

## UKCRC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee held on **Friday 6 December 2019** between 14:00 – 15:00 at the University of Edinburgh and via video/teleconference.

**Attendees:**

Jane Hillston	UKCRC Chair
Ann Blandford	Executive Committee Member
Christopher Johnson	Executive Committee Member
#Cliff Jones	Executive Committee Member
Jie Xu	Executive Committee Member
Russell Beale	Member
#Anthony G Cohn	Member
Erol Gelenbe	Member
#Bashar Nuseibeh	Member
Perdita Stevens	Member
Philip Wadler	Member
Rhys Perry	EPSRC
Rami Bahsoon	Non Member
George M Coghill	Non Member
Stefan Dantchev	Non Member
Nigel Davies	Non Member
Lilia Georgieva	Non Member
Jeremy Gibbons	Non Member
Yue Li	Non Member
Oliver Rhodes	Non Member
V Anne Smith	Non Member
Laurence Tratt	Non Member
Wim Vanderbauwheide	Non Member
#Maxine Leslie	UKCRC Secretariat
#Joined remotely	

**Apologies:**

David Hutchison	Executive Committee Member
m.c. schraefel	Executive Committee Member
Kevin Jones	Membership Panel Chair
Joanna Bryson	Member
Alan Bundy	Member
David Duce	Member
Marina Jirotnka	Member
Mark Josephs	Member
Michael Luck	Member

**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM [UKCRC/AGM2018/05]**

The Chair welcomed Members to the AGM. The apologies for absence were received as above. The minutes of the AGM held on Friday 7 December 2018 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.

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

**3. CHAIR'S REPORT – J Hillston**

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 1.

**4. CONSULTATIONS & RESPONSES REPORT – C Johnson**

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 2.

C Johnson had delivered a 30 minute presentation during the UKCRC/EPSRC workshop held on the morning of the AGM, outlining the details summarised at Appendix 2 and encouraging attendees and the wider UKCRC membership to let him know if they are interested in appearing before committees, indicating their area(s) of interest.

There was an awareness that most of the responses provided were in C Johnson's area of research interest, so it would be particularly helpful for Members to let him know if particular questions are spotted. Government consultations can be searched for via the [GOV.UK](#) website.

R Beale suggested that C Johnson produce a brief summary of his earlier talk to explain the benefits of responding to consultations, which might help with encouraging engagement and motivation to provide individual responses.

**ACTION: C Johnson**

The Chair thanked C Johnson for driving the responses to consultations which are a very important part of UKCRC's activity.

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

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 3.

The Membership Panel Chair had sent his apologies but the Chair reported that although nominations had slowed recently, quite a few new nominations were currently under consideration. Non Members in attendance were encouraged to apply, as it is a very straightforward process.

**6. PUBLICATION WORKING GROUP – Edwin Hancock**

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 4 including presentation slides.

E Hancock provided an update on the work of the Working Group which had been

set up over the summer, having been originated by Cliff Jones. E Gelenbe reported on a newly launched journal for which he is co-EIC, which is an open access and free publication. It might be helpful to collaborate on new ideas and approaches. E Hancock would be happy to co-opt members from the journal in particular, as the Working Group is interested in future technologies and how the publication model can be evolved from where it is at the moment. E Hancock and E Gelenbe undertook to continue discussions offline. Jeremy Gibbons also expressed interest in joining the Working Group as he has a strong interest in the topic.

**ACTION: E Hancock/E Gelenbe**

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair encouraged Members to suggest activities that UKCRC should be involved in.

E Gelenbe reported to the meeting that the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary at UNESCO in Paris in 2020 and as part of their celebrations have selected 17 fellows based on 14 technical committees within IFIP, two from the UK including E Gelenbe, who have been selected for their contributions to structuring the Computer Science discipline. BCS is a Member but one suggestion could be for UKCRC to communicate directly with IFIP, in particular as it is oriented to different priorities than BCS. The Chair thanked E Gelenbe for the suggestion and extended congratulations on the award of his Fellowship.

