

COINS Academic Advisory Board

Meeting 2014-10-15

Minutes: Rachael McCallum

Time: 14:30-1545

Place: Tromsø, Norway

Participants:

- Academic Advisory Board (AAB) members: Prof. Dr. Armin B. Cremers (B-IT, University of Bonn), Prof. Dr. Simone Fischer-Hübner (Karlstad University), Sofie Nystrøm (Telenor; participation via Skype), Prof. Dr. Hanne Riis Nielson (Technical University of Denmark)
- Steering Committee (SC) members: Prof. Dr. Hanno Langweg (Gjøvik University College)
- Guest: Dr. Robert Frederking (Carnegie Mellon University)
- Activity Management Office: Rachael McCallum



Agenda

- Status of COINS (Hanno Langweg, 20')
A report for 2013 is attached for your convenience.
- Discussion of status, achievements, and challenges (all)
- Input to steering committee and work plan 2015 (all, 20')

Status of COINS

- Einar Snekkenes has resigned as Scientific Director, and this role is now filled by Hanno Langweg (GUC). Einar will continue as a supervisor for COINS, and thanks are extended to him for his valuable contribution to the research school.
- Rachael McCallum (GUC) will be providing administrative assistance in a 20% capacity.
- Hanno Langweg gave an overview of COINS since the advisory board meeting last year. In addition to the activities documented in the annual report for 2013, the following activities were performed in 2014:
 - Registration of more information security Ph.D. students, now 42 active and 4 graduated
 - Participation of students in networking events supported, including Security Divas, Finse winter school, SWITS seminar, one summer school, NordSec
 - Capture the flag team to practice skills and to increase visibility
 - COINS Ph.D. student seminar in Tromsø 2014 (first time in Stavanger 2013), ca. 30% of students present; community building, networking; invitation of alumni and internship partners
 - Course descriptions developed to include participation in COINS events as part of the taught component of a Ph.D.
 - COINS Ph.D. student researcher grant developed as a tool for recruiting and industry involvement
 - Website functionality extended to increase visibility of information security research in Norway and to attract more good candidates for open positions
 - Sponsoring of the Ph.D. movie sequel to increase visibility and to attract more good candidates

Discussion of status, achievements, and challenges

Minutes taken by Rachael McCallum from approximately 1500.

2014 Ph.D. seminar co-located with NordSec, with some COINS Ph.D. students presenting posters at NordSec.

Discussion regarding participation at COINS PhD events

Issues:

- Allocation of time – often it is not feasible to be away from the office for a whole week.
- Twenty-five supervisors contacted regarding the seminar – replies from only 5 or 6, who had other obligations or teaching obligations during the week of the seminar. Non-teaching weeks may be no more preferable as they are often required for grading. There may also be too many other opportunities for supervisors to meet.
- Ph.D. students are more conscious of time during their Ph.D. studies – enough credits can be earned through the taught courses, and seminars that are not mandatory may be viewed as a distraction.

Possibilities:

- More activities and cooperation to make events more attractive – although it is noted that there are already many courses on Ph.D. training.
- COINS should create an event for supervisors? – networking for supervisors should be kept on the agenda.
- Potential incentives for supervisors – to meet with other supervisors and Ph.D. students. Perhaps this should be co-located with FRISC or NISK.

Promotion of the COINS Research School and recruitment of students

A form has been added to the COINS website which allows people to register their interest in Ph.D. scholarships - <https://www.coinsrs.no/interested-in-phd-grant/>

Students should be encouraged to promote the school – all should have t-shirts to wear at events etc.

The COINS Research School has provided some sponsorship for the sequel to the Ph.D. movie, and will receive a prominent mention in the acknowledgements -

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1831998591/the-phd-movie-2-still-in-grad-school>

Mid-term evaluation

Mid-term evaluation of the school is scheduled for mid-2016. From 2015, COINS will be funded with 2 000 000 NOK per year.

Links with industry

Link with Ericsson in Sweden – unfortunately no interest so far in internships from the students.

McAfee (now Intel) – travel grant. Industry package with short term contracts to test candidates. Longer contracts for industrial Ph.D. applications to be funded 50% NFR and 50% industry.

Unfortunately, there are very few Norwegian companies that want to fund Ph.D. positions – this may be linked to the low number of Norwegian students in COINS, as most are international students.

Discussion regarding job prospects in industry on completion of a Ph.D.

Alumni

Discussion regarding keeping in touch with COINS alumni, as many COINS students should be graduating this year. LinkedIn could be a good tool for this, as many students are already

using it for networking. Graduates are likely to keep their information up-to-date, making them easier to contact, and making it easier to follow their career paths. Networking opportunities for alumni should be made possible, and they should be encouraged to promote advanced Information Security education in Norway.

Input to steering committee and work plan 2015

- Security Divas 2015 – to be held at the Quality Strand Hotel in Gjøvik from 15 to 16 January. This is a female network which includes industry and students, both at Master and Ph.D. level. The conference involves a mix of networking, keynotes, and spa.
- Finse Winter School – to be held 3 - 8 May 2015.
 - COINS will take over the Finse Winter School event from FRISC after funding for FRISC runs out in 2015. Tor Hellesteth (UiB) will continue to organise the Finse Winter School within COINS from 2016 onwards.
- COINS Summer School – to be held in Metochi, Greece. 22 - 29 August 2015.
- Participation with a COINS team in a CTF competition in autumn 2015.
 - The project description for COINS proposed to host a CTF competition in 2016, although there is some concern that the Ph.D. students do not have the skills required to organise this as their focus is often too theoretical.

Discussion regarding credits and courses – currently there are 7 institutions in COINS, offering 30 courses. Is this the most efficient way?

Item to be added to next year's agenda

The Research Council of Norway (NFR) will hold a seminar in Trondheim for all schools next week. Each school will have 3 minutes to present themselves and their development. COINS will be represented by Stig Frode Mjølshnes (NTNU), Vladimir Oleshchuk (UiA), and Pankaj Pandey (outgoing COINS Student representative).

Meeting ends: 1545