

## Minutes of the BCS IRSG Committee Meeting

21 September 2022

Zoom Video Conference convened at 18:00 (London)

### Present

Udo Kruschwitz [UK] (Chair), Tony Russell–Rose [TRR] (Vice-Chair), Steven Zimmerman [SZ] (Minutes), Ingo Frommholz [IF] (Treasurer), Jochen Leidner [JL], Yashar Moshfeghi [YM], Haiming Liu [HL], Frank Hopfgartner [FH], Graham McDonald [GM]

### 1. Apologies and Minutes of Previous IRSG Committee Meeting

Annalina Caputo [AC], Krisztian Balog [KB]

**Agreed** Minutes approved

### 2. Actions arising from May 2022

Action Number	Action	Action on
May 25.01	To set up repository with IRJ agreement and other documents that should be readily accessible to IRSG committee members (SEE Sep 21.01)	SZ
May 25.02	Sep 21.02 Explore ideas for expanding diversity [CARRY FORWARD]	YM
May 25.03	Compile and send the expected costs for FDIA.	DONE
May 25.04	Sep 21.03 Send [GM] any events, postings, etc that might be relevant [CARRY FORWARD]	ALL
May 25.05	Make minor adjustments to ECIR 2024 bid and send out to appropriate channels	DONE
May 25.06	Contact [MW] to say we are fine with his proposal if we can get approval from BCS	DONE
May 25.07	Confirm with BSC if funds can be used for student support and travel expenses for FDIA chairs at FDIA	DONE
May 25.08	Confirm with BSC that we can spend to cover costs of hiring someone to help running hybrid SS	DONE but unsuccessful
May 25.09	Put out call to your students to submit proposals for FDIA (Deadline June 20th)	DONE

<b>May 25.10</b>	<b>Sep 21.04</b> Put out call in September for proposals to hold 1-day event [CARRY FORWARD]	UK
<b>May 25.11</b>	Informer strategy to brainstorm on strategy and identify potential editors to be put on agenda for next meeting	DONE
<b>May 25.12</b>	Any web content issues should be discussed with TRR (content manager)	DONE
<b>May 25.13</b>	Invite MW to give an update on Informer at the next meeting	DONE
<b>May 25.14</b>	Send around doodle to find meeting after ECIR 2024 bids received	DONE

### 3. Items Agreed by email

**Agreed (related to May 25.01):** Basecamp will be used as the repository

**Agreed (related to May 25.07 & 25.09):** FDIA support was provided for students (only 1 took support)

**Discussed May 25.08:** BCS did not agree to support request for search solutions. As such Martin White will step down from his role of general organiser of the conference.

### 4. Chair's report

[UK] reports that we had been approached by Michael Upshall to offer his services to look at the future and shape of Informer (following up on the discussion in the summer issue of Informer). He is willing to do that for free and the committee agreed to go ahead with that.

There were some delays to Web site changes recently but this should all be sorted now. Minor updates have been made to the Search Solutions Website (registration should be available soon).

[TRR] (Related to **May 25.12**): Most changes to IRSG website are very minor (e.g. font size) for these just contact BCS directly with request. For other requests be sure to work with TRR to submit requests so that updates are recorded in "ticketing" system.

**Action Sep 21.05** [TRR] to create ticketing system for major updates to website

**Action Sep 21.06** [SZ] secretary to submit committee minutes direct to BCS but with TRR in cc

**Discussion:** On request to BCS for support for desired A/V resource for SS2022

- Disappointing that BCS has said no to this request and that Martin White will not be chair
- We hope that all goes well with A/V help with hybrid

Possible candidates for informer which is good news, see later discussion under informer strategy

Elections:

- Chair, Treasurer and Membership Secretary are all up for election + 3 Ordinary Members

- **Action Sep 21.07** [SZ] to set up and send email for election

## 5. Report Inclusion officer

**Action Sep 21.08-** [YM] to setup a) doodle for those who wish to discuss inclusion and b) to hold meeting

## 6. Report Early Careers Advocate

[GM] Reports following

I contacted the Chair of the Early Careers Executive and the community coordinator that set up the LinkedIn group to say that I don't really have a clear idea of who the group is targeted at and what the real intention of the group is. I suggested that we should organise a virtual meetup for ECAs for us to discuss how we can best make use of the LinkedIn group and our ECA network more generally. Discussions are ongoing.

## 7. ECIR 2023

[Annalina was ill] UK reported that things are all on track with some deadlines passed and others coming up.

## 8. Bids to host ECIR 2024

One bid was received, this was by a team from the University of Glasgow. YM and GM left for the discussion of this agenda item due to a conflict of interest.

