

Minutes of the meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee on Monday 7th November 2011 at 10:30 at BCS, The Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, London, WC2E 7HA.

PRESENT

Anthony Cohn
Martin Loomes
Tom Rodden

Chris Hankin (Chair)
Bill Mitchell (BCS)
Morris Sloman

Cliff Jones
Dave Robertson
Joe Sventek

BY INVITATION

Liam Blackwell (EPSRC)

Christina Turner (EPSRC)

IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Berry (IET)

Sharon Hurd (BCS)

Kate Norman (BCS)

APOLOGIES

Paul Davies (IET)
Ursula Martin

John Hand (EPSRC)
Martyn Thomas

Darren Gladwin (IET)

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as above.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th June 2011 were APPROVED for transfer to the UKCRC website.

ACTION: D Gladwin

2.1. Matters Arising

New UKCRC Member

AGREED: Colin O'Halloran would be invited to apply for UKCRC Membership. Cliff Jones to support this application and to find a seconder.

ACTION: Cliff Jones

REF Group

NOTED: UKCRC will not be submitting a joint response with CPHC on the REF Panel criteria.

UKCRC representation on the CPHC Committee

AGREED: Chair or Morris Sloman to attend CPHC Meetings, wherever possible.

Briefing Notes

Chair confirmed that he was currently revising and updating the Briefing Notes. Once finalised these are to be placed on the website.

ACTION: Chair/DGladwin

History of Computing Podcast

Chair and Cliff Jones to meet to discuss this item.

ACTION: Chair/Cliff Jones

3 ELECTIONS

3.1 Election results of Committee Members

Morris Sloman has been re-elected. Tom Rodden, Anthony Cohn, and Martyn Thomas were welcomed as new elected members. Anthony Cohn has been elected for 1 year.

Chair expressed his thanks for the hard work and commitment of the out-going members, namely Erol Gelenbe, Fionn Murtagh and Wendy Hall (and Morris Sloman who was re-elected).

AGREED: The out-going members would remain on the Executive Committee JISCmail list until the end of the calendar year.

3.2 Election of Chair

Chris Hankin was proposed for Chair. This was proposed by Morris Sloman and seconded by Cliff Jones. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed Chris Hankin for this position for another year.

4 CHAIR'S REPORT

4.1 EU Matters.

The financial framework for Horizon 2020 (H2020) was adopted on 29th June 2011. There is a 46% increase compared to FP7 from 2014. If the full budget is allocated this will represent 8.5% of the overall EU budget.

H2020 will be organised around 3 areas: Tackling Societal Challenges, Creating Industrial Leadership and Competitive Frameworks and Excellence in the Science Base. It has not yet been confirmed how this budget will be divided between the 3 areas. The proposal for H2020 will be formally published on 30th November 2011.

4.2 Societal Challenges

Vicki Hanson from Dundee has confirmed again that she is keen to organise a Healthcare workshop on the same day as the AGA (19th March 2012). She will provide the Chair in the next few weeks with a working title for the event and a list of agreed speakers. The venue will be at the IET, London.

AGREED: The schedule for the 19th March will be as follows:

- Executive Committee Meeting - 10.30 start
- Lunch
- AGA
- Healthcare workshop followed by questions and answers

4.3 Website

NOTED: Chair met with Darren Gladwin to review the website. Darren is in the process of updating and implementing the changes.

4.4 EPSRC Matters

NOTED: A sub-group of the Executive Committee have been involved in discussions with EPSRC regarding the Shaping Capability Exercise. A meeting took place at the end of October and another one is scheduled for later this month.

5 RESEARCH FUNDING AND POLICY

5.1 Recent Developments (Chair)

Chair confirmed that he had nothing further to add.

5.2 EPSRC update

EPSRC must focus its investments in areas that are of long-term strategic importance to the UK. To support this strategy EPSRC's investment decisions in the future will be based on the international excellence of the research and its national importance

NOTED: A tick list has previously been requested during community engagement but this would reduce the flexibility applicants have in articulating national importance. There was also a request to see if longer applications could be introduced for larger research projects. Liam Blackwell reported that he will ask the question.

Shaping Capability

EPSRC met with the Learned Societies and it was agreed that they would be given the opportunity to respond to a set of questions relevant to Shaping Capability with a deadline of 30th November. In order to have time to review this input, there has been a change to the originally proposed timetable for release of our conclusions on research areas still being reviewed. It is now expected that the publication on the second tranche of areas will be in February 2012, with all remaining areas still being published in March 2012. Updates to the Fellowship scheme can be linked to this activity and it is therefore expected that this will also be delayed until February for ICT. EPSRC is considering whether some announcements will be made at an earlier date for other themes.

Flagships

FET Flagship Pilots mid term review will take place on 24th/25th November in Warsaw, proposed plans will be outlined. There will be a first call to select the two Flagships in June/July 2012 as part of WP2013. There will be scope for National Programmes. To secure support from the EPSRC, Flagships will have to be in line with EPSRC's priorities, ICT relevant and demonstrate how they will shape strategy and remain a priority for a period of 10 years. The criteria and process for making the selection is being developed, and EPSRC is contributing to this. It was noted that UK contributes about 10% of the budget EC budget and so the impact of selection goes beyond just any potential EPSRC support.

NOTED: People who organise Flagship Pilots will need to instil confidence in assessors that their proposal could be a fully fledged Flagship in order to secure support and consider how they align with both EC and National Agencies priorities.

5.3 REF

The following points were NOTED:

- Allocation of assessors will be to research groups not whole departments.
- Use of new ACM computing classification. This is due out by the end of the year.
- 1 output reduction per maternity leave.
- Clearly defined circumstances tariff to be revised
- Why Computing should be different from other research areas.
- There will be double weigh outputs which are consistent with reserves.
- Additional environmental data will be required on PhD students.
- There will be 2 types of assessors, industrial and impact. The latter will have the lighter work load.

6 CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

The following consultation is in preparation:

ERA Framework Public Consultation: Areas of untapped potential for the development of the European Research Area (ERA) (Deadline 30/11/11).

NOTED: Dave Robertson to carry on this role for the next year. Chair thanked him for the work he has done over the past year.

7 MEMBERSHIP PANEL

Nothing to report.

8 REPORTS

8.1 CPHC Update

Committee investigating why there is no Computer Science Award under the SET Awards.

8.2 BCS Academy Research Committee

Bill Mitchell advised the Committee of the following points:

- The Research Symposium will be held at University of York next April 2012.
- The Royal Society Report is in progress. The final report should be published during January 2012.
- The Academy is responding to the Wilson Review in the White Paper to investigate how university-industry collaboration can excel.

9 AOB

NOTED: Hugo Donaldson has left IET and has replaced by Stephanie Fernandes.

NOTED: Chair advised the Committee that he had received an email from Fiona Wilson, Professor of Organizational Behaviour at University of Glasgow. This email asked if UKCRC would consider being a project partner in their ESRC application. The aim would be to help understand why there is a poor retention of women in STEM. This would be achieved through working lunches at conferences and via questionnaires.

AGREED:

Chair to ask Muffy to talk with Fiona on this subject.

Chair to reply formally and support this project as far as UKCRC can. Chair to mention CPHC and EPSRC.

Joe Sventek to contact Muffy and Fiona.

Chair to obtain the statistics of the number of female UKCRC members.

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