

Minutes of the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the UK Computing Research Executive Committee on Monday 14 March 2016 at 11.00 held at BCS, The Chartered Institute of IT, Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, London, WC2E 7HA.

**PRESENT**

Dave Robertson (Chair)  
Ann Blandford  
David Benyon

Anthony Cohn  
Iain Stewart  
Cliff Jones

Martyn Thomas  
Edmund Robinson (CPHC)

**BY INVITATION**

Alan Berry (IET)

Miriam Dowle (EPSRC)

Liam Blackwell (EPSRC)

**GUEST**

Adam Luqmani (EPSRC)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Maxine Leslie (BCS)

**APOLOGIES**

Tom Rodden  
Alex Hulkes (EPSRC)

Joe Winchester  
Bill Mitchell (BCS)

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received as above.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday 2 November 2015 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**

No items to report that are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**4. CONSULTATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS**

The late report was RECEIVED and NOTED.

**5. UKCRC JUNIOR WING**

Members discussed the UKCRC Junior Wing, alternatively known as 'Early career' or 'Rising Stars'. Luc Moreau had been asked to lead the project with other parties (Muffy Calder, Ursula Martin, Bill Mitchell and Jeff Magee) also involved. The plan was to submit a proposal to EPSRC once the core membership was established. It was reported that the BCS

Academy supported this initiative and Members were keen to see a schedule of work. The proposal would cover the following areas:

- The name (Computer Science Research Network?)
- Membership – open invitation or an election process (Members favoured the former)
- Annual gathering/interdisciplinary side (residential and by invitation) eg, cybersecurity
- To showcase early career work eg, crucible workshops
- Involvement of government
- Future gazing and social networking
- Relationship between the Wing/Network and UKCRC

Once written, the Chair will circulate Luc Moreau's proposal to Members and invite Luc to attend the June Committee meeting. It was hoped that Members can approve the proposal by email prior to the June meeting to avoid further delays.

**ACTION: Chair**

## **6. RESEARCH FUNDING AND POLICY**

### **6.1 European Matters**

NOTHING TO REPORT

### **6.2 EPSRC Update**

Adam Luqmani introduced himself to the Committee and indicated that he may attend meetings in future. Cliff Jones to add Adam to the JISCMail list.

**ACTION: Cliff Jones**

Liam Blackwell provided a verbal report and highlighted the following updates:

1. A new Chair from QMUL has been appointed to the advisory group.
2. The funding situation was discussed. The picture is complicated a little by the Global Grand Challenges pool, which is separate for all Research Councils and links with overseas development funding.
3. Europe – there is a new development plan to be published in April to set out high level strategy, but not in as great detail as Capability.

Miriam Dowle provided further updates as follows:

4. Equality and Diversity – an action plan is to be published in the next few months in which there are two main focuses:
  - the review of processes and data to ensure that the language is correct and
  - encouraging more Equality and Diversity within research itself.

Unconscious bias training for staff and committees/panels is also being rolled out. For the ICT theme, a focus group was conducted last week with a number of representatives in attendance. There are only two Computer Science University Departments in the UK with an Athena Swan Silver Award (Edinburgh and Queen's Belfast). A Royal Society of Chemistry report had been effective in chemistry; however there is no equivalent Royal Society for computer science and no obvious body to do survey of the CS landscape. More debate is needed in the CS space and whether EPSRC has a part of play here. Miriam offered to send the RSC report to Executive Committee Members interested in reading it. Edmund Robinson informed Members that CPHC was discussing best practice in this area and it had been the subject of a presentation at the 2015 CPHC conference. This topic will be discussed at the June UKCRC meeting under the EPSRC report item.

**ACTION: Secretariat**

## **7. MEMBERSHIP PANEL**

NOTHING TO REPORT

## **8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION VOTING**

Members received the paper and asked what would happen in the event of a tie. It was AGREED that the Secretariat would revisit this and circulate the amended paper to Members for sign-off.

**ACTION: Secretariat**

## **9. UKCRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017 MEETING DATES**

Members queried why the meetings were always held on a Monday as, for some an early London train was an expensive option. Secretariat to check with BCS London and the IET whether Tuesday or Thursdays in the same weeks were a viable alternative and to poll Members on these 2016/2017 dates. *[Secretariat Note: now complete, see below.]*

**ACTION: Secretariat**

## **10. REPORTS**

### **10.1 CPHC**

Edmund Robinson reported on three items:

1. Employability – the findings from the work lead by Sally Fincher at the University of Kent had been published in a report available on the [CPHC website](#). Follow up workshops were being organised to support this and any Members interested in attending should contact Edmund for links to the information.
2. CPHC/(ISC)<sup>2</sup> Roadshows taking place in March and April to roll out the work lead by Carsten Maple to encourage the embedding of cybersecurity into the computer science degree curriculum
3. CPHC Conference to be held on 25/26 April in Manchester, at which elections would be conducted when the current Chair Sally Smith would be succeeded by Carsten Maple.

### **10.2 BCS Academy**

NOTHING TO REPORT

### **10.3 IET**

Alan Berry from the Policy team at the IET gave an update on current activities:

1. Working with the Cabinet Office on a project about ways of contacting the emergency services for the digital age as this process hasn't changed for years. Stakeholders had met to plan how this might happen although there were issues with ownership of this area in government and the IET was hoping to secure ministerial backing for the work.
2. Data transfer – there was a network review to cope with demand in the future in which there had been a lot of interest but not much progress.
3. Productivity in the UK – the Office of National Statistics is talking to IET/OFCOM and economists to unpick why measurement is not helpful and attempt to improve data in this area.
4. IT – response to Big Data request from House of Commons.
5. Annual skills survey
6. Reliable safety assessment eg, software problems and new documentation for independent safety assessors.

Secretariat to circulate Alan's slides with the minutes.

**ACTION: Secretariat**

## 11. AOB

**11.1 UKCRC Chair** – The Chair reported that he would come to the end of his Chairship at the next meeting and that nominations for the new chair were needed to take over at the November meeting. Members were asked for their thoughts on this and in addition the Chair would investigate. Members queried which 3 members would be standing for re-election (or standing down this year as it was usually three each year.

**ACTION: Members**

*[Secretariat Note: following investigation it has emerged that there are only two places up for re-election this year and four in a subsequent year due to the Committee membership being one short in the recent past.]*

**11.2** The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to Penny Ballard for her hard work in supporting the Executive Committee over the last four years and Members wished her all the best for her retirement.

## 12. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on Monday 6 June 2016 at the IET Offices, Savoy Place, London.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2016

**Monday 6 June 2016 – IET Offices, London**

**\*Tuesday 8 November 2016 - BCS Offices, London**

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2017

**\*Tuesday 14 March – IET Offices, London**

**Tuesday 6 June – BCS Offices, London**

**\*Tuesday 7 November – IET Offices, London**

[\*Dates/venues now amended as follows:

Tuesday 1 November 2016 at the IET Offices, London

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2017

Tuesday 14 March 2017 – IET Offices, London

Tuesday 6 June 2017 – BCS Offices, London

Tuesday 31 October 2017 – BCS Offices, London]