Present: A/Prof Ma Qian (Chair), Prof Andrej Atrens, Dr Bo Feng, Prof Han Huang, Prof Peter Knights, Prof David Mee, Dr Kazuhiro Nogita, Prof Jin Zou, Ms Lute Coremans, Mr Brendon Lutwyche, Ms Katie Gollschewski.

Apologies: Dr Kamel Hooman, Prof Richard Morgan, A/Prof Martin Veidt.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2013, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Items in progress (February 2013)

• Members noted that the Faculty has created a website for future 3+1+1 students: http://www.eait.uq.edu.au/uq-engineering-china-partner-program-311.

1. 3+1+1 Strategies

At previous meetings, members have discussed various issues relating to the 3+1+1 program -

• create a series of activities for these students (in addition to the 4 mentoring meetings each semester), to promote engagements within the group and with academics (e.g. a welcome BBQ). Since the program runs across the Faculty, it would be appropriate that these be held at a Faculty level (with the School contributing to the organisation of any events). The Faculty is willing to support a BBQ, with a date to be determined. Prof Huang will continue to mentor this group and will meet with them several times over the semester.

• Members noted that the number of students from SCUT entering the 3+1+1 program are declining. In the Chinese system, each class has a mentor who advises the students on academic and social matters. It was suggested that one way to address the declining student enrolments in this program may be to communicate directly with mentors, for example meeting with them and hosting a lunch. It was noted that it would be difficult for these mentors to be identified, which means that we would need to rely on the internal communication within SCUT to advise mentors on any visits.

• There is now a Chinese version of the 3+1+1 brochure available, which Ms Lute Coremans took on her last visit to China.

• Monash University has a strong link with CSU, and offers a few PhD scholarships to their "2+2" students (at least 3-5 per year). This is a strong incentive for CSU undergraduate students to go to Monash. Furthermore, CSU and Monash hold an annual conferences on Engineering research, which highlights Monash research for the CSU undergraduates. Monash is apparently reducing their intake of these students, which presents an opportunity for UQ, particularly in the mining areas where CSU is strong.

Members noted that students have been opting to complete a MPhil instead of a Master of Engineering Science. Students who complete an MPhil at UQ are not eligible to apply for an IPRS at UQ to undertake a PhD under the Australian Government IPRS guidelines. The only UQ scholarship option open to these students is a UQI 50/50, where the principal supervisor pays 50% of the living allowance. Members noted that this issue should be raised with the School’s research committee.

It was also noted that if students undertake a coursework masters with the intention of applying to undertake a PhD at UQ, then the importance of publications in relation to scholarship success needs to be stressed with these students.

Members also noted that students should select their undergraduate level project carefully, as this can lead into a PhD project.
Members noted that clear pathways need to be communicated to 3+1+1 students. Mr Lutwyche noted that this advice could be incorporated into publications, and should also be addressed at the mentor meetings run by Prof Huang.

2. CSC 2014

- **MOU – extension of scholarship**
  The MOU with CSC has been renewed – effective for five years. The tuition scholarships will now be for 4 years (or three years plus opportunities for extension). Administrative details have not yet been finalised but will be circulated when available.

  Applications will likely be due to the Graduate School in early January, so full applications should be submitted to the School by mid-December to allow for processing.

- **Conditional offers for RHD Applicants**
  Some Schools had expressed concern to the Faculty that applicants yet to complete their current degree had been refused a conditional offer for an MPhil or PhD at UQ. The Graduate School would not approve any conditional offers for applicants if the program they were using for entry was incomplete unless in very particular circumstances.

  This had caused frustration for applicants and fear from staff that we would not be competitive and would ‘lose’ applicants to offers made elsewhere, with some prospective supervisors reporting examples of this having occurred.

  The Faculty was advised by the Admissions Manager at the Graduate School that this practice has been reconsidered and conditional offers will be made to applicants yet to complete their current degree if evidence is provided that:

  1. Their thesis/dissertation is underway;
  2. The thesis/dissertation is of sufficient credit value; and
  3. The applicant’s program GPA to date is of sufficient standard (at least Honours IIA level).

  The Faculty understands that this may not help all applicants but it will hopefully help to retain the interest of strong applicants near completion.

- **Current cohort university of origin and university rankings**

  We currently have 30 CSC students studying in the School –
  
  o 13 from Central South University
  o 4 from Northeastern University
  o 2 from Chongqing Institute of Technology
  o 2 from Northwestern Polytechnical University
  o 1 each from Chinese Academy of Sciences, Dalian University of Technology, Harbin Institute of Technology, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Shanghai University, Sichuan University, Shandong University, Tianjin University, and USTB.

  Members noted that the CSC program as a whole is more competitive now in China and in Australia.

  It was noted that the School is missing out on Joint PhD students because the University has an agreement in place with only two Chinese institutions.

  The mining group currently have no CSC students and would like to send new T&R staff member Dr Zhongwei Chen to China. Prof Zou will be in China in September and October establishing contacts with academics and meeting with students to promote UQ. Dr Chen will work with Prof Zou and the Faculty to coordinate visits. Members noted that the top three mining universities in China currently have agreements with UQ and should be visited by Dr Chen. It was also noted that there is currently no interest within the Mining group to set up a 3+1+1 arrangement as there is no mining specialisation at a postgraduate level.
At previous meetings, member had noted the importance of meeting with student mentors. Ms Coremans noted that she met with two mentors at USTB on her last visit, but was not able to arrange a meeting at SCUT (was informed that mentors are too busy and are not interested).

