

UKCRCEC/2014/08

Minutes of the 36th meeting of the UK Computing Research Executive Committee on Monday 9th June 2014 at 11.00am. The meeting was held at BCS, The Chartered Institute of IT, Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, London, WC2E 7HA.

PRESENT

Joe Sventek (Chair)
Morris Sloman

Ron Perrott
Martyn Thomas

Dave Robertson

BY INVITATION

Liam Blackwell (EPSRC)
Edmund Robinson (CPHC)

Paul Davies (IET)

Bill Mitchell (BCS)

IN ATTENDANCE

Penny Ballard BCS

APOLOGIES

Anthony Cohn
Miriam Dowle

Iain Stewart

Alan Berry

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as above.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday 17th March 2014 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:

Outstanding Actions from 17th March 2014

3.2 - AGM

The Chair has sourced an on-line tool for the purpose of conducting the 2014 AGM; he will send details to the Committee and tentatively set up the AGM for Monday 23rd June 2014 at 11.00, as agreed by Committee. Doodle poll will be sent out to determine the best date and time for UKCRC members. The Chair asked Committee to send him any papers they wished to be considered at the AGM.

ACTION: Chair & Committee Members

Martyn Thomas advised that TSB has agreed that UKCRCEC can use their on-line system if required. Martyn to send the Chair the contact details.

ACTION: Martyn Thomas

3. Election of New Executive Committee Chair

Following the process of the election of a new Executive Committee Chair, Dave Robertson – Head of School of Informatics – University of Edinburgh was elected as the new UKCRCEC Chair. Dave will take up the role at the next UKCRCEC meeting due to be held on 3rd November 2014.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

4.1 UKCRC Strategy

Discussions on additional UKCRC funding are due to start and Tom Rodden, the Chair, Martyn Thomas and Dave Robertson will have further discussions on the issue.

Edmund Robinson advised that CPHC has some funds that could be provided to UKCRC for a project, yet to be decided upon. Dave Robertson is to make contact with Edmund to report on the requirements for the funding. Edmund to take the UKCRC proposal for funding to the next CPHC meeting.

ACTION: Dave Robertson & Edmund Robinson

5. CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

REPORT RECEIVED AND NOTED.

6. RESEARCH FUNDING AND POLICY

6.1 Recent Developments

NOTHING TO REPORT.

6.2 European Matters

NOTHING TO REPORT.

6.3 EPSRC Update

Liam Blackwell reported that Christina Turner has been promoted and left his team so will no longer be providing reports for UKCRCEC. Christina has been replaced by Anke Davies who will attend future meetings.

EPSRC is organising a number of workshops later in the year to assist EPSRC in developing its strategy for supporting research. Liam will provide the Committee with dates of the workshops once confirmed.

The new Turing institute is going to be set up by through ESPRC in joint venture arrangements with several universities. Discussions are proceeding regarding long term investment and a factual statement will be released at a later date.

The Framework for Responsible Innovation is now on the EPSRC website and the Committee was asked to view this positively. EPSRC recognises that different approaches might be required for different research areas.

The next spending review is approaching and EPSRC's current Delivery Plan is nearing its end. EPSRC requested engagement from UKCRC in the development of strategy and priorities for its next Delivery Plan as the Committee provided some useful input last time. The Chair advised that the UKCRC would be willing to assist again.

ACTION: Liam Blackwell

6.4 REF

REPORT RECEIVED AND NOTED.

7. MEMBERSHIP PANEL

It was reported that there had been no activity with the Membership Panel. Two further members are still required to join the Panel, which is waiting for names of representatives from both BCS and the IET.

8. REPORTS

8.1 CPHC

It was reported that the CPHC committee has undergone some changes in personnel following their recent AGM and Conference. Sally Smith – Edinburgh Napier University has taken over as Chair and Iain Phillips – Loughborough University is now immediate past Chair. Some long standing members, Liz Bacon and Lachlan Mackinnon (Greenwich) and Martin Loomes (Middlesex) have stepped down and they have been replaced by Balbir Barn (Middlesex) and Miltos Petridis (Brighton).

It was noted that many members on the CPHC Committee from Millennium group Universities have been at Dean/Pro-VC level (Bacon, Loomes, Maple, (Bedford), Wells (Wales)).

CPHC's new website is now up and running and reports and papers are being uploaded regularly.

CPHC has the capacity to provide funds for research into the state of Computer Science. The Committee is currently discussing the research agenda for this year. Most of the research is done in the teaching/employability area but will also look to support the research area.

Recent reports have been on employability and support for entrepreneurship. The Committee is producing a report on Computer Science's relatively high attrition rate and is currently discussing how to interpret the data gathered. The Committee aims to address a number of issues seen in BIS as key for UK Computer Science.

The Committee is focusing on two key issues at present, one is the unemployment rate in CS graduates and the second is the perceived difficulty faced by employers in finding suitable qualified staff. They are holding meetings with HEFCE. The next CPHC meeting is Monday 7th July 2014.

8.2 BCS Academy

The latest budget has been approved with no increase so the Academy will continue with the new policy focusing on Computing At Schools and trying to promote CS in terms of the general public.

A change with the Research Symposium is that it will be scaled back due to the lack of interest in favour of the Karen Sparck Jones Lecture which was extremely successful this year and four year sponsorship has been agreed with IBM. The Lovelace Lecture will also continue next year.

The Academy has also been involved in two Consultations:

- UK Digital sports catapult
- Hauser Review on the catapult centres.

8.3 IET

The IET has sponsored a new CaSE, report to generate more evidence on the benefits of UK research funding. The report, "The Economic Significance of the UK Science Base" and can be found at: <http://sciencecampaign.org.uk/?p=14109>

It is also involved in developing a Code of Practice for cybersecurity in the building environment and in particular in building management systems.

Alan Berry has joined the IP version 6 Committee and will report back to the UKCRC at future meetings.

The IET's Annual Skills Survey is due out in July, some of the results look very similar to previous years where Engineers are still quite sought after, IT skills were not so. The report showed 20% of companies were recruiting for IT skills where as 50% were recruiting Engineers.

9. AOB

9.1 Accreditation

Following a discussion at a previous UKCRC meeting regarding issues relating to academic accreditation, Joe Sventek advised that he has been communicating with some of the Heads of Departments of Universities in the Russell Group, to discuss the process of accreditation. The feedback was that the value of return does not reflect the effort put in by all concerned. The Chair has been in contact with Sharon Hurd (BCS) via phone conference and he is arranging for his colleague Steve Pettifer and himself to meet with Sharon to discuss this issue further. Following the outcome of the meetings with BCS, the IET will be approached to discuss their process of accreditation.

9.2 Announcement

Joe Sventek announced that he would be stepping down as an Executive Committee member due to relocation back to the USA. Joe is due to take up a new position as Head of Department on 1st September 2014.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2014 (All 11am start)

Monday 3rd November 2014 (BCS Offices, London)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2015

Monday 16th March 2015 (IMechE Offices, London)

Monday 8th June 2015 (BCS Offices, London)

Monday 2nd November 2015 (IMechE Offices, London)