Minutes of the Online Annual General Meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee held on **Wednesday 7 December 2016** between 14:00 – 15:00 via Webinar.

Attendees:

Ann Blandford	Executive Committee Chair
Cliff Jones	Executive Committee Member
Jane Hillston	Executive Committee Member
Anthony Cohn	Executive Committee Member
Fionn Murtagh	Membership Panel Member
Alan Bundy	Member
Morris Sloman	Member
Maurice Perks	Member
Mark Josephs	Member
Bashar Nuseibeh	Member
David Benyon	Member
Luc Moreau	Member
Alexander Romanovsky	Member

Apologies:

Martyn Thomas	Executive Committee Member
Derek McAuley	Executive Committee Member
Kevin Jones	Membership Panel Chair
Alessio Lomuscio	Member
Ursula Martin	Member
Russell Beale	Member
David Duce	Member
Harold Thimbleby	Member
Aaron Sloman	Member
Joe Winchester	Member

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [UKCRC/AGM2015/05]**

    The minutes of the AGM held on Monday 7 December 2015 were presented to members via the 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. The Chair thanked Morris Sloman and all those involved in producing the Impact Report.

3.   **CONVENORS REPORT – A Blandford**

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 1. The email update following last meeting had been well received so the Chair undertook to continue to distribute information following meetings for those Members not on the Executive Committee. The strategic connection between the Executive Committee and EPSRC had improved vastly in recent years and is now seen as best practice to other occupational sectors. It would be useful to review and re-emphasise this strategy in the future. Bashar Nuseibeh undertook to review the list of Strategic Advisory Team members, to highlight anyone who is not a UKCRC Member, then report back to the Chair.

ACTION: B Nuseibeh

The Impact Report is available on the website and hard copies available from BCS. Members agreed that it would be good to review impact again following the next REF exercise.

4.   **CONSULTATIONS & RESPONSES REPORT– M Thomas**

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 2. Some frustrations had been felt that although there is significant expertise in the community there was little capacity to assist with consultations. However, it was acknowledged that some consultations were on the borderline of UKCRC Members' expertise.

5.   **MEMBERSHIP PANEL REPORT – K Jones**

RECEIVED AND APPROVED – Appendix 3. The Chair re-emphasised that UKCRC is only as strong as its membership. The Panel itself is under-strength and it will be important to build it up in the coming months to help to increase recruitment.

6.   **REVIEWING PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE – Ann Blandford (verbal)**

The Chair had sought ideas from the Membership on possible future priorities. The comments fed back included focussing on themes such as AI and the Internet of Things, looking at Grand Challenges for the next 10 years and developing a greater sense of community.

Luc Moreau reported that the result of the EPSRC Network Bid review had been received in September with largely positive reviews but one negative review saying that they would like to see a more specific plan of action. Luc had spoken with EPSRC last week and they suggested to focus on 1 or 2 specific themes: for instance, IoT, cyber-security and AI. EPSRC suggested arranging a workshop for each theme with a view to producing a report.

Resourcing would be an issue for holding workshops and producing reports, although for the Grand Challenges the meetings had been held alongside other

meetings to minimise costs, and were largely self-organised. It would be good to devise a concrete plan such as building a network.

To build on Luc Moreau's earlier report, Cliff Jones described the discussions over the last year on the UKCRC Junior Wing. Originally BCS Academy was going to undertake work on young researchers, but this was not in cycle at present.

There were four possible areas for development:
- Follow up to the EPSRC Network Bid
- Themed meetings (e.g. AI) – Luc Moreau expressed an interest in contributing to this if it was alongside one or more others
- Early career researchers (ECRs)
- Developing a greater sense of community

It would be useful to engage colleagues outside of UKCRC such as ECRs to assist with these areas and this might help with the cycles problem. They could also help in identifying Grand Challenges, which would provide a mentoring/facilitating approach rather than career development. It would help to introduce another type of membership for "rising stars". Alan Bundy outlined the Royal Society of Edinburgh's approach to young researcher recruitment whereby it invites colleagues to apply and a panel reviews the applications. There are some criteria which must be met such as ensuring a gender balance and there is a small quota to ensure the RSE is not swamped with applications. Bashar Nuseibeh suggested compiling a list from ECR starter/consolidator grants. It was AGREED that the Executive Committee would look at case law for this and produce some criteria which should be selective to ensure the recruitment of energetic contributors. The aim would be to put the organisation in the hands of the ECRs. Different contributors could have varying degrees of commitment to ensure continued engagement.

