

UKCRC/2011/05

Minutes of the 27th meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee on Monday 21st March 2011 at 10:30 at BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, First Floor, The Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, London, WC2E 7HA.

PRESENT

Chris Hankin (Chair)
Dave Robertson
Mike Wooldridge

Paul Davies (IET)
Joe Sventek

Ursula Martin
Morris Sloman

BY INVITATION

Christina Turner (EPSRC)

IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Berry (IET)
Ian Ricketts (CPHC)

Elizabeth Friend (BCS)

Kate Norman (BCS)

APOLOGIES

Liam Blackwell (EPSRC)
Erol Gelenbe
Cliff Jones

Muffy Calder
John Hand (EPSRC)
Bill Mitchell (BCS)

Darren Gladwin (IET)
Wendy Hall
Fionn Murtagh

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as above.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [UKCRC/ 0310/17]

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th November 2010 were APPROVED for transfer to the UKCRC website.

ACTION: DGLadwin

2.1. Matters Arising

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

Chair advised that the Grand Challenge document would now become a historical document.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. The latter could be run as a workshop in early autumn 2011.

3 CHAIR'S REPORT

3.1 Strategy

A delegation met with David Willetts on 28th February 2011. Representatives from BCS, CPHC, BCS Academy and Microsoft were present. This meeting covered two main areas; Computer Science being funded as a laboratory subject and employment of Computer Science students once qualified. David Willetts agreed to look at the codes and categorisation of Computer Science. No official response has yet been received.

3.2 Academy

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 24th May 2011 and Fran Allen is the guest of honour.

Funding from IBM has been offered for a period of 5 years for The Sparck Jones Lecture.

3.3 REF

Steve Furber will Chair the Computer Science sub-panel. The first meeting is scheduled for 28th March 2011. The Panel is planning three meetings during 2011. Chair will meet with Muffy Calder and Lachlan MacKinnon to discuss resurrecting a REF sub-group.

ACTION: Chair

3.4 Consultations

UKCRC is currently engaged with 4 consultations with March/May deadlines. The numbers of consultations are likely to 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. Individual responses are welcome on this consultation, early responses are recommended. UKCRC will submit an official response.

Six thematic pilot FET Flagships and one horizontal action pilot will be formally launched at the FET 2011 Conference in Budapest on 4th- 6th May 2011.

4 EPSRC UPDATE

The Delivery Plan has now been published. The Implementation Plan is the next stage and will be published later this year, the goals of which are:

- Shaping Capability
- Developing Leaders
- Delivering Impact

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

- Resource: A 3% cash reduction, with inflation this is 12%-13% in real terms.
- Capital: A 50% reduction 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.

The April budget is an interim budget for the first six months of the 2011-2012 financial year.

EPSRC is looking to streamline some of its long running schemes.

5 MEMBERSHIP PANEL

NOTED: John McDermid has been elected as the New Membership Panel Chair.

An additional process was agreed at the Executive Committee Meeting prior to the AGA for targeted 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 CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

Members recognised the process was going well and involving all UKCRC members.

NOTED: The final version of a Parliamentary Consultation should not go onto the UKCRC website until it has been published.

7 REF GROUP

Items were discussed under 3.3 of the Chair's Report.

8 REPORTS

8.1 CPHC

The following points were noted:

- HEI will be closing 24 centres. The York Office will remain open and will be the central support. Future strategy to be confirmed.
- The CPHC Annual Conference in Belfast is on 18th and 19th April 2011
- Ian Ricketts will be standing down as the CPHC representative at the CPHC's Annual General Meeting in April.
- The Chair will discuss with Lachlan MacKinnon about a CPHC representative for the future.

8.2 BCS Academy Research

Items were discussed under 3.2 of the Chair's Report.

8.3 UKCRC Website

Chair will meet with Darren Gladwin to discuss updating the UKCRC website.

ACTION: Chair

9 AOB

The Committee thanked Ian Ricketts for his contribution.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2011

Monday 13th June 2011 at 10.30, IET Offices, London

Monday 7th November 2011 at 10.30, BCS Offices, London

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2012

Monday 19th March 2012 at 10.30, IET Offices, London

Monday 11th June 2012 at 10.30, BCS Offices, London

Monday 5th November 2012 at 10.30, IET Offices, London