

UKCRCEC/2012/10

Minutes of the meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee on Monday 11th June 2012 at 11.00 at BCS, The Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, London, WC2E 7HA.

PRESENT

Anthony Cohn
Cliff Jones

Paul Davies (IET)
Martin Loomes (CPHC)

Chris Hankin (Chair)
Ursula Martin (by
teleconference for
item 8 only)
Morris Sloman

Bill Mitchell (BCS)
Joe Sventek

Dave Robertson
Martyn Thomas

BY INVITATION

Alan Berry (IET)

Liam Blackwell (EPSRC)

IN ATTENDANCE

Maxine Leslie (BCS)

APOLOGIES

John Baird (EPSRC)
Tom Rodden

Ursula Martin

John McDermid

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as above.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th March 2012 were signed and APPROVED for transfer to the UKCRC website. **ACTION: D Gladwin**

2.1. Matters Arising

The Action List was reviewed and the following updates noted:

New UKCRC Member

NOTED: As reported at the last meeting, Colin O'Halloran would be invited to apply for UKCRC Membership. Cliff Jones was having some difficulty in contacting COH but would keep trying. **ACTION: Cliff Jones**

History of Computing Podcast

NOTED: Cliff Jones to approach Brian Randell to assist with this.

ACTION: Cliff Jones

Research Funding and Policy

Martyn Thomas updated members on the discussions underway with John Baird at EPSRC. It was felt that the best route to take to get the message across to the Treasury was via the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which had recognised the importance of ICT to the future of the economy. It would be important to create a strong

case and communicate it at the right time taking into account the timing of the spending review.
ACTION: Martyn Thomas/John Baird

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

3.1 Strategy

The Chair reported that the Executive EPSRC working group would meet directly after the Executive Committee meeting to discuss EPSRC plans for the new call for CDTs. There was an on-going dialogue with EPSRC regarding shaping capability and ICT portfolio issues.

Following the archiving of the Grand Challenges, the second Challenge workshop, *Delivering the healthcare we deserve* was held following the AGA in March. Despite a stimulating meeting with an excellent panel, the numbers attending the AGA and workshop had been very disappointing and as a result it had been proposed that the constitution be amended to allow for virtual AGA meetings in future (see item 3.2 below).

Joe Sventek presented a paper on Grand Research Challenges in the US. There was some discussion on where resources could come from to undertake similar activities in the UK.

AGREED: The Chair to write to UKCRC members to propose including a page on the UKCRC website listing 'Hot Topics' which link to appropriate websites for research activities. There was some discussion around keeping this page up to date.

ACTION: Chair

Liam Blackwell indicated the types of activity being undertaken in several areas resourced by EPSRC and suggested that UKCRC approach EPSRC with a view to establishing a network through feasibility studies, meetings (etc) with a clear plan including the aim of the proposed activity.

There was some discussion regarding specific approaches to potential UKCRC members and ways of improving recruitment.

AGREED: Executive Committee to target senior members of Programme Boards and Advanced Fellowship holders. Chair to write to the UKCRC membership plus other contacts to invite nominations.

ACTION: Chair

3.2 Constitutional Changes

The new constitution had been circulated to UKCRC members. The proposal will remove the requirement to hold a physical AGA. It also changes the constitution of the Membership Panel. Members had been asked to vote by 15 June. Some interesting issues had already been raised already regarding these changes.

3.3 EU Matters

The Chair reported that the Commission was listening sympathetically to the Software Technologies group. The FET Flagship pilots should be commencing in January 2013.

4. RESEARCH FUNDING AND POLICY

4.1 Recent Developments

Covered under Item 3 above.

4.2 EPSRC update

Liam Blackwell gave a verbal update and indicated that EPSRC had a strategic advisory team in place which would be discussed in the Executive EPSRC working group directly after this meeting. The Shaping sessions were to be held in the autumn and the digital economy would be discussed at the meeting on 11 July. The Chair reported that the Impact Review went well with a good degree of success for the Hubs which were well supported and had drawn together isolated interests.