ACTION: Executive Committee

On the subject of attracting applicants to the wider membership, the advantages of UKCRC should be promoted to emphasise the personal and societal benefits. It would be interesting to find out people's motivation or lack of motivation for joining and perhaps this was a subject for the future. Cliff Jones undertook to consult Jane, Alan and Bashar on a paper for the next UKCRCEC meeting in March 2017.

ACTION: Cliff Jones

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
    No other business was reported.

The Chair thanked members for joining this Webinar and called the 2016 Annual General meeting to a close.

Appendix 1 – Convenor's Report
Appendix 2 – Consultations & Responses Report
Appendix 3 – Membership Panel Report

Convenor's report

Engagement with EPSRC: The UKCRC executive continues to engage with EPSRC in its strategic thinking. This included consulting on the recent "shaping" exercise, now nearing completion. The broad aim is to support EPSRC in their efforts to promote funding for computing science. This is likely to include working with organisations with complementary missions on the effects of Brexit on our community.

EPSRC Equality and Diversity project: UKCRC are supporting EPSRC in commissioning research on E&D in ICT. There should be opportunities for the wider community to contribute to this early next year.

An **impact report** (led by Morris Sloman) based on REF impact cases in computing science has been distributed to key parliamentary (and other) contacts via BCS and EPSRC. See http://cs-academic-impact.uk/ .

EPSRC network bid: EPSRC are in discussions with UKCRC to propose future, focused networking activities that address key opportunity areas for the growth of the UK Computing research community. This will be a focus of activities in the coming months.

ResearchFish: we've been consulted on re-design. There is now a long-term roadmap of future developments and we should see preliminary improvements in usability for the forthcoming reporting period.

Membership: UKCRC is only as effective as its membership. Do please consider whether you have colleagues who can contribute to our agenda and encourage them to apply. See http://www.ukcrc.org.uk/about/join.cfm.

Ann Blandford

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. Morris Sloman led UKCRC input to Lord Stern's review of the REF; Vladimiro Sassone and Edmund Robinson submitted a response to the BREXIT HoC S&T Committee Inquiry; Tony Cohn submitted a joint UKCRC AAIB response to the Science and Technology Committee inquiry into robotics and artificial intelligence. Erol Gelenbe led the UKCRC side of this joint submission.

We decided not to respond to several other consultations, usually because there was insufficient interest by UKCRC members to generate an authoritative response or no-one volunteered to lead a UKCRC response. These included:

> BIS survey on including Innovate UK in Research UK;
> BIS consultation on *proposed next steps for higher education reform;*
> Royal Society Call for Evidence on *Machine Learning;*
> Science and Technology Committee Inquiry *Digital Skills Gap;*
> Joint committee on the draft investigatory powers bill call for written evidence;
> the HoC S&T Committee inquiry into the role and priorities of UKRI interim Chair;
> House of Lords Science and Technology Committee inquiry into the future uses of driverless vehicles in the UK;
> I offered to lead a response to the Science and Technology Committee inquiry into Science Communication, but received no input from UKCRC members.

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 this url There are currently 76, including Defence industrial policy, Postgraduate doctoral loans, and a new European electronic communications code. If you would like UKCRC to respond to any of them, please let me know and volunteer to lead the consultation. 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

Membership Panel Report

The UKCRC Membership Panel has four members (currently three and a vacancy). 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
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.

In there last year, there were two successful candidates nominated for membership and no unsuccessful nominations. There were hints and promises of other nominations but nothing further was forthcoming.

We would also note the contribution of

David Arnold	Director of Research Initiatives and Dean of the Brighton Doctoral College University of Brighton

who was a member of this panel.

Kevin Jones
Chair, Membership Panel