

UKCRCEC/2013/12

Minutes of the 34th meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee on **Monday 4th November 2013** at 11.00 at BCS, The Chartered Institute of IT, Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, London, WC2E 7HA.

PRESENT

Joe Sventek	JS	Anthony Cohn	AC	Chris Hankin	CH
David Robertson	DR	Tom Rodden	TR	Morris Sloman	MS
Iain Stewart	IS				

BY INVITATION

Liam Blackwell (EPSRC)	LB	Paul Davies (IET)	PD	Bill Mitchell (BCS)	BM
Christina Turner (EPSRC)	CT	Miriam Dowle (EPSRC)	MD	Samantha Francis (EPSRC)	SF

IN ATTENDANCE

Penny Ballard (BCS)

APOLOGIES

John Baird	Alan Berry	Martin Loomes
Ursula Martin	Faron Mollor	Ron Perrott
Martyn Thomas		

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as above.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th June 2013 were signed and APPROVED 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 advised that nothing much has been happened over the summer as expected and asked the committee to discuss how UKCRC as a group can revitalise the UKCRC strategy. One recommendation was that as the next full EPSRC Spending Review is due in 2015 this would be a potential to give UKCRC something to focus on, how Computer Science is important to the industry and in turn would help in lobbying David Willetts for funding for EPSRC and other parts of government that are important to UKCRC.

JS started the discussion by indicating that this has lain dormant since the last meeting. Martyn Thomas's most recent email to the Exec describes the malaise into which UKCRC has fallen. JS indicated that UKCRC should gear up to attempt to influence the 2015 Spending Review. To that end, he suggested forming a core team of UKCRC members to focus on this in calendar 2014. As part of the activity, UKCRC could potentially hold a closed meeting of interested UKCRC members at the CPHC annual meeting, 7-8 April 2014. UKCRC should only book a meeting with Willetts and other high-level politicians when there is something notable to say.

Several points were raised during the robust discussion that followed:

- UKCRC was originally formed to address the international Review of Computing; we need a reinvigorated mission for the organization.
- UKCRC was formed as a learned society for computing research in the UK, as the research strategy of CPHC had not been particularly successful. There is still a need for this type of leadership.
- The impact scenarios being submitted for REF 2014 will provide strong evidence of the impact Computer Science has on UKplc.
- Is it possible for UKCRC to request impact information prior to completion of REF?
- There was an assertion that we need to sell computer science to the masses. Another viewpoint was to show the public benefit.
- Responding to consultations, while a worthwhile activity, is reactive. There is a general feeling that we must be more proactive.
- What do we want to achieve using our limited resources?
- We would obviously wish to influence government IT strategy.
- Possible tactic to support the next set of activities - write a network grant application to EPSRC.
- It was suggested that several topical research groups exist within UKCRC. These groups should be encouraged to publish review papers in their areas of expertise.

TR and JS agreed to speak further with LB regarding a potential network grant application to EPSRC to support our strategic activities.

ACTION: TR and Chair

4. CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

HEFCE Open Access Consultation - A joint response from UKCRC and CPHC, was approved, seconded and submitted before the meeting of 4th November due to the deadline date. A decision had not been received at the time of the meeting.

5. RESEARCH FUNDING AND POLICY

5.1 Recent Developments

Nothing to Report

5.2 European Matters

CH reported that he was due to attend the new advisory forum CAF (Connect Advisory Forum) meeting due to take place later in the week, he will report back to the Committee in time for the next meeting.

As this is the last meeting that CH will be attending, he has undertaken, with the agreement of the Chair and Committee members, to continue to send in written reports to the Executive Committee regarding European matters.

5.3 EPSRC Update

LB introduced two colleagues who were invited to attend as guests at the meeting, Miriam Dowle, a new ICT Portfolio Manager and Samantha Francis, Head of Shaping Capability; they will both be working with CT, who will continue to attend meetings.

CDT - LB reported that the CDT announcement will be made at the end of November by David Willetts. LB has asked that, when the results of the coverage's are announced, EPSRC would be most appreciative if the Executive Committee review how well the successful CDT's submissions covered the technical areas highlighted in the call.

