

File 20090923.0730: Notes from meeting with Dr Martin this morning:

- I started off by describing the Air Force RFI that showed up late last night around midnight. I described it to Dr Martin as amounting to a requirements specification for my thesis project. This validates my assertion that it's a needed tool. There is a demand for it. The RFI is especially interesting because it's written by someone else, not by me. I want to compare it to my vision and see where the commonalities lie.
- Dr Martin asked if I can see that the Air Force RFI is published. If it's published, that makes it much more convincing to cite it. Still possible to cite it even if not published, but as a reference it would be much less persuasive, according to Dr Martin.
- I don't know exactly what to do: should I stick to my original plan, or try to be agile and grab this opportunity?
- With the help of a project manager (Coralee Grant), it would help me stay on schedule and finish quickly, always a good thing.
- Other advantages, according to Andrea: this could be a source of funding.
- I promised to have the draft *Crosstalk* article written by our next meeting (on the calendar).
- How do conferences work? If the organisers don't accept my poster, might they ask me to turn it into a five-minute Work-in-Progress talk? Maybe, says Dr Martin. Conferences are usually a binary affair, though—either you're accepted or rejected. They don't have time for multiple rounds.
- One thing Dr Martin mentioned, though, is that the two pages might just go straight into the conference proceedings, and there will be additional time to prepare a flashy poster with all the colours and swoopy fonts.
- I mentioned that it snowed last night, and that I bought a car for the first time, a 13-year-old Honda. It runs and it's mine.
- Dr Martin made me homesick by pointing his camera out the window at the University parks.
- I asked not to be left out of the social event to meet the new DPhil student soon. Maybe they can put my laptop on the table with Skype running and I can be like a brain in an aquarium.
- Meeting ended 0730 MDT.
- What happened after the meeting:
 - I checked for email from Olav, and he sounded like he wants to pursue it. By 0930 it had escalated to a project manager (Coralee Grant) and the programme manager (Olav Kjono). Shortly thereafter, several more people were involved, including Russ Savage and Ken Lewis.
 - After some questions from Coralee and Ken, I told them both that I'd love to work under Coralee as PM, and I sent a detailed email to Ken Lewis telling him straight out what I wanted: (A) to work on this and prob. redact. only, and (B) to get paid full-time again because my finances are currently depleted and strained.
 - Olav came back cautioning and asked questions about whether the University pays for any of my research and whether the facilities I use of the University's might conceivably count as research support. I answered those questions and promised to check the University regulations.
 - I can research IP rights in the Exam Regulations, but should not contact anyone in the University directly about it w/o coördinating with Olav first.
 - Ken Lewis asked to read any background material I have. I explained that much of it is out of date because my thesis has evolved, and that I am working on the new *Crosstalk* paper that will lay out all the detail. Ken Lewis wants to read that.
 - Update: Coralee Grant is definitely the PM, and I am definitely funded at least in the B&P phase. Work work work on it!

- Olav is soliciting legal advice now from Barry Hennegan.
 - Keep pushing to keep it moving!
- Immediate Tasks:
 1. Check the University regulations for IP issues.
 2. Read the RFI.
 3. Write the *Crosstalk* paper draft from it.
 4. Send draft to Ken Lewis and Dr Martin ASAP.
- Next meeting: Thursday, 1st October, 2:00 p.m. Oxford time.

References