

**UKCRCEC/2012/09**

**Minutes of the meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 11.00 at IET, 2 SAVOY PLACE, LONDON, WC2R 0BL**

**PRESENT**

Joe Sventek (Chair) JS	Anthony Cohn AC	Chris Hankin CH
Ursula Martin UM	Ron Perrott RP	David Robertson DR
Tom Rodden TR	Morris Sloman MS	

**BY INVITATION**

Liam Blackwell (EPSRC) LB	Martin Loomes (CPHC) ML	Bill Mitchell (BCS) BM
Faron Moller (BCS) FM	Christina Turner (EPSRC) CT	

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Penny Ballard BCS

**APOLOGIES**

Darren Gladwin (IET)	Alan Berry (IET)	Martyn Thomas
John Baird (EPSRC)	Paul Davies (IET)	

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received as above. JS welcomed members and invited guests and acknowledged the apologies.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013 were APPROVED and signed for transfer to the UKCRC website. **ACTION: D Gladwin**

**2.1. Matters Arising**

The Action List was reviewed and updated.

### **3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

#### **3.1 UKCRC Strategy**

JS reported that he had some good feedback from this year's AGM with over 30 people participating. It was suggested that for next year's AGM it may be beneficial to hold it online. JS is to explore the use of an online conferencing system for the 2014 AGM.

Most comments from the AGM were concerning Membership and the opinions expressed were quite diverse.

JS also suggested that as a group UKCRC should try to be more pro-active in helping to set the government agenda. Will be discussed later in the meeting.

NOTED: The Chair was congratulated for the great job he did setting up and chairing the 2013 AGM.

**ACTION: Chair**

### **4. CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS**

NOTHING TO REPORT

There were no Consultations to report on and Committee was advised that there aren't any coming up.

### **5. RESEARCH FUNDING AND POLICY**

#### **5.1 European Matters**

REPORT RECEIVED AND NOTED:

#### **5.2 EPSRC update**

CT reported that out of the estimated 350-1200 outline submissions anticipated, 356 submissions were received and considered, EPSRC has invited 175 full proposals, with at least two in each of the priority areas.

LB's update was on the activity of Big Data within EPSRC and the speed of requests from government, with a range of bids being put together by EPSRC, specifically around Analytics and focusing on the economy.

Also, EPSRC is working with BIS on the government's Industrial Sector Strategy and the two sectors being discussed are the Information Economy Sector and the Vertical and Horizontal Sector.

EPSRC has a one year extension with the current spending review and has to make a case for cash it will get for the extension. EPSRC is using two arguments; one is around the importance of people training that goes on, cascading down to graduate and post graduate training. The point on which EPSRC is trying to distinguish itself is that it is the only Research Council which directly contributes to growth.

### **5.3 REF**

#### **NOTHING TO REPORT**

JS updated the Committee that there have been 3 additional members approved by HEFCE to assist with assessing outputs and eight additional impact assessors which are primarily industrialists. There is one member who has now resigned and JS has been asked that if he has any suitable names of people to be put forward by UKCRC, via Cliff Jones and Alan Bundy.

## **6. MEMBERSHIP PANEL**

#### **NO REPORT WAS RECEIVED**

A further discussion will be taking place later on Agenda.

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 CPHC**

#### **NOTHING TO REPORT**

ML updated that the date for the CPHC Annual General Meeting and 2014 Conference which links in with the BCS Academy of Computing Symposium and the BCTCS Annual Event has now been set. The CPHC 2014 AGM will be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 on the first day of the Conference.

### **7.2 BCS Academy**

The BCS Academy has a mission to put in place a national infrastructure for Computer Science CPD for school teachers, which will provide opportunities for sixteen thousand School teachers at the end of the next two years with £2million funding. The Academy also has help from over 70 Universities in the Network of Teaching Excellence.

Another initiative is the Teaching Scholarships for training of Computer Science teachers. The Academy has received over 300 applications of which 185 have a Computer Science degree with an overwhelming majority having a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2.1. The Academy is also very encouraged by the help from large corporate employers including, Google, IBM, Microsoft, Facebook, Blackberry to name a few.

NOTED: The Academy is now looking for two new vice-presidents and would welcome any suggestions from the UKCRC Executive Committee.

UM advised the Committee of the third, successful Karen Sparck Jones Lecture celebrating Women in Computing, sponsored by the BCS Academy and IBM that took place on 23 May 2013, with an excellent talk being given by Barbara Liskov.

### **7.3 BCS Academy Research Committee**

At the last meeting the Committee discussed what the real purpose of the Committee was and how they could effectively assist others, such as with the Consultations for UKCRC. However at present all efforts are being concentrated on the Biennial Symposium event due to take place in April 2014.

## **8. AOB**

### **8.1 Membership discussion in light of AGM comments (J. Sventek)**

As per the UKCRC Constitution, two members of the UKCRC Membership Panel are elected by UKCRC with one representative each from the IET, BCS and CPHC: however, at present the membership panel does not reflect this. UKCRC now needs to elect three new members nominated by the IET, BCS and CPHC. JS will email the appropriate contacts to make nominations for the 2013 Elections.

Membership numbers for UKCRC were a concern that came out of the AGM and it was suggested that maybe the Committee could take a more proactive stance and suggest names of potential members that could be approached. It was also suggested that the Committee could review the Strategic Initiative to raise the profile of UKCRC and this might encourage members to become interested in UKCRC and join.

**ACTION: Chair / Secretariat**

### **8.2 Proactive agenda setting with government (J. Sventek)**

This item is covered in item 8.3

### **8.3 Ideas for strategic initiative (J. Sventek)**

Both 8.2 & 8.3 were covered under this item with JS asking Committee members 'what do UKCRC want?' and 'what positives are the committee trying to do to drive the discipline?' An extended debate followed, some of which has been bullet pointed below:

- UKCRC has been effective in joining with EPSRC
- Look back on what UKCRC has done, what it can do and where it wants to be.
- Become more pro-active in engaging with the wider research issues
- Remember that UKCRC stands for UK Computer RESEARCH Council
- Update and add to Briefing Papers
- Make contact with Select Advisors and influential people to have an offsite meeting and go back to membership with discussion points.

AGREED: JS to continue the discussion with the Executive Committee via email.

JS to contact David Willetts to set up off-site meeting, contacting Committee members to establish who is free to join the meeting.

**ACTION: Chair**

### **8.4 UKCRC Website**

AGREED: To update the website and archive the outdated links to the old Grand Challenges, also to archive past and out of date links and information. AC will contact Darren Gladwin to assist with this process.

**ACTION: Anthony Cohn**

## **9. Date of next meeting**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 11.00 (BCS Offices, London)**

JS noted that two of the meetings planned for 2014 were due to be held in the IET Office in London which is now due to close in July of 2013 for eighteen months to two years for refurbishment. JS asked if any members had any objections to the two 2014 meetings being held at the BCS Offices, Southampton Street, London, knowing that this will only be temporary due to the refurbishment.

All Committee members were in agreement. As no IET representative was present at the meeting JS will contact Alan Berry to check that IET have no objections to using BCS Offices London for the March and November meetings and PB will check availability of the BCS meeting rooms.

**ACTION: Chair**

LB suggested that one of the meetings could be held in Swindon at EPSRC, he will investigate availability as an option.

**ACTION: Liam Blackwell**

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2013**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 11.00 (BCS Offices, London)**

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2014**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (Venue TBA\*)**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 11.00 (BCS Offices, London)**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 (Venue TBA\*)**

(\*Due to IET London Office being closed for refurbishment)