Settlement – in 2015/16 extension plan the outcome is due by December 2013. Also, thinking ahead to the next full spending review of 2015, LB asked the Committee to be aware of and consider, that if EPSRC receives a bad settlement, it would mean current grants may have to be revoked. It was noted that UKCRC have good contacts with influential people through their membership and links to BCS, Google & Microsoft for example, which they might make use of in order to influence the settlement for EPSRC.

SAT – LB advised on how SAT members are to be identified in future through a nomination process. He suggested that the Committee may want to think about being involved if any UKCRC members would like to be on a SAT, stressing that, members have to nominate themselves. A refresh will be run from April 2014 onwards; EPSRC will be running a nomination process for the refresh and a notification will be distributed. JS commented that perhaps a general message should be sent to members.

LB will ensure that UKCRC (and CPHC) are given relevant information to pass to the membership. Details of the SAT will be placed on the EPSRC website but can be inferred from the terms of reference already available

ACTION: Liam Blackwell

ICT - LB also wanted to highlight to the Committee that there has been a decrease in the frequency of ICT Panels to allow a bigger budget per Panel which means there may be delays of grant proposals going to Panels.

Shaping Capability – There is to be a health check of the whole portfolio in 2014; EPSRC would like to involve UKCRC in this process and thinking ahead for future shaping decisions for the next delivery plan. A pilot health check is being undertaken

on Advanced Materials at present. Samantha Francis offered to come along to another UKCRC meeting to discuss further the future of the strategy.

5.4 REF

Nothing to Report

6. MEMBERSHIP PANEL

REPORT RECEIVED AND NOTED:

JS confirmed that David Arnold from Brighton had been nominated by CPHC to join the Membership panel. JS has contacted Bill Mitchell (BCS) and Paul Davies (IET) and is waiting for confirmation of their nominations.

JS confirmed the process of fast tracking members onto the Membership Panel. The process was confirmed that anyone who was to be fast tracked onto the Panel had to be nominated by a member of the Executive Committee, provide a current CV and a one page coversheet to show how they could assist UKCRC in its mission. The Membership Panel would then consider each application using its normal processes.

It was noted that Cliff Jones tendered his resignation from the Membership Panel and JS will contact Cliff Jones regarding his resignation.

ACTION: Chair

7. REPORTS

7.1 CPHC

MS attended the last CPHC meeting and reported that they discussed making different arrangements for CPHC website maintenance. This would enable Committee members to have closer control of website design and content using a commercial provider rather than the BCS Web Team currently responsible for maintenance. A working group has been set up to work on the details. They are also looking to fund future research projects.

7.2 BCS Academy

BM advised that David Willetts is holding a roundtable meeting this week with Employers and Professional Bodies to discuss employment of Computer Science graduates.

A new Chair has been appointed to the Academy of Computing, Jeff Magee has been appointed by the Trustees and will take up his position following the AGM in April 2014, in the meantime, he will informally be shadowing Liz Bacon, the current Chair.

The Academy of Computing Board is to merge with the Engineering & Science Board and absorb the Academy Education & Research Committees into the Academy Board. All of the current Committee members have been invited onto the Academy Board and will use the new Board as a forum to come up with policy issues that the Academy would like to

address. To address particular issues, they are to set up small working groups that are time limited and have a rigid focus upon which to concentrate. To improve the relationship between UKCRC & CPHC and the Academy, the board would like to have two ex-officio members from UKCRC & CPHC on the Academy Board. JS will discuss with BM after the meeting regarding the ex-officio members from UKCRC.

JS noted that at present under reports there is no report received from IET; it was suggested that this should be a standard agenda item. PD had nothing to report to this meeting.

8. AOB

JS commented on the UKCRC website as being outdated and suggested a conversation over email to attract a volunteer that can keep the website updated on a bi-weekly or monthly basis

ACTION: Chair

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2014 (All 11am start)

Monday 17th March 2014 (BCS Offices, London)

Monday 9th June 2014 (BCS Offices, London)

Monday 3rd November 2014 (BCS Offices, London)