1. Improving Informatics Feedback
Feedback monitoring and enforcement has been rolled out across the School. There have been some criticisms of the automated email generation system, but the benefits in terms of timely monitoring and remedial have been significant. Head of School, Director of Teaching and Feedback Officer have had personal conversations with all UG3/4 lecturers of courses which received criticism in the past. Over the next semester we will review whether improvements have been successfully implemented. The Feedback Officer will proceed to a review of the UG1/2 and MSc courses in Semester 2, and there is still work to do with regard to training and dissemination of best practice, these will be the focus of the feedback initiative for over the next few months. Related to this is planning for NSS submission this spring, all are invited to suggest appropriate mechanisms to ensure a high submission rate and appropriate publicity.

2. Exploring new mechanisms for staff-student engagement
An initial small-scale event on assessment was run on 30th October. A larger-scale “Informatics Conversations” lunchtime event open to all students and staff was successfully run on 27th October in collaboration with EUSA, with groups of students and staff discussing various topics. These events have received positive feedback and we will attempt to repeat them in semester 2.

3. Rethinking assessment
Efforts to encourage the adoption of different forms of assessment have met with a mixed response, with a number of colleagues backing down from initial plans after thinking about the consequences more specifically, but others still keen to pursue this. There is now College funding to support such activity, and a clear steer from the University to make such changes on an ad hoc, experimental basis with minimal bureaucracy.

4. Streamlining and simplifying curriculum
A new working group has been setup by Strategy Committee to explore potentially radical changes to the curriculum and report to Teaching Committee for further discussion. Work continues on broadening access to Hons/MSc courses, and on revamping the duties allocation process with a clearer distinction between compulsory, “core”, and optional courses. Canvassing teaching staff preferences for 2014/15 is anticipated to start before the winter break.

6. Innovative Learning Week and Sutton Trust Summer School
Planning on ILW (17/2-21/2) and the STSS (7/7-11/7) has started, colleagues and students should talk to Victor Lavrenko and Henry Thompson, respectively, if they want to suggest ideas for potential activities, and volunteer to lead those.