

**Minutes of the Annual General Assembly of the UK Computing Research Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 at 13.00 at BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, First Floor, The Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, London, WC2E 7HA.**

**Present:**

Chris Hankin	Executive Committee Chair
Paul Davies	Executive Committee Member
Cliff Jones	Executive Committee Member
Ursula Martin	Executive Committee Member
David Robertson	Executive Committee Member
Morris Sloman	Executive Committee Member
Joe Sventek	Executive Committee Member
Alan Burns	Member
Mark Josephs	Member
Thomas Rodden	Member
Mike Wooldridge	Member

**In Attendance:**

Alan Berry	IET
Elizabeth Friend	BCS
Kate Norman	BCS Support to UKCRC
Ian Ricketts	CPHC
Christina Turner	EPSRC

**Apologies:**

Muffy Calder	Executive Committee Member
Erol Gelenbe	Executive Committee Member
Darren Gladwin	IET
Bill Mitchell	Executive Committee Member
Fionn Murtagh	Executive Committee Member

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [UKCRC/AGA10/05]**

The minutes of the AGA held on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010 were amended and APPROVED for transfer to the UKCRC website.

**ACTION: Secretariat**

**3. CONVENOR'S REPORT**

Report RECEIVED and NOTED see appendix 1.

**3.1 Strategy**

Chair advised that the Grand Challenge document would now become a historical document. This would be replaced by 'Key Challenges' which would include Transportation, Infrastructure, Security, Health and Well-being.

### **3.2 BCS Academy work**

The Computer Science Symposium will be held in York in April 2012. The Sparck Jones Lecture will be co-located with the Symposium in even years. This year's lecture will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Fran Allen is the guest of honour.

### **3.3 REF**

Steve Furber will Chair the Computer Science sub-panel. The first meeting is scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The Panel is planning three meetings during 2011.

### **3.4 Consultations**

The number of consultation will remain high for the coming year, as debates continue on strategy in research.

### **3.5 European Matters**

The European Commission has issued a consultation on Research and Innovation Funding with a deadline in late May. UKCRC will give an official response to this.

*Chair asked those members present if they would object to an EPSRC representative giving a verbal update on EPSRC, this item was not listed on the AGA agenda. No objection was received.*

### **EPSRC Budget Update**

The EPSRC budget is split into 3 areas – Resource, Capital and Administration. The reduction in figures are as follows:

- Resource: A 3% cash reduction, with inflation this is 12%-13% in real terms.
- Capital: A 50% over 4 years, fixed for year 1 and indicative for years 2-4. This combined with the Resource budget equates to a 16% reduction overall over 4 years.
- Administration: Approximately a 34% reduction when taken with inflation. This is fixed for year 1 and indicative for years 2-4.

## **4. CONSULTATIONS & SUBMISSIONS**

Report RECEIVED and NOTED see appendix 2.

## **5. MEMBERSHIP PANEL**

Report RECEIVED and NOTED see appendix 3.

NOTED: John McDermid was elected as the New Membership Panel.

An additional process was agreed at the Executive Committee Meeting prior to the AGA for targeting new members, process as follows:

- The Executive Committee would identify potential new UKCRC Members
- A letter would be sent inviting them to submit a supporting letter and CV.
- A member of the Executive Committee would compile a supporting statement.
- This would then be forwarded to the Membership Panel for final assessment.

The Executive Chair would welcome nominations from the Executive Committee of possible UKCRC members and this should include industrialists as well as academics.

## **6. AOB**

The members thanked Muffy Calder for her contribution as a member and as Chair.

## Appendix 1

### UKCRC ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011 CONVENOR'S REPORT

#### Strategy

Following a decision of the Executive at its last meeting, the Grand Challenges initiative will be drawn to a close, to be replaced by a new focus on Key Challenges in which Computer Science can be deployed to improve quality of life. We identified a number of areas: Energy; Transportation; Infrastructure; Security; and Health and Well-being. The first event to focus on a Key Challenge is the *Energy for Computing, Computing for Energy* workshop which follows the AGA (21<sup>st</sup> March 2011). It is expected that there will be further discussion about key challenges at the AGA and following workshop.

A delegation including the past Chair, together with representatives from BCS, CPHC, BCS Academy and Microsoft, will meet David Willetts on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011. UKCRC have produced a short background paper for this meeting which emphasises the differences between Computer Science and IT. The paper focuses on the economic importance of computing: 1.5 million computing professionals in the UK; 27% of UK jobs are IT-related; the UK spends £60B per annum on IT products; and our global competitors are all investing heavily in computer science research. The Chair has been part of a small group of theoretical computer scientists who have been working with EPSRC to better understand the ways in which the more fundamental parts of the EPSRC computing portfolio interact with other parts of their portfolio.

