

Minutes of the 23rd meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee's Executive Committee held on 16th November 2009 at 10.30am at the British Computer Society, Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, London, WC2E 7HA.

Present:

Muffy Calder (Chair)
Anthony Cohn
Steve Furber
Erol Gelenbe
Wendy Hall (Via Conference Call)
Cliff Jones

Ursula Martin
Bill Mitchell (BCS Representative)
Fionn Murtagh
Graham Paterson (IET Representative)
Joe Sventek
Morris Sloman

By Invitation:

Liam Blackwell (EPSRC)
Sharon Burns (EPSRC)

John Hand (EPSRC)

In Attendance:

Alan Berry (IET)
Elizabeth Friend (BCS)

Ian Ricketts (CPHC Representative)
Kim Talbot (BCS Support to UKCRC)

Apologies:

Chris Hankin
David Hutchinson (Membership Panel
Chair)

Darren Gladwin (IET Web Support)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as above.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [UKCRC/0308/03]

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th July 2009 (UKCRC/0209/13) were APPROVED for transfer to the UKCRC website with one minor amendment to item five. The initials 'CJ' in the second bullet point to be replaced with 'CH'.

ACTION: DG

2.1. Matters Arising

The summary of decisions and actions document was discussed and will be updated accordingly.

ACTION: SECRETARIAT

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported the following:

- NOTED the UKCRC briefing notes are now available on the UKCRC website under the 'Resources' area.
- An 'ACM-BCS Visions of Computer Science 2010' 'Call for Papers' had been distributed however speakers for the event have now been confirmed and a revised 'Call for Papers' to be circulated to a wider community to promote the event further. NOTED the UKCRC AGM will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday 14th April 2010 at the 'ACM-BCS Visions of Computer Science 2010'. Chair to inform members of the UKCRC AGA and promote attendance.

ACTION: CHAIR

- It was Steve Furber and Anthony Cohn's last UKCRC meeting and a vote of thanks was recorded for their service during their time on the Executive Committee. The Chair welcomed Joe Sventek and Wendy Hall to their first Executive Committee meeting since their election.

4. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

RECEIVED and NOTED the Membership Committee Report. Chair informed the Executive Committee that Michael Fourman had been elected to serve on the UKCRC Membership Committee following the recent election. A proposed amended version of the 'Applying for UKCRC Membership Frequently Asked Questions' was AGREED by the Executive Committee and will replace the current version on the website.

ACTION: DG

5. CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

RECEIVED and NOTED the Consultations and Submissions report.

6. UKCRC STRATEGY

- The Chair presented the Executive Committee with a 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MOU) for their consideration. The MOU is for the new BCS Academy of Computing to identify how UKCRC links into the Research Committee. It was AGREED that the MOU should include the relationship UKCRC has with the IET. The remainder was accepted by the Executive Committee. Chair to amend accordingly and circulate.

ACTION: CHAIR

- A draft 'Terms of Reference' (TOR) needs to be produced for the Academy of Computing Research Committee. It was AGREED the Chair, MS, CJ, BM and GP from the IET work over the next few weeks to set up a first draft TOR. This will then be reported at an Academy progress meeting on 10th December.

ACTION: CHAIR / MS / CJ / BM / GP

7. REF GROUP

RECEIVED and NOTED the REF Group Report. Executive Committee AGREED the second HEFCE Consultation on the REF with some minor changes. MS to update the report and circulate final version to Executive Committee prior to being forwarded to UKCRC members and the CPHC. Chair thanked the group for their work on this project.

ACTION: MS

8. SIGNPOSTING

The Chair had been approached to explore whether the 'Grand Challenges' should be used for Signposting. EPSRC explained the definition of 'Signposting' to the Executive Committee, which highlights priority research areas in responsive mode instead of issuing calls for proposals and is a change to process used in peer review panels (in responsive mode). It provides an alternative way to respond to new opportunities or support researchers moving into new areas where they have yet to establish a track record. The Executive Committee discussed this and AGREED with EPSRC not to pursue this matter.

9. GRAND CHALLENGES WEBSITE

NOTED WH will be attending a meeting on the 17th November 2009 with the Grand Challenges Steering Committee to discuss the organisation of the Grand Challenges Conference in 2010. This will be open to the whole community and will be an 'unconference' i.e. using social networking technologies to allow participants to organise the structure of the day themselves and discuss what they want to discuss. There will be a '*Call for Contributions*' not a '*Call for Papers*'. WH has been communicating with DG to update the current Grand Challenges website pages. Comments will be sought on how to appeal to younger members.

ACTION: WH

10. UKCRC REPRESENTATION FOR CPHC

AGREED that this would be shared between the Chair, JS and MS.

11. 2010 UKCRC MEETING DATES

Confirmed the summer meeting will be held in July 2010. Chair agreed 19 July with the Secretariat.

ACTION: CHAIR / SECRETARIAT

12. RESEARCH COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION / MOU

This item was taken under item 6.

13. REPORTS

13.1. CPHC

It was reported that CPHC have mirrored the UKCRC's MOU to be presented to the Trustees at a meeting on the 18th November. IR confirmed the cost for attendance at the CPHC Conference 2010 and evening meal, would be £50.00.

13.2. Grand Challenges

This item was taken under item 9.

13.3. European Matters / ISTAG

RECEIVED and NOTED the European Matters / ISTAG Report.

14. AOB

SNOWBIRD MEETINGS

The next Snowbird conference is the 18th - 20th July 2010. JS previously attended and was seeking funding for this event.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Monday 22nd March 2010, IET Offices London

Monday 19 July 2010, BCS Offices, London

Monday 15th November 2010, IET Offices London