UKCRC/AGM2023/03

UKCRC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee held on **Friday 1 December 2023** between 14:00 – 15:00 via video/teleconference.

Attendees:

Kevin Jones	UKCRC Chair
David De Roure	Executive Committee member
Andrew Gordon	Executive Committee member
Michael Fisher	Executive Committee member
Jie Xu	Executive Committee member
Julie McCann	Executive Committee member
Nadia Berthouze	Membership Panel Chair
Alex Frangi	Membership Panel member
Steve Furber	Member
Anthony G Cohn	Member
Bashar Nuseibeh	Member
Peter Andras	Member
Ben Scott	EPSRC/UKRI
Maxine Leslie	UKCRC Secretariat

Apologies:

Simon Dobson	Executive Committee member
David Hutchison	Executive Committee member
Ann Blandford	Member
Alan Bundy	Member
V Anne Smith	Member
Cliff Jones	Member

1. **WELCOME**

   The Chair welcomed UKCRC members to the AGM and the apologies for absence were received as above.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM [UKCRC/AGM2022/06]**

   The minutes of the AGM held on Friday 2 December 2022 including the slide deck presented by A Gordon were recorded as a true record and uploaded to the UKCRC website.

   2.1 **Matters arising from minutes**
   There were no actions from the previous Annual General Meeting which will not be covered within the agenda for this AGM.

3. **CHAIR'S REPORT [UKCRC/AGM/2023/02] – K Jones**

   RECEIVED & APPROVED - Appendix 1

   Although members were willing to undertake UKCRC activities, time commitment was still proving to be a challenge. However, it would be good to broaden the number of people involved. The most pressing area of activity is consultations and

submissions following Chris Johnson stepping down from the Executive Committee having completed two terms of office. Individual UKCRC members have continued to respond to consultations but UKCRC has been unable to respond with a unified voice. The Chair underlined that this role is for a co-ordinator rather than the leader role that was undertaken previously.

There have been a number of discussions with BCS and the IET and the BCS Group CEO Rashik Parmar attended the UKCRC Executive Committee meeting in June 2023. A diagrammatic representation of the ownership of different activities for UKCRC, CPHC and BCS Academy was presented and agreed at this meeting (see Chair's report at Appendix 1).

The joint event on 16/17 April 2024 at Coventry University will assist in the three organisations speaking with one voice, eg when talking to government. UKCRC members are encouraged to attend (see UKCRC website).

Due to resource availability and challenging workloads at EPSRC, a date for the REF discussion has been delayed. It is hoped that a refresh of the vision and mission statement for UKCRC will be completed by a task and finish group early in 2024.

A question was raised on the relationship between UKCRC and the National Engineering Policy Centre (NEPC). This could be a good connection to build (see NEPC webpages) particularly to feed into reports in areas of common interest. It would be important to include BCS and the IET in any co-operation with NEPC. A link with ARIA may also be helpful. The Chair undertook to raise these possible connections with the Executive Committee. **ACTION: Chair**

4.   CONSULTATIONS & RESPONSES REPORT

No report for reasons outlined in Chair's report (Item 3 above and Appendix 1).

5.   MEMBERSHIP PANEL REPORT

N Berthouze informed members that there had only been one recent application for membership, which had met the criteria and been approved. Members were encouraged to look out for good prospective members from both academia and industry. N Berthouze and the Membership Panel had worked hard to ensure that the process was straightforward. See website for criteria. N Berthouze indicated that she was happy to have an informal chat with anyone interested in applying, if that would encourage more applicants. One suggestions was to put a call out to invite applications for membership, however care would be needed on any wording to ensure that the volume of applications could be adequately managed. It was agreed that the launch of the new mission/vision statement could accompany a push for new members in order to link membership to UKCRC activities. N Berthouze and the Chair undertook to liaise on this offline.

ACTION: N Berthouze/Chair

6.   OTHER ACTIVITIES

There were no reports on other activities.

7.   ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair noted that in the last couple of years, there has been movement of UKCRC Membership Panel members onto the Executive Committee (the

membership of each group must be independent). It may be beneficial to co-opt new members to the Membership Panel to fill expert areas.

It was noted that D De Roure has stepped down as an Executive Committee member, having completed two 3-year terms of office. The Chair thanked D De Roure for his support and involvement in the work of the Executive Committee.

Members expressed a preference for using Zoom instead of Microsoft Teams for the next AGM and M Leslie undertook to arrange this.　　　　**ACTION: M Leslie**

ACTIONS

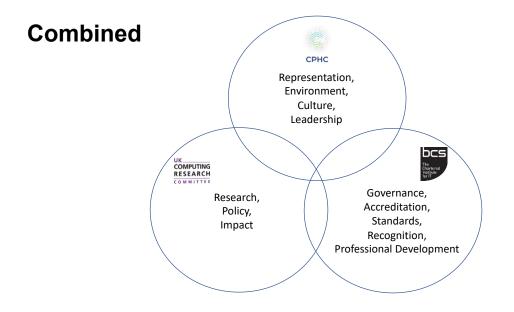|		
2023.1	Chair's report – liaise with Exec Committee on possible connections with NEPC and ARIA	Chair/Exec
2023.2	Membership Panel report – liaise on planning a push for new members in order to link membership to UKCRC activities following the launch of the new mission/vision statement	MP Chair/ UKCRC Chair
2023.3	AOB – arrange for next AGM to be held via Zoom	Secretariat
2022.1	Chair's report – let Committee know what communications would be of interest in relation to UKCRC activities by emailing ukcrc@bcs.uk	All members
2022.2	AOB – arrange date/venue for UKCRC Strategy day	Secretariat

Appendix 1 – Chair's report

In the last year, it has proven difficult to find resources (i.e. people's time) to move actions forward in the way that would be liked. This issue appears to be worsening given the overall trends on academic workloads.

We still lack a volunteer to take ownership of coordinating responses to consultations and, as a result, we have been less active in response than in previous years.

Over the course of the last year, we have made efforts to fully re-engage with our "parent" organisations, BCS and the IET. I have met with senior representatives from both organisations, up to the CEO level, and we have mutually agreed that there is more value to be had from these relationships than has been evident in the recent past. Discussions will continue, with representatives from BCS and IET now actively engaged with the UKCRC Exec.

On-going activity, with both the BCS Academy and CPHC, has continued to define responsibilities and "ownership" of activities within the broad spectrum of activities within the Computing space. There is clear understanding, and agreement, that UKCRC is the focal point for activity in the research space, covering both academia and industry. The latest summary of this activity was presented as the following diagram in a slide deck presented by the chairs of the 3 bodies:

Combined

The next step in this activity will be a joint conference, hosted by CPHC, the BCS Academy and UKCRC, at Coventry University on 16/17 April 2024. The overall aim here is to have a coordinated voice for Computing in the UK, without losing the unique strengths of each organisation.

We are not the only organisation to be struggling with capacity. There has been an on-going action to meet with UKRI/EPSRC to discuss the outcomes of the last REF from a computing research perspective, and the implications for the next, but it has proven impossible to find a date when the right people were available for such a discussion. The intent is still to follow up on this as resources free up, although it is noted that the workload at EPSRC generated by the recent TFS deadline makes this unlikely in the near future.

The major outstanding action on the Exec is the refresh of the vision and mission statement for UKCRC. Volunteers are solicited to join a brief task and finish group to engage with this task, with the aim being to get something circulated to the membership in the first quarter of 2024.

Kevin Jones
November 2023