

DRAFT

Minutes of the 14th meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee's Executive Committee held on 24th November 2006 at the BCS, First Floor, Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, London W1.

Present: Steve Furber Chair
Muffy Calder
Anthony Cohn
Wendy Hall
Cliff Jones
Morris Sloman
Iain Stewart
Anne De Roeck CPHC
Graham Paterson IET
Mike Rodd BCS
Ben Brierley IET Support to UKCRC
Darren Gladwin IET Web Support
Silvia Martins Dias BCS Support to UKCRC

Apologies: Samson Abramsky
Helen Farr IET
Martyn Thomas
Jim Woodcock

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies for absence were received.

The Chair officially welcomed the newly elected Executive Committee members and thanked Morris Sloman for his contribution as UKCRC Executive Committee member.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August 2006 (UKCRCEC-020806) were approved.

Action: Darren Gladwin to include final version in UKCRC website.

3. Matters Arising

All matters from the previous minutes had been dealt with or were covered under other agenda items, with the exception of:

Action	On	Status
Noted that CPHC Executive Committee did not nominate a person to be the CPHC link to UKCRC consultation on RAE metrics.	ADR	Completed
Noted that no action occurred regarding a stronger liaison between	ADR	Ongoing

UKCRC and CPHC in the area of communications.

To contact Tom Rodden on RAE metrics.

SMD/BB	Completed
SMD	Completed

UKCRC elections were organised and a new Executive Committee was elected.

No “town” meetings were organised, due to problems in progressing the proposal for a learned society.

SMD/BB	Stand-by
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Anne De Roeck to take the issue of the presentation of UK computing research at the CRA Computing Conference to CPHC Exec.

ADR	Ongoing
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ALL expressed wish to include UKCRC in the agenda for the next CRA Conference (in 2 years) to ensure unified message.

4. UKCRC Executive Committee Elections – Members and Chair

It was confirmed that Anthony Cohn, Steve Furber and Cliff Jones were all elected for a 3 year term of office.

ALL noted satisfaction with the considerable level of participation/interest in the election process.

Steve Furber was unanimously re-elected Chair.

5. Convenor’s Report

Steve Furber gave a report on the main activities of UKCRC over the past months, highlighting:

- a) IR of ICT Report – ALL expressed a vote of thanks to all UKCRC members involved in the UKCRC submission, in particular Muffy Calder, Steve Furber, Cliff Jones, Karen Sparck-Jones and Ian Sommerville.
Action: Darren Gladwin to make available the submitted UKCRC document in the website after 7th December.
- b) RAE Metrics – It was noted the good support received for the UKCRC report on this matter. ALL expressed a vote of thanks to Tom Rodden, who chaired the working group.
Action: Darren Gladwin to make available the submitted UKCRC document in the website (Anthony Cohn to send final version to DG).
- c) Discussions on the proposal for a new learned society – To be discussed under item 10 of the agenda.

6. Consultations & Submissions

Martyn Thomas tabled a written report (Appendix I).

As regards the:

- a) Lords Inquiry into Personal Internet Security – It was noted that the BCS produced an individual response to it and the IET supported the EURIM response.
- b) RCUK Consultation on Peer Review and related matters – It was confirmed that a working group lead by Fionn Murtagh and including Cliff Jones, Aaron Sloman and Morris Sloman would produce the UKCRC response. It was decided that the draft would be circulated to CPHC (Anne De Roeck to be the point of contact) for consideration, in view of a possible single unified submission in case of consensus.

The Chair confirmed that a meeting was scheduled with John Suffolk (Martyn Thomas and Cliff

Jones to represent UKCRC) on 13th February 2006 to discuss computing research.

Other relevant events were mentioned, including:

- Scottish Science Advisory Report on Health Informatics (to be publicly released on 28-11-2006);
- IET Seminar on "Our Ageing Society: The Challenge of Appropriate, Supportive Technology" (31-01-2007).

7. International Review of ICT

It was reported that there had been a telephone conference between some UKCRC members at the institutions which will be visited. To help achieve more effective co-ordination, the participants had decided to broadcast an email at the end of each visit to share ideas and address specific issues.

It was noted that the public release of the IR of ICT final report would be presented by Bill Lorensen, Chair of the Review Panel, on 06-02-2007 in London.

8. Membership Committee

Further to the written report by Ian Watson (Membership Committee Chair), the following was highlighted:

- a) Membership applications – ALL agreed on the need to encourage new membership applications.

Action: Anne de Roeck to include message of encouragement to join UKCRC on CPHC website.

- b) Terms of Office – ALL agreed to organise elections for the Membership Committee. In order to guarantee a smooth continuity/rolling process, new MC members will be elected for terms of office of 1, 2 and 3 years. MP members representing IET and CPHC need to be appointed for 3 year terms of office.

Action: Silvia Martins Dias to organise MC elections (to be concluded by mid-March 2007). Anne De Roeck and Graham Paterson would be responsible for ensuring new CPHC and IET representatives were nominated by the relevant senior honorary officers (by mid-March 2007).

- c) Membership criteria – ALL agreed to reinforce importance of research eminence and recognition across academia and/or industry.

