

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly of the UK Computing Research Committee held on 14th April 2010 at 17.00 at the University of Edinburgh, Informatics Forum, 10 Crichton Street, Edinburgh EH8 9AB.

Present:

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| Muffy Calder | Executive Committee Chair |
| Wendy Hall | Executive Committee Member |
| Morris Sloman | Executive Committee Member |

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| Michael Fourman | Member |
| Alan Bundy | Member |
| David Duce | Member |
| Stephen Furber | Member |
| Johanna Moore | Member |
| Gordon Plotkin | Member |
| David Robertson | Member |
| Ian Sommerville | Member |
| Philip Wadler | Member |

In Attendance:

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| Elizabeth Friend | BCS |
| Kate Norman | BCS Support to UKCRC |

Apologies:

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| Anthony Cohn | Member |
| Mark Josephs | Member |

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Members were welcomed by the Chair. Apologies were received as above.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [UKCRC/AGA/07]

The minutes of the AGA held on the 27th July 2009 (UKCRC/AGA/05) were APPROVED for transfer to the UKCRC website.

ACTION: Secretariat

3. CONVENOR'S REPORT

Report RECEIVED and NOTED see appendix 1.

3.1 REF Working Party

Chair went through her report and advised that many of these items can be found in more detail on the website. Chair thanked those members of the REF Working Party for their hard work and for the excellent input into government and for their feedback to UKCRC and CPHC.

3.2 BCS Academy

Chair advised that the UKCRC were enthusiastic about the whole concept of the BCS Academy and the Research Committee. It was felt many of the members present would like further clarification over how UKCRC and the BCS Academy will work together for the future.

Wendy Hall thanked Muffy Calder for all her hard work with regard to getting the BCS Academy and the Research Committee started.

3.3 Membership

Chair advised the members present that membership was now at 106, and the incoming Chair, Michael Wooldridge will be pro-active in seeking in new members.

3.4 Fellows

Noted: The system of inviting Fellows of an appropriately prestigious body, specifically FRS, FRSE and FREng should be re-instated for membership for UKCRC.

ACTION: Chair and Chair of the Membership Committee

3.5 Elections

Chair advised members that elections for the vacant positions on the Research Committee of the BCS Academy will take place shortly. At present there are 8 members who would like to be considered for the 5 positions. Chair confirmed that she would put herself forward to Chair the Research Committee and that she would not stand for Chair of the UKCRC in November since her Term of Office expires.

The UKCRC Executive election process will commence in May.

4. CONSULTATIONS & SUBMISSIONS

Report RECEIVED and NOTED see appendix 2.

5. MEMBERSHIP PANEL

Report RECEIVED and NOTED see appendix 3.

6. DATE OF NEXT AGA

To be advised.

Appendix 1

CONVENOR'S REPORT

1. Members of the Executive Committee held meetings with Lord Sutherland of Houndwood (aka Stewart Sutherland), who chairs the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology, and Adrian Smith, who was Director General of science and research at DIUS.
2. Executive Committee expressed concern to EPSRC about their presentation of the Computing community as fragmented, and met with managers of the ICT programme.
3. UKCRC agreed to provide technical leadership for the next BCS Visions of Computing 2010 Conference, to be held in Edinburgh during week starting 12 April 2010. The conference will include CPHC annual conference, the CPHC and UKCRC AGMs, and the Grand Challenges meeting, as well as research content. Derek ChairAuley is chair of technical programme.
4. A REF working party was set up: Alan Bundy (chair), Ursula Martin, Morris Sloman, Tom Rodden, and Ross King. This group is providing excellent input to government and feedback to UKCRC and CPHC about this important issue. UKCRC also made a submission to the HEFCE REF consultation (on website).
5. Executive Committee held a joint meeting in May with the CPHC Committee to discuss ways of working together more closely.
6. Three "Briefings Notes" were prepared on issues concerning Computing research. The notes are intended for members to use when talking to outside bodies, and they will be available from the website shortly. The notes are for different audiences: government and policy makers, scientists and VCs, and those involved with public engagement (edited by Muffy, Steve and Alan, respectively). The intention is to update the notes annually.
7. Membership criteria was clarified and a FAQ concerning how to join will go up on website. Membership has now reached 100.
8. A small working party has been set up (Anthony Finkelstein, Muffy Calder, Liz Bacon (CPHC), Lachlan Mackinnon (CPHC), Bill Mitchell (BCS)) looking at how UKCRC and CPHC might work together with BCS to create a coherent, professionally aligned voice for computer science in the UK. This is very much work in progress; a crude summary of the proposal is a body to encompass research leadership (led by UKCRC), education (led by CPHC) and aspects of science within the profession (led by BCS). The proposal does not change the function and working practices of UKCRC. But, we wish to maintain the relationship with IET within such a framework and this needs to be resolved.
9. The chair has sent out brief reports after every Executive Committee meeting by email. Any comments on how to improve communication are very welcome

Muffy Calder 17 July 2009

Appendix 2

CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

Since Prof. Hankin took over the responsibility for coordinating responses to consultations, UKCRC has responded to the European Commission on its ICT strategy for 2020, to the IUSS Consultation "Putting Science and Engineering at the Heart of Government Policy" and to a call for supplementary evidence relating to this inquiry.

