

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly of the UK Computing Research Committee held on 19th March 2012 at 13.00 at the IET, 2 Savoy Place, London, WC2R 0BL

Present:

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| Chris Hankin | Executive Committee Chair |
| Anthony Cohn | Executive Committee Member |
| Cliff Jones | Executive Committee Member |
| Thomas Rodden | Executive Committee Member |
| Morris Sloman | Executive Committee Member |
| Joe Sventek | Executive Committee Member |
| Martyn Thomas | Executive Committee Member |
| Ann Blandford | Member |
| Kevin Jones | Member |
| Harold Thimbleby | Member |

In Attendance:

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| Yike Guo | Speaker |
| Vicki Hanson | Speaker |
| Maxine Leslie | BCS Support to UKCRC |
| Helen Petrie | Speaker |

Apologies:

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| Alan Berry | IET |
| Paul Davies | IET |
| Erol Gelenbe | Member |
| Mark Josephs | Member |
| Ursula Martin | Executive Committee Member |
| John McDermid | Executive Committee Member |
| Dave Robertson | 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 21st March 2011 were APPROVED for transfer to the UKCRC website.

ACTION: Secretariat

2.1 Matters arising

The Chair advised that due to the recent low turn out at AGA meetings, the Executive Committee had proposed that in the future the AGA could be held electronically. If a sufficient number of members request it, then a physical meeting will take place. The Chair undertook to circulate this proposal to members in the next few weeks.

ACTION: Chair

3. CONVENOR'S REPORT

Report RECEIVED and NOTED (see Appendix 1).

3.1 Strategy

The Chair advised that there had been a constructive engagement with EPSRC, who appeared open on their thinking about the Capability Exercise and had listened to the UKCRC messages. These meetings would continue on a regular basis. Following the ECCE meeting last year, this year's AGA would be followed by a workshop on *Delivering the Healthcare we deserve*. The Chair thanked the workshop moderator, Vicki Hanson, in advance for putting together what promised to be an interesting Panel presentation and discussion. However, the level of interest from members in this event had been disappointing and there was a need to review the workshop format in order to engage the broader research community. It would be important for UKCRC to take the lead in looking at Key Challenges in the next 15 years.

3.2 BCS Academy

The Chair indicated that Muffy Calder would step down as Chair of the Academy Research Committee shortly and the new appointment would be announced shortly. The recent communication about Shaping Capability had been forwarded to Academy members as well as UKCRC members. The BCS Academy was undertaking a great deal of work focussing on computing in schools. Members were reminded of the forthcoming Research Symposium which will be held at the University of York on 11th-12th April 2012, co-located with the CPHC Conference to be held on 10th-11th April.

3.3 EU Matters

The Chair updated members on two key areas. Firstly the European Commission plans for the *H2020* framework programme, to which the Healthcare Workshop relates. The projected budget is high (€80B) and about 20% of this is specifically designated for ICT-related programmes. Secondly, the Future and Emerging Technology Flagships for which six pilots are running to look at a Road Map for the full Flagships with two Flagships expected to be launched at the beginning of 2013.

4. CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

Since November 2011, UKCRC had responded to two consultations and a third was being prepared (see Appendix 2). It was noted that on occasions the timescale given was too short to give a considered response. The Chair thanked Dave Robertson for the excellent work he had been undertaking in this area.

5. MEMBERSHIP PANEL

The Chair gave a verbal report as John McDermid had extended his apologies for the meeting. The following new members had been elected:

May 2011: Professor Mark Harman (University College London), Professor Simon Dobson (University of St Andrews) and Professor Stephen Brewster (University of Glasgow)

January 2012: Professor Kevin Jones (City University)

March 2012: Professor Roderick Murray-Smith (University of Glasgow)

The Chair congratulated the new members and informed the AGA that this was a two-path process: prospective members could approach UKCRC to request membership or the Executive Committee could identify appropriate members to approach to invite onto the membership. The Membership Panel was independent of the Executive Committee. If Members had any suggestions for possible new UKCRC members, they were invited to approach either the Chair or any other members of the Executive Committee.

6. AOB

There were no items of other business.

Appendix 1

UKCRC ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012 CONVENOR'S REPORT

Strategy

As reported in an e-mail circular before Christmas 2011, the Executive have been involved in a very constructive dialogue with EPSRC concerning the shaping capability exercise. We have had three focussed meetings with Liam Blackwell and Christina Turner. We have agreed to continue these meetings beyond the shaping capability exercise and intend to focus on other aspects of the relationships between EPSRC and the academic community.

The Chair has also 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. This discussion led to an improved mutual understanding of EPSRC's portfolio in the fundamentals of computing and resulted in a refined set of topics being used in the shaping capability exercise.

We are continuing to develop our approach to Key Challenges. Following the ECCE (Energy for Computing, Computing for Energy) meeting last year, this year's AGA will be followed by a workshop on *Delivering the Healthcare we deserve*.

Academy

We have maintained links with the Academy through Bill Mitchell, who attends our Executive meetings, and Muffy Calder. Our formal input to EPSRC's shaping capability exercise was jointly with the BCS Academy.

Consultations

Dave Robertson has continued as the Executive Committee member who oversees the UKCRC responses to public consultations. He is providing a separate report on the last year's activities.

Chris Hankin

Appendix 2

UKCRC ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012 CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

Since the last report (November 2011) we have responded to two public consultations:

1. **House of Lords Science and Technology Sub-Committee 1 Call for Evidence on Higher Education in STEM Subjects** as a joint submission led by BCS Academy (deadline 12.12.11, led by Bill Mitchell with Alan Bundy)
2. **House of Commons Science and Technology committee inquiry, *Bridging the "Valley of Death": improving the commercialisation of research*** (deadline: 08.02.12, led by Martyn Thomas and Cliff Jones)

The following consultation is (I hope) in preparation:

3. **House of Lords Select Committee on Communications, Will superfast broadband meet the needs of our "bandwidth hungry" nation?** (Deadline: 13.03.12)

Dave Robertson (Consultations and Submissions)