Members questioned whether A/Prof Carlos Caceres would be teaching at SCUT over summer. It was noted that while he has very good interactions with students enrolled in the course, it is not necessarily translating to enrolments.

There is a new scholarship for postdoctoral scholarship offered by the China Postdoctorate Council (CDC). CPC will sponsor one hundred Chinese postdoctorates in the current round for overseas study. The cost in the first year is covered by the CPC, including living stipend (of around 300,000RMB/approx. 48,300 USD), health insurance, housing allowance and a round-way international airfare. The costs for the second year will be covered by the host institution. Members requested further information on this scheme be provided at the next meeting.

3. Report from Senior Manager, International Development

a. Semester 2, 2013 Orientation

Members noted that Orientation is approaching and that staff would be needed to attend sessions, namely advanced standing, 3+1+1 and Science Without Borders.

There are currently ten acceptances for the 3+1+1 program to commence semester 2, 2013. Three acceptances from SCUT (1 mechanical, 2 electrical), two from Tianjin (both Chemical) and five from USTB (several are materials). More offers have been made so these numbers may increase.

b. Staffing

James Norris will be on leave until mid-August.

c. Other

The 2013 Global Symposium will be held on Wednesday 31 July and Thursday 1 August.

There has been some discussions centrally of having staff teach a course in Indonesia (e.g. as A/Prof Caceres does at SCUT), however this will initially be raised with the Head of School.

ITEE has raised the idea of introducing scholarships for 3+1+1 students and there is currently a discussion of the form this scholarship might take (e.g. for the study abroad year, or at masters level?). The Faculty is working on a proposal and suggestions should be forwarded to Mr Lutwyche. Members noted that a scholarship for 3+1+1 students would be beneficial in attracting students.

2. Member Reports: Regional Specialists

- China/Asia

The agreement with HUST is still in process.

- International Centre

There has been a proposal submitted for an International Centre. The International Centre for the Exploitation of Subsurface Fires would involve UQ, Tianjin University, China (TJU) and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). The Centre will be led by UQ (Prof. José L. Torero) in collaboration with Tian Jin University – China (Prof. Jialing Zhu) and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology – Germany (Prof. Bockhorn). These individuals will lead the centre during its formation as joint interim directors.

The Initial list of potential contributors from UQ are:
Prof. J. L. Torero (interim director- smouldering fires); Dr. A. Klimenko (subsurface combustion); Dr. A. Veeraragavan (combustion diagnostics for pollutant monitoring, energy); (energy): Dr. Bo Feng (combustion); Dr. K. Hooman (Heat and mass transfer processes within earth systems); Dr. J. Corcoran (Geographic Information Systems, Emergency Management); Dr. A. Scheuermann, Prof. Ling Li, Prof.
D. Lockington (Subsurface (ground) water flow and mass transport); Dr. D. Pedroso, Dr. S. Torres, Prof. D. Williams, Dr. A. Scheuermann and Dr. N. Erarslan (Geomechanics and rock mechanics); Prof. Victor Rudolph (Energy); Dr. A. Guyot (Surface & atmospheric sensing), etc.

- **India**

At the last meeting, Dr Anand Veeraragavan attended the meeting to discuss engaging leading engineering institutes in India. Prof. Satya Chakravarthy from the Indian Institute of Technology – Madras will be visiting UQ in early August. He is the coordinator of the National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD) in India. He will be giving a few lectures on different optical diagnostic techniques for thermodiagnostic applications, along with visits to different laboratories to interact with the key researchers. This will be a great learning and networking opportunity for those of us interested in advanced diagnostics, as the NCCRD is setting up key facilities in many of these areas.

- **Latin America**

In 2013 MEA was awarded funding through an AusAID Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship to bring six mining academics from Peru, Ecuador and Columbia to Australia for training in education in sustainable mining practices. The application was completed while Professor Peter Knights of the School was Executive Director of MEA.

This program will provide leadership training to key mining engineering educators of universities in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru. It will support collaborative curriculum development and research, coverage of sustainable mining practices and will build networks across these universities and with MEA, preparing leaders for Latin America’s mining boom. The academics will spend two weeks at UQ, and three weeks at member MEA universities.

Prof Knights also met with representatives from Vale regarding training courses for graduate engineers. This group have been in contact with a Brazilian university Ouro Preto, however are seeking assistance in covering particular areas. There was also a discussion on exchange scholarships with that same university, including joint RHDs. This relationship will help cement ties to Brazil.

- **Japan**

In mid-March, Dr Nogita attended an event in Sydney with UniQuest, the aim of which was to attract Japanese companies to invest in Queensland universities. On the 18th of June, the Japanese ambassador will visit the University and will spend time with a senior delegation and also Dr Nogita.

Dr Nogita noted that he is working on building a relationship with Kyoto University and will have two visitors from this institution arriving soon.

- **South Africa**

SMI has been in negotiations with the University of the Witwatersrand. One member noted that UQ International had been advised by EAIT that there was no interest from EAIT in engaging in these negotiations, which is not the case. Mr Lutwyche noted that he will address this.

3. **Next Meeting**

Members noted that the next meeting would be scheduled in October.