

AgentLink Management Committee Meeting









The University of Amsterdam

Wednesday 20 February 2001

10:05 – 10:55

MINUTES

Present

-  Michael Luck, (MML, chair - general coordinator)
-  Magnus Boman (MB)
-  Paul Davidsson
-  Frank Dignum
-  Wiebe van der Hoek
-  Scott Moss (SM)
-  Michael Wooldridge (MJW)
-  Eileen Simon (ESS)

Apologies Received


-  Yves Demazeau
-  Nick Jennings
-  Matthias Klusch
-  Joerg Mueller
-  John Perram
-  Carles Sierra
-  Gerhard Weiss


1. Welcome

MML welcomed everyone to the second meeting of AGENTLINK II.


2. Status of AgentLink II

 **Membership** MML reported that from AgentLink I, 83 members have continued with AGENTLINK II. The number at 31 January was 106 approved 'full' members.



 **Admin posts** MML reported that although AL2 had got off to a slow start because of delays in appointing staff, the current situation is that AL2 is now fully staffed as follows:

 **Elizabeth Coulter-Smith** (ecs2@ecs.soton.ac.uk): Web and Publications Coordinator. MML requested suggestions from the committee regarding the web site, publications and the Newsletter.



 **Eileen Simon** - (ess@ecs.soton.ac.uk): Administration and Events Coordinator .

-  **Finances** MML has distributed a summary of the current financial state of AL2, which showed limited expenditure (before the Amsterdam meeting). SM requested a breakdown of the figures showing where we are in the state of the budget against projections. ESS to add projections and six monthly breakdowns.


3. Membership Applications

-  **Criteria** MML reported that the membership criteria had been made clearer and more explicit, and that these were now available on the web for perusal by prospective applicants.
-  **Application** New applications had been received from N institutions. The meeting reviewed and confirmed the decisions taken offline.

4. Summer School





-  **EASSS'01** MML reported that plans for the Summer School in Prague in July are well underway, and online registration is now possible at <http://cyber.felk.cvut.cz/ACAI01/>. It will be held this year between 9-11 July, in collaboration with ECCAI's Advanced Course on Artificial Intelligence (ACAI-01), under the joint heading of Multi-Agent Systems & Applications (MASAP).
-  **EASSS'02** The 4th European Agent Systems Summer School will be held in 2002 in Bologna, Italy – local organiser will be Paolo Ciancarini, at the University of Bologna.
- MML and WvdH to seek suggestions for courses and lecturers.

5. Meeting Calendar and Organisation

-  **Prague** The next major AL2 meeting will be held in Prague on 9-11 July, to coincide with the summer school. Following requests from members, the format for future SIG meetings would change. As so many people wanted to attend more than one SIG meeting, the meeting agreed that parallel sessions would be set up to open the meetings to more people and possibly increase the SIG participation. Each SIG would then request slots in the overall schedule for a more integrated, coherent and inclusive meeting. MML would be requesting SIG leaders to contact him as soon as possible with their requirements.

SIGs

New Coordinators


-  Rosaria Conte has stood down from the Agent Based Social Simulation (ABSS) SIG, and is replaced by Scott Moss as coordinator and Paul Davidsson as co-coordinator.
-  Volker Roth had agreed to take over as coordinator of the IATA SIG to replace Steve Corley (who had stepped down) and to find a place for mobile agents as an explicit focus within it
-  Franco Zambonelli had agreed to take over the Methodologies and Software Engineering SIG from Jan Treur.
-  Gerhard Weiss announced his intention to stand down from WP3 on Education and Training. Wiebe van der Hoek, already in the WP3 committee agreed to take over as WP3 coordinator.


The meeting noted its appreciation to all those stepping down for all the hard work they had done in AgentLink and AgentLink II; the new coordinators all hope to continue the good work done by their predecessors.


AgentLink-CologNet SIG


MML reported that a proposal had been submitted as part of the CologNet network for an inter-network agents and logic SIG to be partially funded by AgentLink II. The SIG would receive approximately half the funding of existing SIGs as fits an inter-network SIG of this kind.

6. Workshop Requests for Support

 **Proposed Rules** The meeting considered the following proposal from the Research Committee in relation to guidelines for supporting workshops and conferences. It was agreed that these provided a sensible basis for considering AL2 support, but it was noted that these were guidelines rather than rules.

 **Visibility :** We should avoid funding general purpose conferences where Agents / MAS are only one topic of the CFP.


 **Feedback :** We should avoid duplicating funding for colocated events. It is more optimal in terms of AL2 publicity and expected return to spread it over time and space.


 **Contractual :** We should try to fund events located outside Europe, (even though this requires special authorization) but we should reserve these exceptions for major events.

 **Support** The meeting considered the requests for support and the recommendations from the Research Committee, and confirmed the following decisions.

 **AOIS Europe:** funding would be awarded to a maximum of 1,000€

 **AOIS Montreal:** no funding

 **AISB 2001:** No further funding available for this meeting (it was already being supported in one workshop).


 **ATAL 2001:** funding would be provided to a maximum of 1,200€ for an invited speaker

7. Databases and Repositories

MB proposed the reinvigoration of efforts to develop research databases and the web site. Now that AL2 was fully staffed, MML agreed that more effort could be devoted to this. MB proposed a map of Europe with dots representing each member being linked to the web page for each node and the people involved. MB also suggested the kind of information that each node would be required to provide. MB to prepare a template to be mailed to members. Each member site would also have a link to the AgentLink web site.

MML reported that the papers clearinghouse was now online at the AgentLink web site, and asked the meeting to begin populating it with publications.

8. Date and location of next meeting

 The next meeting would be held in Prague around the time of the AgentLink SIG meetings in July.