

Minutes of the Online Annual General Meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee held on **Friday 7 December 2018** between 13:00 – 14:00 via Webinar.

Attendees:

Jane Hillston	Executive Committee Chair
Christopher Johnson	Executive Committee Member
David De Roure	Executive Committee Member
Luc Moreau	Executive Committee Member
Jie Xu	Executive Committee Member
Fionn Murtagh	Membership Panel Member
Alan Bundy	Member
Mark Josephs	Member
Joanna Bryson	Member
Morris Sloman	Member
Steven Furber	Member
Anthony Cohn	Member

Apologies:

Ann Blandford	Executive Committee Member
Derek McAuley	Executive Committee Member
Kevin Jones	Membership Panel Chair
Nadia Berthouze	Member
David Duce	Member
Cecilia Mascolo	Member
John McDermid	Member
David Hutchison	Member
Marina Jirotko	Member
Daniel Paulusma	Member
Achim Jung	Member
Michael Luck	Member
Julie McCann	Member
Martyn Thomas	Member
Anna Angus-Smyth	EPSRC

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING [UKCRC/AGM2017/07]

The Chair welcomed Members to the AGM, explaining that she took over as UKCRC Chair during the autumn and recording her thanks to Ann Blandford for her great service as previous Chair.

The apologies for absence were received as above. The minutes of the AGM held on Friday 1 December 2017 were recorded as a true record.

2. Matters arising from minutes

The Chair reviewed the actions arising from the minutes, some of which would be covered later in the agenda.

Item 3 Constitution – now complete and updated on UKCRC website <http://www.ukcrc.org.uk/about/constitution.cfm>

Item 4 Equality & Diversity report – now publicly available at <https://epsrc.ukri.org/newsevents/news/ediinict/>

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

3. CHAIR'S REPORT – J Hillston

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 1.

UKCRC Membership: UKCRC welcomed eight new Members and was particularly focussed on improving the equality and diversity among the membership and to look for 'up and coming' stars as well as more established professors. The Chair recorded her thanks to Kevin Jones and the Membership Panel for the work done to streamline the nomination process. UKCRC Members were encouraged to make nominations for the Membership as this is not solely within the remit of the Executive Committee, in particular now that all that is required to apply is a brief recommendation and a CV.

EPSRC Equality & Diversity project: The Funding Councils had looked at their own data as a starting point to try to understand what the situation was. UKCRC looked at the ICT Theme with Ann Blandford taking the lead and in summer 2017 there was a proposal on whether UKCRC should ask EPSRC about linking funding to Athena SWAN accreditation. There was a strong reaction on the mailing list which evolved into a discussion about the role of the Equality Challenge Unit and Athena SWAN and the extent to which this really promoted diversity. UKCRC was asked to provide a summary of this discussion which was undertaken by Ann and fed into the EPSRC report with an action plan for developing E&D within our community (see link above). The report was launched in March 2018 and UKCRC continues to talk to EPSRC about this issue as it is ongoing and relates not only to gender but all forms of equality.

REF: As reported in the minutes of the last AGM, UKCRC was a nominating body for REF2021. UKCRC made nominations for the chair and also for the composition of the unit of Assessment 11 for members. A small working group was set up comprising the UKCRC Chair, Cliff Jones, Luc Moreau, Alan Burns, Steve Furber and Ursula Martin and chaired by Morris Sloman. The working group produced a list of potential nominees for submission and the Chair expressed great thanks to Morris for the considerable work that he'd undertaken. Several of the nominees have since been appointed to the REF UOA11 Sub-Panel.

Royal Society new sectional committee and nominations: Another development to be welcomed was that the Royal Society decided to set up a new sectional panel called SC0 for Computer Science, whereas previously FRS in Computer Science had to be considered at engineering or mathematics committees; this was evidence of the maturity of the discipline now and UKCRC owes its thanks to current FRS who lobbied for this to happen. In response to a request by Steve Furber, a small UKCRC working group was set up to make suggestions on FRS nominations, partly to ensure that there was a more diverse view and that nominations were more representative of the community. Two lists were drawn up: one which made suggestions of those felt to be immediately suitable to be nominated and those on a watching list as being on track. Alan Bundy expressed his gratitude for the nominations received.

CRA Snowbird Conference: The Chair reported that she and Chris Johnson had attended the Snowbird Conference in Utah in July, which was interesting but full of problems and challenges without solutions. A number of US universities were suffering in the same way as UK universities. There had been a growth in teaching responsibilities and staff recruitment is proving difficult with new lecturing staff take a while to bed in, not necessarily relieving the resource problem. Institutions are feeling the effects of the change of government. Chris had been sent some material about terrible situations for heads of schools which he undertook to circulate to the Membership along with case studies outlining possible ways of dealing with the different situations described. The Chair also undertook to write this up in more detail.

