

Computer Sciences Laboratory Operational Plan 2008

This annual operational plan has been developed in consultation with departmental staff. It supports the CECS Strategic Plan 2006-2010

The Computer Sciences Laboratory (CSL) conducts world leading research and graduate education in the fields of statistical machine learning, logic and computation, and diagnosis, planning and optimisation.

Head of Department: Professor Bob Williamson
Academic & Adjunct Staff: 13 + 22
General Staff: 3

Strategy

- Develop and promulgate a long term strategic goal / vision for the research of the department along the lines of “compositional artificial intelligence” which:
 - Is over a timescale of at least 10 years;
 - Allows and encourages the engagement of all academic staff;
 - Allows for an exciting external presence;
 - Influences and shapes all tactical decisions within the department including allocation of resources and targeting recruitment;
 - Leverages the local institutional environment (research intensive nature of ANU and its degrees; the relationship with NICTA);
 - Sets an aspirational target of being the lead AI group in Australia and one of the top 10 in the world by 2018.

Staff

- Manage the split of location between RSISE and NICTA building by
 - Alternately holding meetings in both locations;
 - Providing hot-desking solutions
 - Having the HOD visible in both buildings
- Provide mentoring and leadership training for junior academic staff

Research

- Consolidate the three research groups, Diagnosis, Planning and Optimisation; Logic and Computation; and Statistical Machine Learning under the overarching strategy. Each group to have clear plans as to how it contributes to the strategy.
- Maintain the quantity and quality of publications, with a clear majority of papers in high-impact journals or in tier 1 or 2 conferences.
- Have all academic staff members involved in at least one research project with funding from outside the ANU (consistent with overall strategy)
- Have all CSL researchers seek ARC Linkage Grant opportunities

Research Students

- By leveraging the new strategy, increase PhD student numbers towards the optimum steady-state number. Aim for 2.5 students per staff (including adjuncts) by 2012. By end of 2008 have developed tactical plan to effect leverage.

Teaching

- Continue with the CSL contribution to CECS coursework including: COMP 3620/6320, 4640/6460, 8630, 4630/6463, 4690/6469, 8620, 4670/6467, 8650.
- Continue supervision of Honours students and summer scholars.
- Enhance quality of PhD student supervision by reviewing monitoring and supervision processes.

Outreach

- Actively maintain and develop collaborative activities with NICTA that are consistent with overall strategy, with a view to maintaining our close working relationship;
- Revamp the external presence of the existing sub-groups within the department under the overarching CSL strategy (including revamping CSL website)
- Maintain an engagement with NICTA through alignment of NICTA Adjuncts to CSL research groups