

Minutes of the On-Line Annual General Meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee held on Monday 7 December 2015 between 14:00 – 15:00 via Webinar.

Attendees:

Dave Robertson	Executive Committee Chair
David Benyon	Executive Committee Member
Anthony Cohn	Executive Committee Member
Ann Blandford	Executive Committee Member
Martyn Thomas	Executive Committee Member
Fionn Murtagh	Membership Panel Member
Alan Bundy	Member
Morris Sloman	Member
Maurice Perks	Member
Mark Josephs	Member
Bashar Nuseibeh	Member
Alessio Lomuscio	Member
Erol Gelenbe	Member
Miriam Dowle	Invited
Apologies	
Cliff Jones	Executive Committee Member
Philip Wilks	Member
Kevin Jones	Membership Panel Chair

The Chair thanked Victoria Mengham for hosting the Webex system

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [UKCRC/AGM2014/01]

The minutes of the AGM held on Friday 19 November 2014 were presented to members via a Webinar link and were recorded as a true record.

2. Matters arising from minutes:

All actions from the previous Annual General Meeting had been completed.

3. CONVENORS REPORT – D Robertson
RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 1

EPSRC Network Bid

The Chair suggested that if any members had any ideas or thoughts to add then please send them to him.

Impact Case Studies

Morris Sloman advised that the Impact report is now on the UKCRC and CPHC Websites and is being printed ready for distribution to University Heads of Departments and Vice Chancellors and also some MP's.

Following the AGM a comprehensive list of names and address has been put together which includes Jo Johnson MP and various House of Commons select Committees who were suggested during the Webinar.

Recruiting “rising stars” to UKCRC

It was suggested that contacting RSE Young Academy for support in pursuing the idea further would be useful.

ACTION: Chair/Cliff Jones

4. CONSULTATIONS & RESPONSES REPORT– M Thomas
RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 2

Martyn advised of one further live Consultation to add to his report which was recently advertised: the consultation is on abolishing HEFCE and other HE changes. Martyn has circulated to the membership and put out a call for someone to volunteer to take the lead.

5. MEMBERSHIP PANEL REPORT – K Jones
RECEIVED AND APPROVED – Appendix 3

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was reported.

The Chair thanked members for joining this Webinar and called the 2015 Annual General meeting to a close.

Appendix 1 – Convenors Report
Appendix 2 – Consultations & Responses Report
Appendix 3 – Membership Panel Report

Appendix 1

Convenor's Report

Engagement with EPSRC: The UKCRC executive has engaged with EPSRC in its strategic thinking as we go through the UK Government spending review and, subsequently, the shaping of thematic areas and “the landscape” for research following the budget settlement. Engagement is partly through the Exec meetings (which EPSRC attend) and partly through specific strategic meetings (one held in October 2015; another to follow in January 2016). The broad aim of these is to provide our colleagues in EPSRC with evidence to support their efforts to sustain/increase funding for computing science from the UK research councils in general and EPSRC in particular.

EPSRC network bid: A draft bid to EPSRC for a UK foundational computing science network is in preparation. The aim of the network (as currently scoped) is described in the draft as follows:

Computation has become a common factor across all of the sciences and engineering technologies, not only because the products of computation are key enablers but because progress is often dependent upon thinking about problems from a computational viewpoint. The problems being tackled by this means are often large, complex and interdisciplinary. In recent years we have seen a range of initiatives that depend on forms of computational thinking (MRC's Farr Network; ESRC's Administrative Data Research Network, EPSRC's Robotics centres; the Alan Turing Institute joint venture, *etc*). These are important demonstrations of the maturity of our discipline but they also exert forces that pull away from the core (Farr into medicine; ADRC into the social sector; Turing into data-intensive systems, *etc*). The UK computing community needs also to maintain a view of the landscape across these initiatives, working with them to maintain relevance but helping to develop a broader view.

Impact case studies: A representative set of REF case studies was selected by a UKCRC/CPHC group led by Morris Sloman. These were used to produce an impact report oriented to the general public. Paper copies of the report are being distributed by BCS and CPHC to those who may be interested (e.g. universities) and influenced (e.g. MPs). An on-line copy is on the UKCRC Web site (in the “Reports” section).

UKCRC Web site: has been refreshed, thanks to Tony Cohn – see <http://www.ukcrc.org.uk>.

Recruiting “rising stars” to UKCRC: A proposal is being floated to attract stellar early-career researchers into UKCRC, which would bring an additional dimension to the membership (hitherto focused on established researchers) but would also bring obligations on UKCRC to make it attractive for this group of researchers to join us and stay with us.

David Robertson

Appendix 2

Consultations and Submissions

There are two main reasons why UKCRC responds to consultations and parliamentary inquiries. The first and most important is that we have a responsibility to use our expertise to inform debates and decisions in matters of public importance. The second reason is to advance the understanding of the importance of our discipline to the UK national interests and public policy.

In the past year, UKCRC has continued to respond to most of the Government and Parliamentary consultations where UKCRC members have particular expertise. These included the Paul Nurse review of Research Councils, the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee inquiry on the Science Budget. (*Response led by Anthony Finkelstein*) and the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee inquiry on Big Data.

We decided not to respond to several other consultations, usually because there was insufficient interest by UKCRC members to generate an authoritative response.

Submissions are usually embargoed until the relevant committee publishes its submitted evidence. After that they are also published on the UKCRC website at <http://www.ukcrc.org.uk/resources/reports/index.cfm>.

The list of Government departmental open consultations can be seen at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?keywords=&publication_filter_option=open-consultations. There are currently 97, none of which UKCRC should respond to, in my judgement. Parliamentary committee inquiries are listed on the home page of the relevant committee. I subscribe to most committee pages, so we generally see announcements.

Please be willing to volunteer to lead responses next year and to contribute to the development of our evidence, so that it reflects a consensus of the considerable expertise of our whole membership.

Martyn Thomas

Appendix 3

Membership Panel Report

The UKCRC Membership Committee has four members. The current membership is:

Kevin Jones (Chair)	Executive Dean, Science and Engineering Plymouth University
Javier Barria	Reader – Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering Imperial College London
David Arnold	Director of Research Initiatives and Dean of the Brighton Doctoral College University of Brighton
Fionn Murtagh	Prof. of Data Science, Department of Computing and Mathematics, University of Derby

The Panel works electronically, reviewing nominations and voting on-line. The application process has been streamlined as much as possible, generally requiring only a nomination from a member and an appropriate CV. In circumstances where this is insufficient for an evident decision, the committee will request additional information. This has not been necessary to date.

Over the last year, 7 nominations for membership were received, all of which were elected. It is worth noting that 2 of these applications were from international scientists, who have significant contact with and presence in the UK.

Kevin Jones