- d) It was agreed that it is important to explore ways for UKCRC to engage with the younger research community.

Action: Anne De Roeck to circulate comments on membership criteria for discussion.

9. Communications Group

No report was received from the Jim Woodcock or the communications group.

Action: Steve Furber to discuss communication strategy with Jim Woodcock.

It was noted the ongoing good relationship between UKCRC and CPHC at Executive Committee level.

Silvia Martins Dias reported on progress regarding the links between the 50th Anniversaries of computing departments and the BCS 50th Anniversary.

10. Status of discussions on a new Learned Society

Mike Rodd reported that the BCS Trustee Board discussed the proposal and although recognised the need for a unified voice and understood the rationale behind it, raised concerns regarding the proposed learned society activities, many of which seem to replicate the BCS and IET's roles as learned societies. He also noted that the BCS Trustees had become aware of the seeming lack of support for the proposal by some members of the academic community.

Action: Mike Rodd to circulate to Executive Committee members, for information, a brief summary of the minutes of the BCS Trustee Board meeting on this agenda item.

Following the mandate from the last GCC'06 to support the proposal for a new learned society, members agreed the need to communicate with all UKCRC membership on the status of the proposal.

Action: Steve Furber to send explanatory email to all UKCRC membership.

It was proposed to set-up a working party to revisit the proposal (members: Cliff Jones, Iain Stewart, Samson Abramsky, and others yet to be approached; attendees: Mike Rodd (BCS), Graham Paterson (IET), Anne De Roeck (CPHC); independent chair to be appointed).

Action: Steve Furber to send call for volunteers amongst UKCRC membership for expression of interest in joining the working party.

11. Grand Challenges 2008

Wendy Hall reported that:

- There was a need to develop a process to revamp and reactivate GC;
- The GC'08 steering committee has been recently formed (members: Wendy, Joe Sventek and Karen Sparck-Jones; chair: Alan Bundy);
- The 6 GC chairs are to send monthly reports on follow-up activities and to meet for discussions at the same time as the CPHC meeting (Birmingham, 19-20th April 2007);
- The major GC'08 conference will be focused on research (including attracting younger researchers) – criteria for participation, venue, budget and programme to be agreed further.

12. European matters

Wendy Hall reported on:

- European Institute of Technology – The creation of the EIT is included in the European Commission's 2007 Work Programme, however no additional funding is to be made available;
- Scientific Council of the European Research Council – The SCERC is in the process of setting-up panels with subject experts; suggested ALL to recommend suitable names (first call in January); confirmed the recently formed "Computing and Information and Communications Panel".

13. Annual General Meeting

ALL agreed to organise the UKCRC Annual General meeting in July 2007.

14. UKCRC Website

Darren Gladwin reported on the number of hits and noted that the most popular visited areas in the website were the Grand Challenges pages and the resources section – which includes submissions to Government.

In order to attract interest on computing science research by young researchers, it was suggested to update and expand the information in the website on successful computing science PhDs.

Actions: Darren Gladwin to update revised minutes on website and to report on how many graduates visit the website. Anthony Cohn to explore with ETB the possibility of displaying information in UKCRC website on role models. Darren Gladwin to approach Philip Wadler regarding the successful computing science PhDs he had proposed from Edinburgh..

ALL thanked BCS and IET for their continuous support to UKCRC.

15. Any Other Business

Following confirmation by Graham Paterson that funding was secured by IET as regards developments on a new learned society, ALL agreed to further discuss the possibility of using such funds to stimulate undergraduates to undertake PhDs and research in the area of computing science.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next UKCRC Executive meeting will be hosted by IET (Savoy Place) on 21st March 2007 at 2.00pm.

**Appendix I –
Report on Consultations
for the EXEC meeting, November 2006**

This report covers consultation responses and similar activities.

1. RAE after 2008

Tom Rodden led a group consisting of Chris Taylor, Nigel Shadbolt and David Duce. In accordance with the process set up by the Executive on this occasion, the draft was reviewed by the UKCRC Executive and then by the membership.

2 Science Innovation strategy for Scotland

Alan Bundy prepared a draft response for the Scottish Executive that was reviewed by UKCRC members and submitted.

3 Lords Inquiry into Personal Internet Security

Anthony Finkelstein volunteered to lead a response, and Aaron Sloman and Tony Hoare provided input. Unfortunately, pressure of work prevented Anthony from submitting it before the deadline passed.

4 RCUK Consultation on Peer Review and related matters

Fionn Murtagh is leading a response, with the assistance of Cliff Jones, Morris Sloman and Aaron Sloman. The possibility of a joint response with CPHC is being investigated by Steve Furber and Anne De Roeck. The BCS has already said it will submit its own response, drawing on ours.

5 Comment

Responding to consultations continues to be UKCRC's major activity. Our lightweight process generally works well, and an increasing number of members are identifying consultations to which we should respond. I recommend that we continue to search out such opportunities, so that we maximise the influence that leading researchers have on government policy and maintain the visibility and reputation of UKCRC.

Martyn Thomas
November 14th 2006.