CS Research Day 2015 discussions
This is a summary of the discussions held during the CS Research Day 2015, made by Ola Ringdahl.

**Funding – What is currently done to get funding? What can be done better?**
What do you want to get funded? Write a list. Check current projects and get in touch with the people in them for future collaborations. What sources for funding are there? Important to find people who do stuff that you want to do. Networking!

Just because you are in a project does not mean that you will get new projects automatically. You need to work for further collaboration and new projects.

Look long term! What is missing? Find people that can fill the hole or apply for money to do it yourself.

Founders often make requirements on market groups and such. Important to find companies matching this when you apply for money.

We need to be better at telling how good we are. Physics/Chemistry and such gets more funding because they are better at this. Perhaps creating demos can help with this?

Previously only VR money was good for the faculty to get FFT grants. Now all money are good. This means we should get more FFT now, but our increased external financing has not increased our FFT funding. Probably a slow process, but something needs to be done.

Good if senior lectures and professors can have external funding. Currently not possible.

Government money is decreasing. We need external money.

**Collaborations (between fields and / or groups within / outside the department) – What can be gained from collaborations? How are we collaborating today? What can be improved?**
If you begin collaborating with a partner the chance is that they drag you along next time they have something.

People from other disciplines should help us solve problems, not the other way around. We should have confidence enough to say that we have a problem we would like help solving.

**Vision – What research results would you like to see come out of the department in 10 years? What do you think will happen? What are the accessible challenges of CS@UMU?**
Difficult to predict anything so long in the future. We do not know which groups will have or how large they are.

It is difficult to start new groups. Better to start from the ones we have and increase them. Need a senior researcher to speak for the subject. It is very hard for a junior researcher to start new groups without support from senior ones.
We should have many people collaborating with each other (large groups). The faculty likes small
groups. Perhaps this is changing.

**Tredje uppgiften** (“the third task”) – What is currently being done to disseminate research results
into society? How can we improve upon this?

Perhaps connected to the next question (demos).

Faculty has a list with experts in different topics that media can contact. Sign up on that!
[http://www.teknat.umu.se/pressinformation/expertomraden/](http://www.teknat.umu.se/pressinformation/expertomraden/)

Namedropping. Tell people about colleagues that are good in a topic that are discussed with
different people.

**Demos** – How can we demonstrate what we are doing in an interesting way? Would reusable
demos (software prototypes, movies, playful robots, games, simulations, visualizations, etc.) be a
good way to illustrate research problems and results the general public? Would demos be a good
way to inspire and recruit students and / or visiting researchers?

We will soon get a new focus environment in MIT. Perhaps have some demos there? The
inauguration would be a perfect opportunity to show our research.

Maybe it cost more than it tastes? What would be the benefit?

The reason why it’s not done is probably that we don't think about doing demos.

Mater's thesis projects with the goal to do a cool demo could be an option. Or summer workers
creating something cool.

Humlab is really good at making demos and other cool stuff. They get famous doing this, so we
should also do it.

In H2020 and postdoc applications dissemination is mandatory. Demos is one way to disseminate.
Demos are good for recruiting students and PHD students, at conferences, for applications...
We should have more demos on the department Research days.

Have a project course that creates demos? Probably not. It's complicated to create such a course.

**Recruitment (of local students to research)** – Why are so few of our local students interested in
research careers? Is it lack of interest, lack of information, or lack of effort on our part?
They don’t know what we are doing. No one applies for positions. Industry pay more.

5th year of our education programs should be more connected to research

Hire research amanuensis. They will then be involved in research and (hopefully) become interested.
Money and/or projects not always available when the student is.
Maybe we should have an information day about research? Not only what we do research about but also HOW we do research. What is research about, how is it done and so...

**General**

Research day is good for getting an overview of the research done at the department and also discuss important issues regarding research.