Much discussion on this important topic. The outcome of the discussion is as follows:

- Generally the proposal is acceptable, however there are some points that must be addressed/updated.
- The committee is confident that a good conference will be run.
- Some comments worth noting
  - Concerns around Radisson location (costs)
  - Excellent team and in a good location
  - The sky appears blue in proposal, are the skies ever blue in Glasgow?
  - Some concerns around registration and requirement related to authors being forced to present onsite and related energy/co2 impacts
- Recommendations
  - Consider possibilities to balance committee even further with respect to inclusion concerns
  - Consider running the conference at location used by CHIIR 2019
  - Add a non-present option for presentation (e.g. don't require the author to be in person, but do require a higher registration fee than pure remote).
- There are several structural elements that should be added to proposal as follows:
  - General structure of programme (e.g. single or dual track and rough plan)

- More about timelines (e.g. final submission dates)
- High-level plan for sponsorship (in case of lower-than-expected sponsorship income)
- Clarification on registration and costs
- Concern that lots of names listed but few commitments made for PC

**Action Sep 21.09-** [UK/SZ] to draft letter to send to University of Glasgow

## 9. Search Solutions 2022

- Contribution submission approach was a success. We have an excellent list of speakers and a range of topics.
- We will go ahead with the plan of an in-person conference with the option for speakers to present online (only one speaker has indicated to do so).
- Registration will open soon.

## 10. KSJ Award

[JL] reports the following:

- Two High-calibre submissions received
- There should be a 3rd submission, which will hopefully come through
- Committee ready for judging, names will eventually be made public, but not for sometime due to anonymity concerns during the judging process.
- Results ready for ECIR 2023 in December
- Following the agreement with EAAC there will in future be some rotation with winners of the award either presenting at ECIR or EAAC.

## 11. ICTIR report

[FH] reports that the committee meeting for ICTIR has not been held since event.

**Action Sep 21.10** - [FH] to provide a report on ICTIR after the next ICTIR committee meeting.

## 12. Tony Kent Strix Award

[GM] Reports the following

The deadline for nominations is 6pm this Friday 30th September. The call was circulated to the IRSG committee, local colleagues and IR mailing lists when it was issued, and a reminder was sent to IR lists earlier this month. We have not had any update from UKEiG about whether there have been any nominations so far and I am not aware of anyone that is planning on submitting a nomination.

### 13. Budget

[IF] reports the following

BCS has so far allocated £0 for our budget. This is in line with other groups.

They want us to use special fund requests at this time.

**Action Sep 21.11** - [UK] to send out call for 1 day events once we have clarity on budget

### 14. Informer Strategy

Martin White [MW] joined for this agenda item at 19:40 reporting the following:

We discussed briefly the email [MW] sent prior to meeting

**Action Sep 21.12** - [UK] to work with Michael Upshall to create a report on current state of Informer

Some key points made by [MW]

- Wordpress template will need serious update
- What should the content be?
  - Always include reports of meetings/conferences
  - Promotion of events on a quarterly basis currently (less frequent publications could be challenge for these events)
  - Featured articles are currently down to the editor, are we missing out on content?
- Consider possibility of switch to bi-annual rather quarterly issue (MW offers to help if this is case)
- Michael Upshall won't sort out issues but will give very good insights as he is a publisher
- We are a unique specialist group for BCS, no other groups publish content in manner we do

Discussion around current options

- Comments from [JL] for proposal for Informer sections:
  - - people: portraits of researchers and research groups
  - - reflections: ideas, thoughts, contrarian positions
  - - projects: informal reports from small projects, including PhD theses
  - - search & society: regulatory controversies etc.
  - - search business: startups, acquisitions
- Other suggestions that we do more analytics to see who is reading
- Considerations to look for editor beyond borders of UK (which has challenges)
- Martin prepared to do 2 issues per year
- TRR suggests many good ideas presented but we should be solution-focused
- The committee agreed that trying the bi-annual approach with [MW] in charge is the best solution for now.

**Action Sep 21.13** - Switch to bi-annual publication with [MW] acting as editor (at beginning of new year)

19:50 [YM] Left

#### 15. AOB

None

#### 16. Next meeting

Next meeting on Tutorial day night (Tuesday 22nd of November) before Search Solutions 2022

#### 17. Actions Arising From Meeting

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Sep 21.01	Set up document repository for committee documents on Basecamp. SZ to work with Kerry Weir to do this.	SZ
Sep 21.02	Explore ideas for expanding diversity	YM
Sep 21.03	Send [GM] any events, postings, etc that might be relevant	ALL
Sep 21.04	Put out a call for proposals to hold 1-day events	UK
Sep 21.05	Create a ticketing system for major updates to website	TRR
Sep 21.06	Secretary to submit committee minutes direct to BCS but with TRR in cc	SZ
Sep 21.07	Set up and send email for election	SZ
Sep 21.08	Set up a) doodle for those who wish to discuss inclusion and b) to hold meeting	YM
Sep 21.09	draft letter to send to University of Glasgow w.r.t ECIR 2023	UK/SZ
Sep 21.10	provide a report on ICTIR after next ICTIR committee meeting.	FH
Sep 21.11	send out call for 1 day events once we have clarity on budget	UK
Sep 21.12	work with Michael Upshall to create a report on current state of informer	UK
Sep 21.13	Switch to bi-annual publication with [MW] acting as editor	MW

Meeting Closed 19:58