andy Bell and Ole Martinsen joined the meeting by Skype one hour into the meeting.

### 2. Approval of minute of Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and review of actions

The draft minute had been previously circulated and proposed amendments incorporated and the minute was approved.

JU reported that the agreement with Nautilus had been signed on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and that Gary Nichols would now be a member of the Development Committee. JU confirmed that all Nautilus courses have recently been accredited by the Geology Society, thus adding value to the CDT offering by association. Members will review the open access course portfolio and agree which courses are appropriate before this list is circulated to students and supervisors. Once the training schedule has been populated with the already known provision, members will discuss and agree the mandatory course to be supplied by Nautilus to the CDT cohort.

**Action:** AC to circulate Nautilus' full open access course portfolio and proposed training schedule to members as soon as possible

LM had circulated electronic copies of the student feedback from courses held at HWU with the draft minute on 01/05/15

AC had prepared a briefing document on the academic backgrounds of students for use by course contributors in determining the range/depth of the students' knowledge and to assist them in allocating students to appropriate groups for field/case studies.

**Action:** JR to provide AC with the Learning Outcomes document for the Mature Basins course for use as a template for future course organisers.

Maggie Cusack has agreed to allow the use of the viva presentation video described by ZS at future CDT training events as per email from ZS dated 21/05/15.

LM, AC and Kate Gormley have met twice since the Committee meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March and Kate is making progress with the provision for the November 2015 EIR course for the new PhD intake, some parts of which will be used for a compulsory course for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year cohort provided the elements are well received in November.

LM had approached KT regarding the BP offering, but no further information had been received beyond the initial outline sent by KT to JU prior to the March Committee meeting. However, as this is a one-day course, KT had indicated to LM that it was probably unlikely that this could be worked up into a 3/5 day course so it would need to be appended to another mandatory TA course to make it viable. AA will follow this up with KT. **Action: AA**

ZS had made approaches to colleagues at Strathclyde but felt hampered by not being able to give possible internal and external contributors a definite brief and suggested dates for their involvement. It was agreed that it is vital to have the current training provision clearly identified so that the additional courses can be scheduled and the gaps in provision clarified so that members can approach potential contributors.

**Action:** AC to provide updated training schedule as soon as possible

Peter Burgess' workload is currently very demanding and JU has therefore secured Mike Simmons to provide a Neflex stratigraphy optional course for 2<sup>nd</sup> year students to run for four days in November 2015 following the Annual Conference and compulsory Communications course. 15 of the 2014 cohort have already signed up to take this optional course.

JU reported that Alex Kemp is too heavily committed elsewhere to contribute a geopolitics course at the moment. However, Glen Cayley had recently presented at the NERC Innovation workshop on Extending the Life of Mature Basins, facilitated by the NERC CDT, and it was hoped that he and Andy Samuel would be available to provide further contributions on the regulatory framework, licensing and data management, probably for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year training provision. Keith Gerdes requested that this course have a broader remit than just North Sea.

JU has yet to convene a meeting or associate partners, but a CDT flier will be sent out shortly to all members for use in promoting the CDT more widely and the plan is to have an Associates Meeting to coincide with the Annual Conference in November. **Action: LM**

OM reported that Statoil is currently reshaping its training schedule but once this is complete, he will forward the details to AC and he hopes that Statoil will be able to offer one or two optional courses each year to CDT students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years. **Action: OM**

The feedback from students in respect of items raised at the first Graduate Committee held on March 2015 was circulated to members prior to this meeting.

LM is still pursuing NERC for their view on extending a studentship following a period of suspension to undertake an internship.

**Action: LM**

AA is still to set up the working group with IAB input to look at the opportunity and process for offering internships.

**Action: AA**

### **3. Verbal Report from Management Committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Comments from the morning's Management Committee meeting are reported under the relevant items below. JU updated members on Statoil's interest in making an early commitment to renew for a further 3 years beyond the initial 3, and that Shell and OMV were now also looking at this opportunity. KG is also going to speak to counterparts at Chevron about joining as a CDT TA sponsor, in conjunction with JU's efforts.

**Action: KG / JU**

JU reported that he had recently presented the case for support in Cairn Energy and he would be following this up.

**Action: JU**

JU also reported on a recent approach he had received from Prof. Colin Snape, Academic Lead for the EPSRC CDT in CCS and Cleaner Fossil Energy and that the Management Committee had agreed that he should meet with Prof. Snape to look at possible synergies in training/student exchange between the CDTs.

