

Preliminary Findings from SAB review of CUI March 23-24

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Thank you

- For an enjoyable visit – we appreciate the considerable effort!
 - Overall, well-presented technical talks & demos
 - Lively groups, engaged and articulate next generation of technical leaders
 - CUI has proven to be a good idea and should be strengthened
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Caveats...

- Difficult for 3 visitors in a two-day overview visit to calibrate each group. First exposure, therefore can't expect definitive opinions, constructive suggestions
 - Too little time to delve into details
 - These 3 visitors can't cover all areas
 - We are still missing adequate institutional context
 - This is a more complex environment than most
 - We are missing relevant context for many research groups, i.e., who they compete with internationally, what their "value-add" or competitive advantage is...
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Preliminary (formative) assessment

- Some groups have a healthy amount of collaboration, e.g., within the university and within Europe on EU projects, demonstrating international competitiveness
 - Groups already internationally competitive
 - MIRALab
 - Theoretical Computer Science applied to sensor networks
 - LATL: Lab for the Analysis and Technology of Language
 - others could be
 - We didn't learn what **obstacles** exist for each group and the CUI as a whole
 - Resources (hardware, funding, adequate selection of incoming students with the right preparation)
 - Staff, new staff appointments: does the pyramid have the right dimensions? Is the process sufficiently open? We like career paths. Expectations have to be set.
 - Space and other kinds of infrastructure (not here, apparently!)
 - Better integration and coordination within CUI; how will leadership change effect CUI? What process, criteria?
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Interaction of research and teaching

- We would have liked to learn more about the curricula and their tracks
 - How are students at all levels prepared to engage in research?
 - Is there an adequate amount of professorial supervision?
 - What about such hot areas as distributed computing, networking, search, etc.
 - How will the exciting new building impact the relationship between teaching and research?
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For next time...

- A suggested presentation template
 - Background/context
 - Distinguishing value-add of the group
 - Comparisons to leading groups in the field, metrics and self-evaluation of strengths and weaknesses against those metrics
 - SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, Threats; also, “**impact**”, e.g., external recognition
 - Plans, e.g., EU program participation where applicable
 - Discussion of plans and priorities for CUI as a whole, and of the educational program and its intersection with research
 - Timetable for classes must account for transit time
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Thank you!

- We invite your comments and suggestions
 - Now
 - Via email to avd@cs.brown.edu
 - For the entire SAB
 - For me confidentially
 - SAB happy to provide advice and assistance to CUI and the Rectorate in selecting the next director and launching CREATIC
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