

School of IT

Proposal

April 2016

What is it?

- A virtual school, incorporating Computer Science (Science) and Information Systems (Commerce) in one organisational unit
 - Both departments remain in original faculties
 - School is a new unit
 - No change in departments, budget, etc.
 - No change in existing offerings (yet)
 - No change in physical location (yet)
- Supported by staff of Computer Science and Information Systems

Why a School?

- Single point of contact for companies, government, parents and students for computing-related teaching and research
- Better marketing of UCT offerings and less confusion
- Closer working relationship will lead to:
 - More interdisciplinary research
 - More interdisciplinary postgraduate offerings (eventually)
 - By eliminating other redundant teaching

(more) Why a School?

- International trend towards single focused computing structure (Carnegie-Mellon, NU-Singapore, Monash, Makerere, Pretoria, etc.)
- Strongly supported by local industry
 - We consulted them in advisory board meetings and using a survey
- Will provide the space for creative thinking on how to produce high quality graduates to meet industry needs, within the constraints of UCT

(more) Why a School?

- Transformation
 - Better information and mobility of students
 - More appropriate qualifications, especially at postgraduate levels
 - Improving throughput

Structure of School

- Hosted within Faculty of Science
- 2 Departments at first: Computer Science (Science) and Information Systems (Commerce)
 - Each department remains a separate entity within its existing Faculty
- Single industrial advisory board
- Run by Management Committee:
 - HoD of CS + HoD of IS + School Director

Director of School

- Oversee joint activities, such as joint programmes, marketing, events, industrial liaison
- Approximately equivalent to HoD - nominated from existing staff and appointed by Science/Commerce Deans
- Rotated between CS and IS
- Supported by an (initially half-time) administrator

Resourcing

- We have a grant/donation from CSIR/Meraka for the establishment of the School that will fund the Director's allowance and Administrative staff member for at least 4-5 years.
- The Director will do additional fundraising, especially for projects as they arise.