4.3 REF

Morris Sloman reported that the deadline for the call for submission to Institutions was November/December 2012.

5. MEMBERSHIP PANEL

Currently there were five Membership Panel members elected by UKCRC, which would eventually be reduced to two with the additional nomination of one member nominated by IET, one member by CPHC and one member by BCS. It would be important to arrange these nominations to ensure a correct balance for the Membership Panel. The Chair would write to members via the Secretariat to seek nominations for the one vacant position.

ACTION: Chair/Secretariat

It was noted that the question of a simple majority for voting would need to be confirmed as a minor change at the November 2012 meeting of the UKCRC Executive Committee.

ACTION: Chair/Tony Cohn

To assist with recruitment of members, Liam Blackwell undertook to provide a list of programme grant holders, Senior and Leadership Fellows and ERC Laureates/Advanced Laureates to the Chair.

ACTION: Liam Blackwell

6. CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

Since the last report (March 2012) UKCRC has responded to one public consultation:

1. RCUK Capital Investment Consultation (deadline 04.05.12, led by Dave Robertson)

The following consultations are in preparation:

2. Scottish Government consultation on a Scotland-wide Data Linkage Framework for Statistics and Research (Deadline: 15.06.12, led by Michael Fourman)
3. Cabinet Office consultation on Open Standards for Flexibility and Efficiency in Government IT (deadline 04.06.12, led by Dave Robertson)

7. REPORTS

7.1 CPHC

Martin Loomes reported that the CPHC AGM had been held during the Conference in April and CPHC had confirmed its support for the Computing at School work.

7.2 BCS Academy Research Committee

Bill Mitchell gave an update on CAS and the current position of the Government on Computer Science in the National Curriculum.

It was noted that when UKCRC and the BCS Academy had been established, both bodies had entered into a partnership in order to establish the BCS Academy of Computing with UKCRC taking the lead role in establishing the BCS Research Committee. Following the standing down of Prof Muffy Calder as the Chair of the Research Committee, the Executive Committee was asked to ratify the nomination of Prof Faron Moller as the new Chair. The proposal was made by Chris Hankin and seconded by Joe Sventek and the nomination is thereby ratified.

8. AOB

8.1 The Chair reported that the EPSRC Network of Networks activity meeting was to be held on 27 September at BCS London. As the Chair was unable to attend, Joe Sventek volunteered to attend on behalf of the Executive Committee.

8.2 It was reported that a new BCS representative on the Secretariat had been appointed and would be attending the next meeting. The Chair thanked Maxine Leslie for her work as Secretariat between appointments.

Ursula Martin joined the meeting by teleconference for this item

8.3 An issue had arisen surrounding BCS Academy activities following the last meeting of the BCS Policy and Public Awareness Board (PPAB). Unfortunately, because there had been no plan in place to co-ordinate and publish unified Policy Statements, the engagement between UKCRC and PPAB had broken down. It would be important to ensure that formal procedures were in place for engagement and this would be facilitated by the appointment of a Senior Product Manager within the Academy, Jeremy Barlow.

It was suggested that BCS communicated with IBM and Microsoft contacts to give an update on this situation. **ACTION: Bill Mitchell/Academy**

A request had been received for information regarding the 2012 Lovelace and Needham Award winners to be distributed via the UKCRC mailing list and this was approved by members. **ACTION: Secretariat**

8.4 It was noted that the term of office of Cliff Jones would come to an end in November. The Chair expressed thanks on behalf of the Executive Committee for Cliff's hard work for the last 6 years.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2012

Monday 5th November 2012 at 11.00 (IET Offices, London)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2013

Monday 18th March 2013 at 11.00 (BCS, London)

Monday 10th June 2013 at 11.00 (IET, London)

Monday 4th November 2013 at 11.00 (BCS, London)