The Chair thanked members for joining the meeting and called the 2019 Annual General meeting to a close.

Appendix 1 – Chair's report

Appendix 2 – Consultations & Responses report

Appendix 3 – Membership Panel report

Appendix 4 – Publication Working Group report and slides

## Appendix 1

### UKCRC Chair's report for AGM

There have been a number of strands of UKCRC activity during the last year. A summary is provided below and more details of some of these are included in other reports.

**UKCRC Membership:** We have continued to increase the membership of UKCRC with a number new academic members welcomed over the year and several more currently under consideration by the Membership Committee. At the October meeting of the Executive Committee we agreed that it would be valuable to have greater interaction with industry, and therefore having more members who were working in an industry-based research context would be good. The Committee are working on identifying suitable candidates and would welcome suggestions. We also agreed that we should be clearer with new (and existing) members on what membership entails and a brief statement of this is being prepared.

**Relationship with CPHC:** We have continued to strengthen our relationship with CPHC and to work jointly when appropriate to do so. The Chair attended the CPHC conference in April and gave a presentation about UKCRC (invited) and our activities. This raised awareness of UKCRC in the wider community. The Chair also worked with a member of the CPHC team to deliver a “Chair in Ten Years” workshop. This was very well received by the participants and is definitely an area where we could do further joint work. More support for early career researchers was one of the possible areas of activity that received support at the last AGM. At the recent joint meeting of UKCRC and CPHC Executives we also identified possible joint work around consultations and incorporating consideration of ethics into both teaching and research in CS/AI.

**Relationship with Informatics Europe:** Informatics Europe (IE) is a membership organization for departments and faculties of Informatics and Computing across Europe. CPHC is a member organization of IE, as are several individual departments in the UK. The current president of IE has identified a potential role for IE as coordinating national networks and in that context has been in dialogue with UKCRC. It is not entirely clear what form our relationship should take since IE is an association of departments and faculties, and UKCRC is an individual membership organization. However IE are undertaking a number of activities that are potentially of interest to our members so we have agreed to circulate information via our mailing list when appropriate. Also UKCRC member, Luke Ong, who is a member of the Executive Board of IE, now provides regular updates on IE activities to the UKCRC Exec meetings.

**New Working Group on Publishing:** There was a suggestion at the last AGM that Plan S and associated issues around publishing and open access could be a useful area for

UKCRC to look at and report back to its members. UKCRC member Edwin Hancock has kindly taken on convening this working group and they will be working at the AGM.

**UKCRC Reports and Communication:** In an attempt to increase the value delivered to UKCRC members, we have taken a number of steps to provide more information. An update from EPSRC is now circulated to the whole membership after each Exec meeting and we are aiming to have draft minutes circulated between meetings, rather than waiting for the confirmed minutes after the subsequent meeting. A report on the 2018 CRA Snowbird Conference was published in Spring 2019, and a report on the September EPSRC/UKCRC workshop was published in Autumn 2019. We are also seeking to update the UKCRC website and make the content more dynamic. Exec member, Luc Moreau, is leading this initiative.

**EPSRC/UKCRC Workshops:** Working jointly between EPSRC and UKCRC, Sam Francis, Rhys Perry, Jessica Bonham, Chris Johnson, Cliff Jones and Jane Hillston, have organized to joint workshops. In particular we wanted to address the questions:

- What are the current and future research challenges for Computing and how best can they be funded?
- In times of limited resource, how to identify the most pressing areas?
- How can the Computing community in the UK work together with EPSRC to answer these questions?

The aims of the workshop were

- To develop a joint and inclusive vision for UK computing research that will rejuvenate the community over a 5-year time period.
- To input into EPSRC strategy for ICT research which will support the EPSRC ICT Theme in promoting the longer-term health of the discipline.
- To deliver higher levels of member participation and engagement in UKCRC and the Computing community more broadly.

