

UKCRCEC/2012/06

**Minutes of the meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 10.30 at the IET, 2 Savoy Place, London, WC2R 0BL**

**PRESENT**

Anthony Cohn  
Martin Loomes  
Morris Sloman

Chris Hankin (Chair)  
Bill Mitchell (BCS)  
Joe Sventek

Cliff Jones  
Tom Rodden  
Martyn Thomas

**BY INVITATION**

John Baird (EPSRC)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Sharon Hurd (BCS)

Maxine Leslie (BCS)

**APOLOGIES**

Alan Berry (IET)  
Ursula Martin

Liam Blackwell (EPSRC)  
John McDermid

Paul Davies (IET)  
Dave Robertson

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received as above.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011 were APPROVED for transfer to the UKCRC website.

**ACTION: D Gladwin**

**2.1. Matters Arising**

**New UKCRC Member**

NOTED: As reported at the last meeting, Colin O'Halloran would be invited to apply for UKCRC Membership. Cliff Jones undertook to follow this up by supporting his application and finding a seconder.

**ACTION: Cliff Jones**

**Website**

NOTED: Darren Gladwin was updating and implementing the changes in the UKCRC website content following his meeting with the Chair.

**ACTION: D Gladwin**

**History of Computing Podcast**

NOTED: Chair and Cliff Jones to meet to discuss this.

**ACTION: Chair/Cliff Jones**

**3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

**3.1 Strategy**

There was an on-going dialogue with EPSRC regarding the Shaping Capability exercise. Three meetings had been held to date, timed to occur with Tracks 2 and 3 and these meetings will continue on a regular basis to look at ICT portfolio issues.

### **3.2 Key Challenges**

Following the ECCE meeting last year, this year's AGA would be followed by a workshop on *Delivering the Healthcare we deserve*. Members were disappointed to note that the registrations for the AGA/Workshop were very low this year. It was suggested that in future the AGA could be held electronically rather than holding a physical meeting.

Tony Cohn undertook to review the UKCRC Executive Committee constitution to allow for an e-AGM to be held unless 15% or more of the members request a physical meeting.

**ACTION: Tony Cohn**

It was noted that there was some scepticism about the Key Challenges initiative but members felt an important role of UKCRC would be to help to support it by collating evidence. A mid-term review of each of the Key Challenges areas might help. Joe Sventek offered to provide details of how this had been achieved by the CRA in the US and the Chair undertook to talk to the BCS Academy about how to interact with the new Chair of the Research Academy.

**ACTION: Joe Sventek/Chair**

### **3.3 EU Matters**

The Chair updated members on the European Commission plans for the *H2020* framework programme. Concern had been expressed that ICT and Software Technology were no longer explicitly included within the programme remit but considered to be pervasive and the Chair would report on progress regarding this in future meetings.

**ACTION: Chair**

Martyn Thomas reported that there had been resistance to product liability being built into software products and urged members to lobby on this subject. Martyn undertook to send the Chair a briefing note on this.

**ACTION: Martyn Thomas**

## **4. RESEARCH FUNDING AND POLICY**

### **4.1 Recent Developments**

The Chair gave a verbal report following receipt of information from Liam Blackwell. Current EPSRC areas of work included engagement with the Engineering Council on Shaping Capability, the Fundamentals of Computing Group, impact of the review of the Digital Economy which the Chair will be involved in and the HCI Review which Dave Robertson had been involved in. Liam Blackwell would be addressing the BCS Symposium and CPHC Conference on these developments.

John Baird indicated that there was a need to step back and view the whole funding landscape in order to maximise the case for future funding. Quick responses would be important, particularly as the next year would be a good opportunity to submit proposals.

It was proposed that Martyn Thomas, Cliff Jones, Tom Rodden and John Baird should meet outside of the meeting to progress this. It was noted that it would be important to have clear objectives to maximise success.

**ACTION: M Thomas/C Jones/T Rodden/J Baird**

### **4.2 REF**

Nothing to report.

## **5. MEMBERSHIP PANEL**

The Chair presented this paper in John McDermid's absence. There had been one invited and one uninvited application which had both been accepted. In total, there had been five new members since the 2011 AGA, which brought the total membership to approximately 110. The Membership Panel Chair had asked the Committee to consider the role of the Membership Panel given the existence of the Academy. It was the view of the Committee that there was a place for both bodies as the UKCRC Membership Panel and the Academy each had a different mandate. Bill Mitchell indicated that there were currently 500 members of the Academy but that the schools agenda was currently absorbing most of the Academy's resources, so there were fewer resources available to contribute to research-related activities. The Chair undertook to write to the Membership Panel Chair to communicate the Committee's views.

**ACTION: Chair**

The terms of office of three members of the Membership Panel had come to an end. The Chair undertook to write (via the secretariat) to UKCRC members to seek nominations for the Membership Panel.

**ACTION: Chair**

The constitution of the Membership Panel was also discussed and Tony Cohn undertook to review this in terms of Panel size.

**ACTION: Tony Cohn**

## **6. CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS**

The following consultation is in preparation:

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

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 CPHC**

Martin Loomes reported that the reviewed statistics on the employment agenda report had not yet been released. The Wilson Report 'A Review of Business-University Collaboration' had been published and concern was expressed by members about the subject of kitemarking and arrangements for the issuing of kitemarks. The Royal Society Report had also been published. The Chair indicated that a UKCRC representative would attend CPHC committee meetings in future.

### **7.2 BCS Academy Research Committee**

It was noted that the Research Committee had not yet met. Bill Mitchell outlined the current work being undertaken by the Academy including lobbying ministers on the role of computer science in the schools curriculum.

The Chair reported that a general call had been sent out inviting applications for the Academy Ambassador position.

**AGREED:** the call for applications to be extended via the UKCRC membership with a job specification attached.

**ACTION: Chair**

## **8. AOB**

Members were reminded of the forthcoming events:

The Research Symposium will be held at the University of York on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April 2012 which is co-located with the CPHC Conference to be held on 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> April.

Joe Sventek had received an invitation from the CRA to attend the biennial Snowbird Conference in Utah. Members agreed that JS should represent UKCRC at this event.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2012**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 10.30, BCS Offices, London**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 10.30, IET Offices, London**