Minutes of the UK instrumentation training steering committee meeting of 2023/11/21

Present:

Birmingham	Andrew Chisholm
Bristol	Jaap Velthuis
Cambridge	Bart Hommels
Glasgow	Kenny Wraight
Imperial	Alex Tapper
Lancaster	Lingxin Meng
Manchester	Alex Oh
Oxford	Daniel Hynds
QMUL	Peter Hobson

Apologies:

Birmingham	Laura Gonella
Edinburgh	Stephan Eisenhardt

Agenda and slides at https://indico.cern.ch/event/1350082/

Chair: D. Hynds

1 Introduction

- A short presentation by D. Hynds served as introduction and as a discussion prompt. Statistics on last year's lectures are presented, highlighting participation and course attendance

- Last year 60 hours of lectures were given by 22 lecturers from 10 institutes. There were 238 registered attendees from 26 countries, including 71 from the UK

- The composition of registrants was around 10 % masters students, 45 % PhD students, 15 % postdocs and 25 % permanent staff

- Again there was a drop in participation over the course of the lectures, very much following the trend observed in the previous year

2 Discussion

2.1 2024 Programme

- In general people are happy with how the programme has been running. Jaap points out that the attendance trend is typical of lecture courses

- There is some discussion on problem sheets. While it is felt that worked examples can be useful as a teaching aide, and could be released in advance, there is hesitation to provide problem sheets. These are felt generally to be quite some work and will lead to requests that these be recognised formally in some way. As the whole programme is funded on goodwill alone it is felt unwise to pile more work on the lecturers

- There were no objects to working through the material from this year and seeing where overlaps occur, but no volunteers at present to do this. Daniel does not propose significant rewriting of the course, but comments that some lectures repeat material which has already been covered. Kenny adds that some topics cross track, and would benefit from fewer people looking over everything rather than a more compartmentalised approach

- There is a discussion on recording of the lectures. Lack of recordings will necessarily exclude some timezones from participating, but given that this programme is developed principally to support UK training, this is not considered to be a priority. It is agreed that it would be better to remain interactive and informal rather than having recorded sessions, in particular to boost attendance

2.2   Lab infrastructure proposal

- Kenny proposes adding some dedicated lectures to cover lab infrastructure/automated monitoring in the lecture programme. This could potentially cover things like micro-services, Influx DB, Grafana and some sensor language (Arduino/micro python)

- Daniel proposes that this could be inserted into the Short Topics track, or the software training. Kenny expects to cover 1 or 2 hours.

- Anyone interested in helping with this should get in touch with Kenny

2.3   Link to UK-DRD and in-person school

- Daniel goes through the last two slides of his presentation, covering the current activities on UK-DRD and funding for in-person summer schools

- STFC have replied rather negatively to the prospect of UK-DRD funding, and no significant increase in instrumentation activity is foreseen for at least the near future. Part of that discussion involved the formation of a CDT, which could conceivably form a home for the UK online lectures

- There is a brief discussion on already involving the other DRD communities in the UK with this lecture programme, but it is felt that this should only be pursued if and when funding becomes available. For the moment we should just keep an eye on the UK-DRD activities

- Peter raises the prospect discussed several years ago on an instrumentation version of the STFC summer school. Daniel goes on to his final slide where he highlights that this was discussed both here and in the UK-DRD3 community, and a bid was submitted to STFC at the start of October. This was for a 2-week residential school for around 20 students, covering solid state detector simulation, assembly and operation. It is not expected to hear an outcome before January

3   Next steps

- Daniel proposes to prepare and send around a sign-up sheet to pick dates for next years programme