

Minutes of the meeting of the 37th UK Computing Research Executive Committee on Monday 3rd November 2014 at 11.00am at BCS, The Chartered Institute of IT, Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, London, WC2E 7HA.

PRESENT

Dave Robertson (Chair)
Ron Perrott
Morris Sloman

Anthony Cohn
Iain Stewart
Bill Mitchell

Cliff Jones
Martyn Thomas
Edmund Robinson (CPHC)

BY INVITATION

Alan Berry (IET)
John Baird (EPSRC)

Liam Blackwell (EPSRC)

Anke Davies (EPSRC)

IN ATTENDANCE

Penny Ballard (BCS)

APOLOGIES

Alan Berry

Paul Davies

Tom Rodden

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as above. Morris Sloman was thanked for his contribution to the committee as this was to be his last meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th June 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:

UKCRCEC meeting held on 9th June 2014

Item 3.2 – Minutes from the last meeting – Matters arising - Chair to contact Martyn Thomas to get the TSB contact details, then contact Joe Sventek see if he had made progress in setting up an on-line AGM. Chair will then email the Committee members with details of progress.

ACTION: Chair

Item 4.1 UKCRC Strategy

Edmund Robinson confirmed that approximately £8,000 would be awarded to UKCRC to support with a UKCRC project. A discussion followed to establish an appropriate project and various suggestions were put forward.

One suggestion being considered is using the Impact cases, coming out of the REF, to take the case studies and make them more accessible. Morris advised that after some research he found it extremely difficult to find someone suitable. It was suggested that UKCRC find a science writer who could write up the information. It was agreed that the audience for the project should be the public and politicians.

Dave Robertson advised that he would email the Exec and put together some of the discussion from the meeting and following that he would email the UKCRC members to ask who would be interested in assisting the committee. Morris Sloman will anchor the skeleton of the activity and with the assistance of the remainder of the Exec committee prepare what would be given to the selected Science writer.

ACTION: Chair

UKCRCEC meeting held on 17th March 2014

Item 6 - Membership Panel –

Bill Mitchell confirmed that this item is now under review by the Academy Board and he will give an update at the next UKCRC meeting.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

REPORT RECEIVED AND NOTED:

UKCRC Membership – a discussion took place regarding improving the gender balance of the UKCEC membership and it was suggested that the Exec could cold call some female researchers who they think would make good members to encourage them to apply for membership with a view of then joining the Executive Committee. DR to call two names put forward.

ACTION: Chair

4. CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

REPORT RECEIVED AND NOTED:

5. RESEARCH FUNDING AND POLICY

5.1 Recent Developments (Alan Turing Institute)

This item was covered in Item 3 - Chair's Report.

5.2 European Matters

NOTHING TO REPORT

5.3 EPSRC Update

John Baird reported that he attended a meeting with BIS and other digital players to discuss the Internet of Things. EPSRC put in a bid for the Autumn Statement due out on December 3rd, but as this is driven by a traffic light system EPSRC is still awaiting to be advised of the outcome of their bid.

Liam Blackwell updated the Exec on the dates and subjects for the upcoming EPSRC ICT workshops:

- 1) Radio Frequency & MicroWave Technology, December 3rd/4th, 2014
- 2) Photonics for Future Systems, February 18th, 2015
- 3) Robotics and Autonomous Systems, February 24th/25th, 2015
- 4) Big Data Analytics in ICT, March 3rd, 2015

At the March 2015 meeting EPSRC will seek further input about the next spending review from UKCRC and in the meantime Liam Blackwell, John Baird and the UKCRC Chair will discuss the future research strategy by telephone. It was suggested that a network proposal be put together to define the research strategy to get more people involved.

5.4 REF Update

REPORT RECEIVED AND NOTED:

5.5 UKCRC Membership on CPHC

*Please see secretariat note below

6. MEMBERSHIP PANEL

It was suggested that the Membership procedures be re-visited due to lack of new members coming on board and to simplify membership procedures. Several suggestions were put forward and it was agreed that Dave Robertson would approach Kevin Jones to ask if he would consider becoming Chair and following this, the Panel along with the Exec Committee will decide on the a new procedure.

ACTION: Chair

7. REPORTS

7.1 CPHC Report

Edmund Robinson reported that some Committee members held a meeting with HEFCE and Tech Partnership on Employability issues. It was noted that main part of the problem is that employees in the IT sector report that they cannot get staff with the skills they require. CPHC advised that there is a problem with a large number of students coming from deprived backgrounds with a very small number going onto Higher Education and only a small number of Universities taking those students. There was a consensus that student placements and interaction with industry have an important part in improving the employability of computing science graduates.

The following action points came out of the meeting:

- Student Placements – *Tech Partnership to take forward working with CPHC by the research being carried out by (NCUB), funded by BIS and by successful existing examples such as experiences of the SEED project at Hull University*
- Staff Placements/Exchanges in Industry - *Tech Partnership to take forward by the research carried out by the HE Academy on placements for lecturers.*
- Identifying and Sharing Good Practice – *CPHC & HEFCE to lead the development of this programme , discussing delivery with the HE Academy*
- Learning Lessons from ITMB Degree Approach & Accreditation – *HEFCE and CPHC working with the Tech Partnership and BCS to take this action forward.*
- Better Understanding of BME employment issues – *HEFCE to take forward.*

- Careers Guidance – *BIS to examine with the Department of Education.*

7.2 BCS Academy Report

Bill Mitchell reported that BCS is to review the academic accreditation process, in particular why we accredit, what it is for and how it might be streamlined in the future. Bill will be discussing further with HEFCE on how it can assist BCS with the review, including co-hosting a meeting to discuss the accreditation process in more detail.

Computing at Schools will be running 830 workshops for Primary Schools over the coming months up until March of next year and in January 2015, forty thousand packs will be given to school teachers improve awareness of the importance of Computer Science and its impact on school children.

7.3 IET Report

NOTHING TO REPORT

8. AOB

8.1 ResearchFish

Cliff Jones presented facts surrounding ResearchFish. This is a system that the Research Councils as a whole are using to gather information from Universities.

Following a message that was sent out to members, the general view is that there could be much better ways of gathering information. Some of the comments received, were reviewed at the meeting. Cliff Jones will send a more detailed list of issues to the Research Councils and these will be reviewed between the Research Councils and the developers of ResearchFish.

EPSRC representatives who were present at this meeting will be discussing further with colleagues involved in the process.

ACTION: Cliff Jones

9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Monday 16th March 2015 at the IMechE Offices in London.

The following is a link to the IMechE website where you will be able to find contact and directions to the building.

<http://www.imeche.org/about-us/location>

**Secretariat Note: This item was not discussed at the meeting and will be held over until the next meeting due to be held on Monday 16th March 2014.*

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)