ACTION: Chair/C Johnson

Developing a Network: the Chair explained that she was reporting on behalf of Derek McAuley who had sent his apologies. As reported at the last AGM work had been undertaken on plans for creating a network, facilitated by UKCRC which was mainly focussed towards early career researchers. The discussions had been going on with EPSRC for at least 18 months and EPSRC's preferred way forward was a workshop. This was held in spring 2018 and involved EPSRC, Members of UKCRC and more junior researchers. It was oversubscribed and a number of ideas emerged in the context of possible 'big idea' proposals which resulted in two submissions, both of which EPSRC welcomed. The next step is now being discussed by the Executive Committee and whether to continue this and form networks around these ideas. Any input from the Membership would be welcomed.

ACTION: Members

The Chair asked what UKCRC could be doing for the community, for example working more closely with CPHC who are currently running workshops (A Chair in 10 Years was to be held in the following week, exclusively for women). Should UKCRC be doing something similar?

Alan Bundy indicated that the Big ideas reminded him of the Grand Challenges in early days of UKCRC and that perhaps more workshops of this nature would be valuable rather than this being a one-off.

Joanna Bryson suggested making UKCRC activities more visible, eg publicising consultations through Twitter.

In addition, Plan S (where publications must be made publicly available) will be a challenge for everyone and it would be important to keep an eye on this. Joanna Bryson volunteered to help with any working group that might be set up.

Mark Josephs indicated that support for young researchers could be provided by getting members to compile a report of best practice for colleagues for developing research careers with a view to encouraging departments to provide more support themselves. The Chair agreed and indicated that Informatics Europe publishes periodic reports that disseminate best practice.

The Chair undertook to take these suggestions to the next Executive Committee meeting for further discussion. **ACTION: Chair**

4. CONSULTATIONS & RESPONSES REPORT – C Johnson

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 2.

Chris Johnson indicated that UKCRC had completed 12-13 consultations in the last 12 months and he had provided information back to the Membership for each.

There had been a request earlier in the week from the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee to give evidence on 8 January, which Chris will attend and will distribute the questions to Members once they are received on 4 January in order to compile the notes for that response. In addition, there were two other submissions being worked on.

Chris expressed his thanks to Martyn Thomas for pointing out more obscure sources of information and to the Membership for the quality feedback received.

The Chair recorded the thanks of the Membership to Chris for his work in this area, particularly as the deadlines are often short and UKCRC is grateful that he can find time in a very busy schedule to respond.

The SAT (Strategic Advisory Team) in EPSRC is looking for ideas such as an annual call for Grand Challenges, as they want to ensure that the ICT Panel continues to provide ideas through EPSRC so that we do not get swamped by other areas of UKRI. In addition, the SAT plans to communicate directly with individual government departments, including those that do not have computational backgrounds, to try and identify areas where UK research can support them particularly where they will increasingly have decision making or a leverage role in funding. There are lots of questions relating to the Haldane Principle here.

In response to a question about consultations and responses being posted to the website, Chris agreed to liaise with the Secretariat to action this.

ACTION: C Johnson/Secretariat

5. MEMBERSHIP PANEL REPORT – K Jones

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 4.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was reported.

The Chair thanked members for joining this Webinar and called the 2018 Annual General meeting to a close.

Appendix 1 – Chair's Report

Appendix 2 – Consultations & Responses Report

Appendix 3 – Membership Panel Report

UKCRC Chair's report for AGM

UKCRC Exec Membership: In summer 2018 Tony Cohn and David Benyon stepped down from the Exec committee; Ann Blandford who has agreed to serve another term but stepped down as Chair. We welcome two new members:

- m.c. schraefel, University of Southampton
- Jie Xu, University of Leeds

Jane Hillston took on the role of Chair of Exec.

Membership: We have welcomed 8 new members since the last AGM meeting. We have been focusing particularly on improving E&D across the membership and are grateful to Kevin Jones and the rest of the membership committee for their work on this. All members are welcome to make nominations.

EPSRC Equality & Diversity project: We worked with EPSRC to develop an action plan that was launched at the end of March. UKCRC are a signatory to that plan. Ann provided a summary for the discussion on the UKCRC mailing list in summer 2017 about Athena SWAN and ECU for EPSRC to take forward in discussions with UKRI and ECU.

REF: As a nominating body for REF 2021, we convened an ad hoc working group comprising Cliff Jones, Jane Hillston, Luc Moreau, Alan Burns, Steve Furber, Ursula Martin and chaired by Morris Sloman to inform the composition of the Computer Science and Informatics sub-panel. Tom Rodden, a member of UKCRC and former member of the Executive, has been appointed as Chair of the UoA11 sub-panel. Thanks to all members of the working group, and particularly to Morris Sloman. Several UKCRC members have been appointed to the UoA11 subpanel.

Royal Society new sectional committee and nominations: At the end of June we received the news that the Royal Society has created a new sectional committee, SC0, for Computer Science. This marks a recognition of CS as a discipline in its own right by the Royal Society, whereas previously fellows had to be nominated through Maths or Engineering. At the request of Steve Furber, a small UKCRC working group was formed to make suggestions of potential nominees.