The UKCRC is keen to arrange some public outreach activities to coincide with the Turing Centenary Year. The Chair has made initial contact with the BBC to discuss some possible options.

#### Academy

The Research Committee are developing plans for the Computer Science Symposium to be held in York, April 2012 – this will become a regular event held every two years and replaces the BCS/ACM Visions of Computer Science series. The Sparck Jones Lecture will be co-located with the Symposium in even years. This year's lecture will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

A research topics web-page will go live at the end of March.

#### REF

Steve Furber will chair the Computer Science sub-panel. Invitations for sub-panel membership have been issued and the sub-panels should be announced before the end of February. The sub-panel is planning three meetings during 2011; these will develop specific rules/definitions for Computer Science.

#### Consultations

Dave Robertson has taken over as the Executive Committee member who oversees the UKCRC responses to public consultations.

After a rather quiet period around the 2010 General Election, we are now engaged with an unusually large number of consultations: three submitted in December/January and a further four in preparation for March/May deadlines. These are on a range of topics: TICs, the EU Framework (Programme and overall strategy); EPSRC strategy for the next decade, intellectual property and the UK government science and research budget allocation. They are also to a range of bodies: Commons select committees; BIS and the European Commission. The number of consultations is likely to remain high for the coming year, as debates continue on strategy in research.

UKCRC also made a submission to the International Review of Mathematics (the submission was orchestrated by Ursula Martin).

### **European Matters**

The European Commission has recently issued a consultation on Research and Innovation Funding with a deadline in late May. Dave Robertson will be seeking a volunteer to lead on this. Individuals can also respond.

The consultation will feed into the Commissions thinking about the follow-on from Framework 7 – which is likely to be a Research and Innovation Framework. The main business of ISTAG is focussed on providing input to the next Framework discussions.

At the beginning of February, six thematic pilot FET (Future and Emerging Technologies) Flagships and one horizontal action pilot were invited to enter contract negotiations. The Commission intends to formally launch these pilot actions at the FET'11 Conference in Budapest (4-6<sup>th</sup> May 2011).

Chris Hankin

## Appendix 2

### UKCRC ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011 CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

We have responded to three public consultations:

1. **Commons Select Committee inquiry into Technology Innovation Centres** (Deadline: 02.12.10, led by Ingemar Cox).
2. **BIS call for evidence on the EU Framework Programme** (Deadline: 04.01.11, led by Dave Robertson)
3. **EPSRC ICT Research Next Decade survey** (Deadline: 11.01.11, led by Dave Robertson).

The text of all responses will appear on the UKCRC website in due course (some are already available). The general membership were given the opportunity to contribute to all responses.

The following four consultations currently are in preparation:

4. **Science and Technology Committee call for evidence on Peer Review** (Deadline: 10.03.11, led by Harold Thimbleby).
5. **UK Intellectual Property Office Independent Review of IP and Growth** (Deadline: 01.03.11, led by Dave Robertson)
6. **Commons Select Committee call for evidence on BIS's Science and Research Budget Allocation 2011/12 to 2014/15** (Deadline: 27.04.11, led by Dave Robertson)
7. **European Commission Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for future EU Research and Innovation Funding** (Deadline: 20.05.11, led by David Arnold)

Dave Robertson

### Appendix 3

#### UKCRC ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011 MEMBERSHIP PANEL REPORT

This is an update on activities and outcomes during the year ending March 2011.

1. Mike Wooldridge took over as chair of the membership panel in March 2010. He will step down at the end March 2011.
2. The Panel received only a very small number of membership applications from March 2010-present. Of these, we admitted just one new member.
3. As it was clear from previous years that applications were dwindling, discussions took place regarding (i) why this might be the case, and (ii) what our response should be. With respect to (i), several possible explanations were put forward: that we had reached saturation point with respect to researchers in the UK of the appropriate stature, or that perhaps we were not communicating with researchers in some areas (e.g., theory was considered fairly well covered in UKCRC, while HCI not so well). With respect to (ii), it was decided to adopt a more pro-active approach to membership, identifying individuals appearing to be of the appropriate stature, and inviting them to apply directly. To simplify the application process for such individuals, it was decided that a support letter could be generated by the Membership Panel, and that only a CV and cover letter making a case for membership would be required.
4. Accordingly, following discussions, eight individuals have so far been invited to apply for membership. We are not yet able to report on the outcome of these invitations, but we are hopeful that this process will generate some excellent new members.

Mike Wooldridge