All responses were coordinated by Prof. Hankin. The IUSS responses will be published on the UKCRC website once the IUSS committee has issued its report.

At our meeting with the CPHC Executive on 7 May, we agreed a closer coordination between UKCRC and CPHC in responding to consultations.

Chris Hankin

EU UPDATE

ISTAG, the independent Advisory Group for DG Information Society and Media, published the report "Revising Europe's ICT Strategy" in February 2009. This report highlights the central role that ICT will play in Europe's future economic prosperity. There is quite an emphasis on support for a new web-based services industry but also a recognition that investment in the underlying science and technology is essential. The report also pays some attention to the relative weakness of Europe (in contrast to the US) for support of the innovation process.

ISTAG also established a new working group to develop the Work Programme for 2011-2013 which is aiming to conclude its work in the latter part of this year. Professor Hankin is a member of this group.

The ISTAG report has also spawned a new activity within the ISTAG Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) group to consider the creation of small number of flagship programmes. Professor Hankin is also a member of this group and it has been well-briefed on the UKCRC Grand Challenges. It is expected that there will be a wide-ranging consultation on the exact form and content of these flagship programmes.

The call for proposals for "Knowledge and Innovation Communities" in the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) was published in April 2009, with a closing date at the end of August. Future ICT is one of the potential topics for a KIC (the other possible areas being Sustainable Energy and Climate Change). It is expected that the selected KICs will be announced by the end of 2009. There are several strong ICT consortia that are planning to bid.

Chris Hankin

Appendix 3

MEMBERSHIP PANEL

Below are the reports provided by the Membership Panel throughout the year. 2009

UKCRC Membership Committee Update November 2008

1. There has been a small number of applications to deal with, but notably there was one rejection, one case where the applicant has been encouraged to re-apply, and another case in which further evidence will be sought from the applicant's proposer and/or seconder.
2. The committee proposed a footnote to the constitution relating to applications from applicants outside the UK, and this was approved by the Executive Committee and has now been incorporated.
3. We have discussed the possibility of 'fast tracking' of applicants who might automatically qualify for membership because they are Fellows of an appropriately prestigious body. It was agreed that there are unarguably a few such categories, specifically FRS and FREng, but that other Fellowships such as those of FBCS and FIET would not give automatic membership qualification. This rather simplistic summary was conveyed to the Executive Committee chair, who agreed with its conclusion.
4. We also discussed the extent to which we need a membership drive, not least in view of the small number of recent applications. It was agreed that the Executive Committee should be asked to comment on whether the current level of membership is at or nearing its full potential and also for example whether the UKCRC currently lacks particular expertise that is known to exist in the community. (The Executive Committee has not yet been approached about this issue.)

UKCRC Membership Committee Update April 2009

1. There were no new applications during this period. I have just been told by the secretariat that there will be three new applications to consider very soon.
2. We spent some time on the two most recent membership cases that had been encouraged to re-apply. One of the applicants eventually decided not to re-apply because he was leaving the country for pastures new. The other is re-applying, and we are waiting for one more support letter before re-considering the case.
3. Most of our effort in this period was taken up with discussing and producing guidelines on applying for membership, in the form of 'frequently asked questions'. A major motivator for producing these guidelines was the observation that applicants find it hard to work out what to include in their application. The paper is reproduced below. It was approved by the Chair of the Executive and will soon be added to the UKCRC web site in the appropriate place. The membership committee would welcome feedback from the Executive.

UKCRC Membership Committee Update July 2009

1. There were six new applications since my previous report in April 2009. All of these have been accepted and the outcomes conveyed by the Executive Chair to the successful applicants. This now brings the total number of UKCRC members to 100.
2. Following feedback from the Executive Committee, we discussed membership criteria and issues at the June meeting of the membership committee. Cliff Jones was specially invited and made a valuable contribution to the discussion, providing a useful history from earlier years of the committee. Following that meeting, a new (and, we hope, final) version of the FAQ paper on Applying for UKCRC Membership has been produced.

David Hutchinson

