

UK Computing Research Committee

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly of the UK Computing Research Committee's Executive Committee held at the BCS, First Floor, Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, London W1 on Friday 15th July 2005

Present:	Steve Furber	Chairman
	Samson Abramsky	
	Alan Bundy	
	Muffy Calder	
	Anthony Cohn	
	David Duce	
	Anthony Finkelstein	
	Michael Fisher	
	Wendy Hall	
	Sir Tony Hoare	
	Mark Josephs	
	Marta Kwiatkowska	
	Jeffrey Magee	
	Anne De Roeck	CPHC
	Vladimiro Sassone	
	Donia Scott	
	Nigel Shadbolt	
	Morris Sloman	
	Karen Sparck-Jones	
	Iain Stewart	
	J S Sventek	
	Martyn Thomas	
	Ian Watson	
	Rob Witty	
In attendance:	Ben Brierley	IEE Support to UKCRC
	Silvia Martins Dias	BCS Support to UKCRC
Apologies:	Peter Buneman	
	Edmund Burke	
	Alan Burns	
	Luca Cardelli	
	Brian Collins	
	Darren Gladwin	IEE
	Carole Globe	
	Shaogang Gong	
	Edwin Hancock	
	Chris Hankin	
	Andrew Herbert	
	Ian Horrocks	
	David Hutchinson	
	Cliff Jones	
	Ursula Martin	
	John McDermid	
	Robin Milner	
	Fionn Murtagh	
	Graham Paterson	IEE
	Gordon Plotkin	
	Mike Rodd	BCS
	David Rosenblum	
	Ian Sommerville	
	Philip Wadler	

1. Introduction.

Steve Furber had been elected and took over as Chairman on 1st July 2005. He officially thanked Alan Bundy for his significant contribution as UKCRC's founding chairman.

2. Words of welcome to the new UKCRC Members.

The Chairman officially welcomed all UKCRC members. A "*tour de table*" was made.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2004 (UKCRCEC/04-03-02) were approved.

3.1 **Actions arising not covered on the agenda.** None.

4. 2004/2005 Report of UKCRC Activities

Alan Bundy gave a report on the main activities of UKCRC over the past year, highlighting the:

- a) Production of the Grand Challenges booklet;
- b) Organization of the Grand Challenges Conference in 2006 in Glasgow, in co-operation with BCS/IEE/CPHC, with event management and funding from the BCS;
- c) Ongoing discussions with OGC, with particular emphasis on improving government procurement processes for IT-based systems;
- d) Negotiations with EPSRC relating to improving the public understanding of computer science;
- e) Valuable administrative and financial support from BCS and IEE;
- f) Developments in membership handling processes;
- g) Engagement in various consultations and submissions, in particular:
 - ID Cards and participation in the Law Society Seminar;
 - Collaboration with the Smith Institute relating to "Mathematics at the Interface of Computer Science and Industry";
 - A paper to Sir David King on "Government IT Systems and the Science Base";
 - Meetings with various MP's with an interest in computer science;
 - Response to the European Research Council Identification Committee Consultation. UKCRC made a nomination to the ERC – a final decision from the Council would be announced shortly. (Note: Subsequent to the meeting it was announced that Bob May and Wendy Hall had been appointed).

Another consultation on the effectiveness in public governance procurement in the National Programme for Health Service was also referred to.

It was noted that at its recent meeting, the UKCRC Executive Committee decided it would start making preparations for the planned 2007 International Review of ICT by first reviewing progress since the previous review of CS.

The UKCRC Executive Committee had initiated a debate on a proposal for a new Learned Society in Computer Science.

Karen Sparck-Jones briefed the group on a meeting with the Grand Challenge chairs.

4.1 **Membership Committee Report.** Ian Watson gave a brief report on the UKCRC Membership Committee activities, the new quarterly-based application/decision process, and noted that 21 new UKCRC members had been admitted since March.

5. Debate on the Proposal for a Learned Society in Computer Science

As Chair of the working group which drafted the proposal for a Learned Society in Computer

Science, and following the discussions held by the Executive Committee, Wendy Hall gave an overview of the proposal. She highlighted the background to the proposal and described the role of a Learned Society. She also described possible models for the evolution of UKCRC into a Learned Society.

A debate followed with inputs covering membership, funding, governance, representation, ownership, terminology and the willingness of BCS, IEE and CHPC to collaborate in establishing this new Learned Society.

It was especially noted that the formation of a single Learned Society would improve the external recognition of computer science.

The Working Group invited UKCRC members to send written contributions (by e-mail) on the proposal to Wendy Hall.

Action: All

It was agreed that the existing Working Group would meet again and reformulate the proposal taking into consideration the comments from members and feedback from BCS, IEE and CHPC.

Action: WH

The Chairman thanked all members for their input to the debate.

6. Any other business

The date of the next Annual General Assembly is March 2006 (exact dates to be confirmed) at the Marriott Hotel in Glasgow, hosted by BCS, following the Executive Committee meeting, on the occasion of Grand Challenges 2006.

Action: WH/SMD

SF/AB/SMD