**Action: JU**

Discussions about the renewal of the CDT at the Management Committee meeting had highlighted the need for a greater presence of environment-related projects, sponsors and contributors if at all possible and IAB members are to be approached to provide details of the appropriate environmental contact(s) within their organisations.

**Action: LM**

### **4. Review of Mature Basins residential course held at Manchester, March/April 2015**

JR reported that an internal meeting of Manchester staff to reflect on the feedback had not yet taken place, but he expressed his surprise and a little disappointment at some of the comments. He acknowledged that the accommodation had been problematic but that action had already been taken with the booking of different accommodation and lecture venue for next year.

**Action:** JR to provide further feedback following Manchester's internal meeting.

### **5. Update on planned training courses for the remainder of Year 1 – Durham / Alps**

AA confirmed that all arrangements are now in place for the Durham course on the theme of Unconventional Hydrocarbons, including a week's field trip to Yorkshire. AC confirmed that thanks to additional financial support from Shell and Statoil, who are both sending senior staff to attend the trip, arrangements for the field trip to the French Alps to cover the theme of Exploration in Challenging Environments are also now in place.

## 6. Update on proposals for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year Training Academy provision

Kate Gormley is working on populating a 1-week mandatory course for 2<sup>nd</sup> year in April 2016 on Environmental/Biological themes, to include a field trip collecting samples for subsequent growth and analysis in the labs at Heriot-Watt and a visit to use ROV's at a base in Fort William.

AA mentioned contact with Richard Saltis (Schlumberger, Houston), who is contributing to the Unconventionals course at Durham in July and that he could be approached to be a panel member for an energy debate to be held at one of the future mandatory courses.

AC confirmed that Ole Martinsen and Peter Haughton will run the Co. Clare trip, probably around June 2016, and that she will ensure the field trip dates avoid the major international conferences.

JU reported that he and AC are undertaking a short field trip to the Ayelungo site in Northern Spain next week after the EAGE conference at the invitation of CEPSA who have a museum and training facility there. The site offers onshore outcrops that continue offshore as well as onshore oil seeps, thus offering a great opportunity to combine geology with environmental remediation activities.

ZS confirmed that she had not yet spoken to Clare Bond about a Risk/Uncertainty optional course but that this should be scheduled for Year 3. **Action: ZS**

Keith Gerdes also offered to contact Jan De Jaeger (?), visiting geologist at Vrije University Amsterdam, to contribute to this course. **Action: KG**

AA offered to contact Total as a possible contributor on this theme. **Action: AA**

JU thinks that Heriot-Watt's involvement with the annual BP Statistical Review still has traction and he will approach colleagues about contributing their experience and expertise in this field once the new unit is up and running. **Action: JU**

AA will contact Justin Dix and Frank Peel to seek contributions from NOC in the fields of remote sensing, data acquisition and gravity-magnetics and KG will speak to the MiniSpark contact in Shell. **Action: AA / KG**

AC will follow-up on contacts at HR Wallingford, Claire Underhill and Diane Jones, to look at contributions on engineering, noise modelling and perhaps also geohazards. **Action: AC**

AA confirmed that colleagues at Durham are receptive to running a one week optional course in LIDAR and he will explore this further and revert with proposals. **Action: AA**

JU confirmed that PESGB are re-running their Atlantic Margins and Geology of the N. Sea courses and he will ask if it is possible for CDT students to attend, other or both. **Action: JU**

#### **7. Update on proposals for 1<sup>st</sup> year provision for 2015 entry cohort**

JU reported that he has approached Gordon Ballard at Schlumberger about the possibility of including a site visit to the company's seismic testing and test drill rig facilities at Livingston as part of the induction course for the 2015 cohort in November 2015.

#### **8. First Annual Conference, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015**

There will be a few short keynote speeches at the start of the conference, but the focus will be on the students and their work. JU reported that letter of invitation to Ministers and other NERC dignitaries are being drafted and will be sent in the next fortnight. **Action: LM**

AC confirmed that she is drafting a poster template for the conference to be circulated to the students in advance for them to populate with their project details. She will also produce a schedule of presentation times to ensure that the maximum number of people can hear about each project. **Action: AC**

#### **9. Date of Next meeting**

Members agreed the next meeting should take place over the summer with a target date in August 2015.

**Action:** LM to circulate Doodle Poll to determine a suitable date.