

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee's Executive Committee held at the University of Cambridge, Computer Laboratory, William Gates Building at 11.15am.

Present:

Steve Furber **Chair**
Samson Abramsky
Anthony Cohn
Anthony Finkelstein
Andrew Herbert
Sir Tony Hoare
Andy Hopper
Cliff Jones
Mark Josephs
Peter Mosses
Bashar Nuseibeh
Andrew Pitts
Keith van Rijsbergen
Nigel Shadbolt
Morris Sloman
Iain Stewart
John Tait
Martyn Thomas
John Hand (invited) **EPSRC**
Ian Ricketts **CPHC**
Mike Rodd **BCS**

In attendance:

Helen Farr IET Support to UKCRC
Chloe Seager BCS Support to UKCRC
Elizabeth Friend BCS

1. Welcome and Introduction.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their flexibility in re-locating the meeting to Cambridge to coincide with the Karen Sparck-Jones event. He also officially welcomed the new UKCRC member, Peter Mosses.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

2.1 Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2006

The minutes of the last AGM held on 24th March 2006 were approved.

2.2 Matters arising

There were no outstanding actions from the last AGM.

3 Membership Panel report- Chair of Membership Panel

Written report received from Joe Sventek. Of particular note were:

- The three new members who had been elected on to the Membership Panel this year:

Joe Sventek elected for a 3 year term starting on 01-03-2007. Joe was also elected as the Chair of the Panel.

Erol Gelenbe elected for a 2 year term, starting on 01-03-2007

Mark Josephs elected for a 1 year term starting 01-03-2007

- For the last period, three applications for membership of UKCRC had been successful. These new members were Tom Rodden, Peter Mosses and Harold Thimbleby.

The Chair noted the proposal in the Membership Panel report for a new membership drive, and suggested that all UKCRC members should be encouraged to invite at least one new application for membership. Current membership stands at 85, but a membership around 200 was felt reasonable.

The proposed revision of wording in the constitution to allow flexibility for the membership panel and the number of years served, went forward for a vote by members. The proposed change was from '*members of the Panel elected by the UKCRC serve for three years, with one elected each year*' be changed to '**one or more members of the Panel are to be elected by the UKCRC each year, each serving up to three years.**

All eligible members voted unanimously (17) for the change of wording. The constitution would be duly changed in accordance with the above.

A similar review of the wording for Executive Committee elections contained in the constitution would be put on the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting in November.

Action: Secretariat

4 Consultations

Written report received from Martyn Thomas. He reported that that UKCRC are successfully increasing awareness of their responses to consultations. Over the last year it had reached one a month, and 10 of these were formal responses. Martyn had been asked on several occasions to give oral evidence after submitting the written response. It was noted that the response to requests for input on new consultations was generally poor and therefore it was suggested that those who co-ordinated future responses should produce a first draft in order to gain more input from the membership.

Nigel Shadbolt thanked Martyn on behalf of the BCS for the work he puts in to co-ordinate all the responses. UKCRC was being respected as a result of these responses. Members echoed this vote of thanks.

Andrew Herbert suggested that, to avoid confusion in the sector, the UKCRC website should assert more clearly that members have both commercial and industrial interests to give the responses more credibility as an independent board with its own opinion. The Chair noted that each UKCRC response contains a paragraph stating the true relationship between BCS, IET and CPHC, and the website clearly states what UKCRC is. The Committee would continue to consider the issue of public perception.

The Chair noted that Martyn was a 'single source' and that in future it would be necessary to get a deputy to manage the increasing number of consultations. It was agreed that to assist with the workload, consultations could also be co-coordinated outside of UKCRC.

Martyn noted that UKCRC needed to strategize more opportunities to respond and it was agreed that this should be placed on the agenda of the Communications group in the future.

5 Chair's 2006/07 report of activities

The Chair thanked UKCRC's sponsors, the BCS, the IET and CPHC, for their support and also thanked UKCRC members for all their work as volunteers.

5.1 2006 International Review of ICT

The Chair reiterated the report's strong message. Any initial surprise at the lack of technical detail had been outweighed by the positive message. He also commended Universities for all their work in communication with each other. Opportunities were continuing to be sought to work with EPSRC and others and would be on the agenda for the next couple of years.

5.2 Learned Society for Computing

The Chair reported that UKCRC used a lot of resources from the sponsor organizations, but the proposal to establish AC(UK) had failed when it reached the BCS Trustee Board. A small working group had liaised to take this forward and would be meeting over the summer, led by Cliff Jones.

5.3 Grand Challenges

The Chair reported on behalf of Wendy Hall and noted that Grand Challenges is one of the most successful UKCRC ventures, providing a major point of contact with the outside. The plans for GCC08, are to hold it with UbiComp conference held in London on 17th/18th March, with GC to be held on the 18th/19th March 2008.

6 Any other business

6.1 UK Undergraduate Research Conference

Anthony Finkelstein reported that the UK Undergraduate research conference was being planned and dates nearing finality. Over the next month a full proposal would be ready which would be open to school teachers. The Chair encouraged UKCRC to support this.

6.2 EPSRC Chief Executive

The new Chief Executive of EPSRC had been announced as Dave Delpy, formerly of UCL. He would be starting the post later on in the year and UKCRC would be trying to hold a meeting with him to discuss computing and research.

6.3 Grand Challenges

Keith van Rijsbergen suggested that efforts should be made to attract younger researchers to the next Grand Challenges conference, and this was agreed. This would be achieved by offering more technical content in the conference programme.

6.4 Schools Engagement Programme

Andrew Herbert reported that a Schools Engagement day was taking place in Cambridge run by Microsoft and the Computer Laboratory jointly. It was popular and its aim was to show teachers that what they have in their curriculum is IT user skills and not computing science. Nigel Shadbolt noted that the BCS was also keen to put resources into schools engagement.

6.4 Other items

The matter of the proposed boycott of Israeli academics was raised and discussed. Members did not consider that it was a matter upon which UKCRC needed to have a public position.

CS/SF