

Response Yde Venema (Director ILLC) to the PVC Report 2011

Dear all,

Herewith we would like to present to you the report of the PVC 2011. It has been discussed in the meeting of the Project Leaders on June 29, 2012 in the presence of the representative of the PhD Council.

We would like to thank the members of this year's PVC, Maria Aloni, Reinhard Blutner, Alessandra Palmigiano, Jenny Batson and Tanja Kassenaar for their efforts. Unfortunately this year the whole process of interviews, writing of and response to the report has taken far more time than desirable. This is however no reflection of the way the ILLC looks upon the work of the PVC. We think of the PVC as an important instrument for our PhD students to provide qualitative information about their situation, and for the ILLC management to maintain a high quality of our PhD programme. We intend to continue with the PVC talks, following the same set-up as in past editions, and to ensure that future editions will be handled in a more timely manner.

We take the recommendations of the PVC 2011 much to heart and inform you of the following actions as a response.

### **Research School Logic**

The plan is to revive the OZSL (Onderzoeksschool Logica, Dutch Graduate School in Logic), taking its management back to the ILLC. At present discussions with colleagues in the Netherlands are under way to find the proper organisation form for this.

### **Structured programme of non-academic courses**

This is considered an important issue. Sonja Smets is now in charge of the PhD pillar of the Graduate Programme (or School) in Logic (alongside the MSc Logic with Ulle Endriss in charge). The aim of this PhD programme will be to set up the PhD education at ILLC in a structured way, with both non-academic and academic courses. The aim is for conformity, but we are bound by the different rules of the two faculties.

### **PhD guide**

As in this recommendation no major operation was involved, an 'ILLC guide' for new PhD students has already been written. As of August 2012, this guide will be handed out by the PhD Council at introduction meetings for new ILLC PhD students. It was written by Umberto Grandi (Faculty of Science), with comments from Stefan Pliquet (Faculty of Humanities), Frank Veltman, Sonja Smets, Jenny Batson and Tanja Kassenaar.

**Regular ILLC event for exchanging work/plans/ideas/info** between staff, postdocs and PhD students.

We do understand the desire for more coherence and definitely want to stimulate more collaboration between various groups at ILLC. On the other hand, there is already an enormous amount of public activities going at the institute, and we don't think that additional events organised centrally will be very useful. Rather, we would like to encourage ILLC members to be proactive and organize meetings that may foster the kind of collaboration they are interested in.

### **Annual Life-after-ILLC event**

We are in favour of making this event an annual one. We think it is best organised by the PhD students. ILLC will give some funding towards the event to cover e.g. travel costs of speakers etc., as well as some support in the logistics.

### **Regular meetings exclusively for PhD students to discuss work**

The original idea behind the Logic Tea was that it would be exclusively for students. Also, recently the MoL students revived the bi-weekly Cool Logic meetings. These are intended to be very accessible events, exclusively for PhD and MoL students (no staff). Students can present results from their thesis project, but also ideas that haven't been developed in detail yet. We expect that these two kinds of events take care of the needs of PhD students; if PhD students would prefer to have meetings without MoL students, they are free to organise such meetings.

### **Obligatory course in Logic for all PhD students.**

It is certainly a good idea to have a course that all ILLC PhD students are supposed to attend. Whether and how we will implement this idea is still to be determined, at the discretion of Sonja Smets in charge of the PhD programme of GPiL. Of course there is already the course within the MSc Logic: *Logic, Language and Computation* covering the various research directions at ILLC. The PhD students would be more than welcome to join this course. It runs every first semester, for 16 weeks.

### **Additional role of PVC**

The names of the PVC members that will act as confidants until the next PVC round, have been put on the ILLC website on the PVC page. New students can be informed by the PhD Council.