CRA Snowbird Conference: Chris Johnson and Jane Hillston attended the CRA Snowbird conference in Utah 16th-18th July. This was an interesting, although slightly depressing, meeting to attend. The CS departments of elite Universities in the US are facing many of the same problems as those facing CS departments in the UK: increased demand from students and challenges in ensuring they have a satisfactory experience, difficulties retaining/recruiting staff in some areas because of uncompetitive salaries,

Developing a network: Led by Exec member, Derek McAuley (Mac) we continued to work with EPSRC on the idea of forming a network. This resulted in a networking workshop in March which was very well attended, by both UKCRC members and more junior researchers. Discussions at the workshop coalesced into three key topics developed further after the event; it was concluded that one was close to an already

funded Network, while the other two were submitted to the EPSRC “big ideas” consultation process:

- The Meaning Revolution: co-creating and co-curating shared understandings

“Novel, dynamic ways to capture understandings to be shared across communities, operationalised and perpetuated in ways current documentation standards and methods fail to deliver.”

- Scientific Principles for National Digital Resilience

"We will establish fundamental, generic scientific principles to deliver a measurable improvement in the UK's resilience to failures of its digital infrastructures and techniques to enable agile recovery."

Jane Hillston 5th December 2018

UPDATE ON UKCRC CONSULTATIONS 2017-18

The list at the end of this submission summarises all of the consultations that we have participated in since I took over. I would particularly like to thank my predecessor Martyn Thomas who regularly alerts me to new calls for evidence.

I would also like to thank Carsten Maple, the out-going Chair of CPHC for support in a number of joint submissions.

The only consultation that we did not respond to was on the REF proposals. The members' responses were either already covered by the institutional submissions or were not specifically related to Computing Science – with agreement from Jane and Carsten we decided not to respond to this call.

I have also been involved in preliminary discussions with the UKRI-EPSRC ICT SAT about creating an initiative for increased engagement with government in 2019; reinforcing their “One Voice” programme for Computing. I will circulate more details to the membership once these are agreed.

On-going consultations

Due December

- Digital Competition Expert Panel: Call for Evidence¹
- Improving adult basic digital skills²

Completed consultations

September

- Parliamentary Science and Technology Select Committee on Digital Government³
- Commons Science and Technology Committee Consultation on Balance and effectiveness of research and innovation spending⁴

August

- Dept of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport with Margot James - Creating the environment to develop the cyber security professional in the UK⁵

June

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/digital-competition-expert-panel-call-for-evidence>

² <https://consult.education.gov.uk/post-16-basic-skills-team/improving-adult-basic-digital-skills/>

³ <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/news-parliament-2017/digital-government-inquiry-launch-17-19/>

⁴ <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/news-parliament-2017/research-innovation-spending-inquiry-launch-17-19/>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/developing-the-uk-cyber-security-profession>

- House of Commons Education Select Committee, Consultation on the Forth Industrial Revolution⁶

May

- The House of Lords Select Committee on Communications consultation on Internet Regulation⁷
- The Department of Culture, Media and Sport consultation on a draft Code of Practice for a 'secure by design' Internet of Things⁸;
- The Department of Culture, Media and Sport consultation on the Security of Network and Information Systems Directive⁹;
- Higher Education Funding Council for England's consultation on a Knowledge Exchange Comparison Framework¹⁰;
- Joint Parliamentary Committee on the National Security Strategy, consultation on the UK Government's approach to the cyber security of critical national infrastructure¹¹
- House of Lords call for evidence on Artificial Intelligence¹².

Chris Johnson
November 2018

⁶ <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/education-committee/news-parliament-2017/fourth-industrial-revolution-launch-17-19/>

⁷ <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/communications/InternetRegulation/Internet-regulation-call-for-evidence.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/secure-by-design>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-security-of-network-and-information-systems-directive>

¹⁰ <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/ke/kef/>

¹¹ <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/national-security-strategy/news-parliament-2017/cyber-security-cni-launch-17-19/>

¹² <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/ai-committee/news-parliament-2017/call-for-evidence/>

MEMBERSHIP PANEL REPORT

The UKCRC Membership Committee has five Members including one co-opted Members and a representative of CPHC.

The current Panel comprises:

Kevin Jones (Chair)	Professor of Dependability and Security of Socio-Technical Systems, Plymouth University
Erol Gelenbe	Professor in the Dennis Gabor Chair, Imperial College London
Brian Randell	Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Associate, Newcastle University
Fionn Murtagh	Professor of Data Science, University of Huddersfield Visiting Professor of Data Science, Goldsmiths University of London Honorary Professor of Computer Science, Royal Holloway University of London
Carsten Maple	<i>Appointed by CPHC</i> Professor of Cyber Systems Engineering at WMG's Cyber Security Centre (CSC), University of Warwick

The Panel works electronically, reviewing nominations and voting online. 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, 9 nominations for membership were received, 8 of which were elected and 1 candidate whose application was judged to be premature with a recommendation that they would benefit from more time to establish a compelling record.

Maxine Leslie (on behalf of Kevin Jones)
November 2018