**Royal Society sectional committee 0 and nominations:** As last year, a small working group was formed and considered potential nominees for RS Fellowship through Section Committee SC0. These suggestions were passed to Section Committee SC0.

**REF Guidelines and interdisciplinary research:** UKCRC Chair sought clarity from the REF UoA11 Chair around the eligibility of certain topics that were not explicitly included in the ACM classes listed. This was deemed to be very important as many institutions were making decisions on what would be eligible research on the basis of the information on the webpage. Clarification was provided and published on the REF UoA11 webpage at the end of October.

Jane Hillston 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## Appendix 2

### **Update on UKCRC Consultations 2018-19**

The list at the end of this submission summarises all of the consultations that we have participated in since I took over.

There has been a cumulative effect of UKCRC work in this area – we are now being consulted directly by the civil servants assisting on a number of Parliamentary Committees. For example, we worked with EPSRC to help the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy identify academics capable of addressing the national sovereignty issues involved in 5G procurement. It remains to be seen whether these links survive any reorganisations after the General Election.

We have also given presentations to Cabinet (Foreign Secretary, Industry Minister) and Shadow Cabinet (Cabinet Office, Shadow Secretary of State for Defence) following an appearance before the Commons Science and Technology Committee.

There are continuing discussions with the UKRI-EPSRC ICT SAT about increased engagement with government. I will circulate more details to the membership once these are agreed. It seems likely that this dialogue will be increasingly important as funding for research is being tied to policy announcements.

We have planned a session to encourage more members to contribute to this work in the joint UKCRC-EPSRC December meeting.

At last year's AGM, we discussed whether it would be possible to put up copies of all responses in a timely fashion. As explained in the meeting, all responses are emailed to the membership and we cannot post submissions that have not been formally accepted by Parliamentary Committees. It is my intention to put up a list of all live submissions without the detailed response every quarter but this is subject to workload and support from other members given that any individual submission takes 2-3 days of time to coordinate, draft and submit.

I would encourage all members to check the following URL in case there are calls that I may have missed:

<https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations>

I would particularly like to thank my predecessor Martyn Thomas who continues to alert me to new calls for evidence. I would also like to thank Sally Fincher, Chair of CPHC for support in a number of joint submissions and in proposing mechanisms for further collaboration. David Hutchison has also provided numerous hints and suggestions for many of the consultations listed below.

2019

### Calls out to UKCRC Membership

December

- DCMS consultation on Cyber Security Incentives and Regulation<sup>1</sup>

### Completed consultations

November

- Law Commission Open consultation on the Regulation of Highly Automated Road Passenger Services (HARPS)<sup>2</sup>

October

- DCMS Open Consultation on Reforming Consumer Advocacy in Telecoms<sup>3</sup>

August

- Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy Inquiry into Access to “Safe” Technology: The UK’s 5G Infrastructure and National Security<sup>4</sup>

June

- DCMS Consultation on regulatory proposals on consumer IoT security<sup>5</sup>

May

- DCMS/Home Office On-line Harms White Paper<sup>6</sup>

April

- DfT/BEIS Consultation on Code of Practice for the Trialling of Automated Vehicles<sup>7</sup>

March

- Commons Science and Technology Committee, Commercial and Recreational Drone Use in the UK Inquiry<sup>8</sup>
- HMRC. Consultation on Electronic Sales Suppression<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cyber-security-incentives-regulation-review-call-for-evidence>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/automated-vehicles/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/open-consultation-on-reforming-consumer-advocacy-in-telecoms>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/national-security-strategy/inquiries/parliament-2017/access-to-safe-technology-inquiry-17-19/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-regulatory-proposals-on-consumer-iot-security>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/automated-vehicle-trialling-code-of-practice-invitation-to-comment>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/commercial-recreational-drone-uk-17-19/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/electronic-sales-suppression-a-call-for-evidence>

February

- Meeting with Nia Griffiths team, Shadow Defence Secretary
- Meeting with Jo Platt, Shadow Cabinet Office Minister
- HMRC Consultation on Digital Service Tax <sup>10</sup>

January

- Commons Science and Technology Committee, Brexit, Science and Innovation: Preparations for 'No-Deal' inquiry<sup>11</sup>
- Evidence before Commons Science and Technology Committee

**2018**

December

- Dept for Education, Improving adult basic digital skills<sup>12</sup>
- HM Treasury, Digital Competition Expert Panel: Call for Evidence<sup>13</sup>
- Ofqual Regulating Basic Digital Skills Qualifications<sup>14</sup>

\*\*\*\* 2018 AGM \*\*\*\*

September

- Parliamentary Science and Technology Select Committee on Digital Government<sup>15</sup>
- Commons Science and Technology Committee Consultation on Balance and effectiveness of research and innovation spending<sup>16</sup>

August

- Dept of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport with Margot James - Creating the environment to develop the cyber security professional in the UK<sup>17</sup>

June

- House of Commons Education Select Committee, Consultation on the Forth Industrial Revolution<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/digital-services-tax-consultation>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/news-parliament-2017/brexit-science-and-innovation-preparations-for-no-deal-inquiry-launch-17-19/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://consult.education.gov.uk/post-16-basic-skills-team/improving-adult-basic-digital-skills/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/digital-competition-expert-panel-call-for-evidence>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/regulating-basic-digital-skills-qualifications>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/news-parliament-2017/digital-government-inquiry-launch-17-19/>

<sup>16</sup> <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/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/developing-the-uk-cyber-security-profession>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/education-committee/news-parliament-2017/fourth-industrial-revolution-launch-17-19/>

- Department for Transport, Future of mobility call for evidence<sup>19</sup>

May

- The House of Lords Select Committee on Communications consultation on Internet Regulation<sup>20</sup>
- The Department of Culture, Media and Sport consultation on a draft Code of Practice for a 'secure by design' Internet of Things<sup>21</sup>;
- The Department of Culture, Media and Sport consultation on the Security of Network and Information Systems Directive<sup>22</sup>;
- Higher Education Funding Council for England's consultation on a Knowledge Exchange Comparison Framework<sup>23</sup>;
- Joint Parliamentary Committee on the National Security Strategy, consultation on the UK Government's approach to the cyber security of critical national infrastructure<sup>24</sup>
- House of Lords call for evidence on Artificial Intelligence<sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-mobility-call-for-evidence>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/communications/InternetRegulation/Internet-regulation-call-for-evidence.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/secure-by-design>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-security-of-network-and-information-systems-directive>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/ke/kef/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/national-security-strategy/news-parliament-2017/cyber-security-cni-launch-17-19/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/ai-committee/news-parliament-2017/call-for-evidence/>

Appendix 3

### **MEMBERSHIP PANEL REPORT**

The UKCRC Membership Committee has five Members including one co-opted Member 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, De Montfort University 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. Since 2018, 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, 11 nominations for membership were received, 4 of which were elected and 7 are under consideration by the Membership Panel at the time of the AGM.

Maxine Leslie (on behalf of Kevin Jones)  
November 2019

Appendix 4

**Progress Report – UKCRC Computer Science Publication Working Group**

**Members:** Joanna Bryson, Dave De Roure, Alex Frangi, Edwin Hancock (Chair), Chris Johnson, Cliff Jones.

**Activity:** Over the summer we had some useful initial email exchanges, mainly to establish our standpoints. This was followed by a more focussed exchange, attempting to collect responses under SWOT type headings.

Our next step is to further discuss and refine this, and to move towards turning it into a more formal report, which can be distributed to UKCRC ExCo and membership for further comment and refinement. We also need to decide how we would make use of the report and disseminate it further. One possibility is to use it as a basis on which to foster discussions with the main commercial publishers (Springer, Elsevier, IEEE CS Press, ACM) and those involved in alternative academic lead initiatives (e.g. JMLR, CVF etc)..

Edwin Hancock, 28 November 2019