Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the 2008/09 Session of the
Committee of the South Wales Branch
6.00 pm, 24th February, 2009
Robert Recorde Room
Dept of Computer Science
Swansea University

DRAFT

161.5.0 PRESENT		
Paul Bulmer (Chair)	Carl Allan	Beti Williams
Ralph Miller (Sec)	Jeremy White	John Tucker
Jason Mullins		

161.5.1 APOLOGIES		
Steve Harvey	Daniel Cunliffe	Gareth O'Gorman
Daniel Cunliffe	Mikhaila Burgess	Ieuan John
Max Davis	Fred Long	Derek Smith
Stillianos Vidalis		

161.5.2 Reports from Absent Members	**Actions**
Reports from absent members are welcome. Please send them to the Sec., as we can then incorporate them in the minutes and the Committee is kept up to date	
Please send apologies to the Sec, copy to the chair, if possible in good time, as we can then adjust the refreshment numbers and even the date of the meeting if necessary following large numbers of apologies.	**All**
Max reported on progress with the YPG; He had been keeping in touch with SUCS, and intended to follow up with Mikhaila the possibility of a Cardiff U Student Chap. He was to attend a dinner meeting of an organisation called Bright Futures, a Swansea based student placement scheme. He would update us afterwards.	**MD**
161.5.3 WELCOME	
There were no guests at this meeting	
161.5.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
The draft minutes of the last meeting were approved, for placing on the Web.	**IJ**
161.5.5 Matters arising from the Minutes	
Certificates of appreciation would be presented to IT Wales staff, Margaret Evans of Cardiff U and Peter Hodson of Glamorgan U.	**PB**
A representative was still sought for Branches Congress.	**All**
Beti had arranged the first BCS in Wales Women's group meeting for 25th Feb.	**BW**
A Welsh translation for a student poster and a Welsh language insert for a careers booklet would be prepared by Beti	**BW**
There was no response yet from Committee as to attendance at a summer event and a meeting in Aberystwyth Please let Paul know if you are interested	**All**
Mind map. – Ongoing	**All**
161.5.6 CORRESPONDENCE	
The official feedback from the Turing lecture was considered an excellent result	
Jeremy read out articles from a BCS HQ report complementing the South Wales Branch.	
161.5.7 BRANCH REPORTS	
Membership Secretary's Report: No further report	
Webmaster's Report: Carl Allen accepted an invitation to become Webmaster as Ieuan was not available. PB to confirm	**PB**

	acceptability with IJ. The Committee expressed their gratitude for this agreement. Carl had been at a Webmasters meeting at BCS Swindon yesterday. There was much new information, which he would progress and update the Committee on along with any changes required from the committee.	
	Treasurer's Report Chair reported on the finances of the Branch and updated the committee on the long running exchanges with Branches committee and HQ to obtain written confirmation of the verbally agreed budget extension to cover the extensive program that had been developed before the committee were informed of the budget cuts. PB had explained how we plan our events a year ahead when we submit our budget requirements. When we saw our budget had been cut we could see it no longer matched our program of events so he started to ask people in HQ what they felt should be the best approach. This was summarised as an email in October when he could not obtain an answer over the phone. In this email he suggested the options • Raise more funding from HQ • Start charging for branch events • Cancel some of the events • Only run events from venues where we can get sponsorship (This is something we were very successful at last year but with the current credit crunch this is already getting harder) • Other? Judith picked this up for us and asked some further questions which he replied to as per the quoted text below. "First off, to answer your question do we think all events will be supported? We have always found it very difficult to predict this in the past. Events that we felt would be well supported have often had poor support and other events end up being a sell out for no obvious reason. The level of marketing given to an event does appear to be the biggest factor. Going forward, I can only say that the proposed program has been well received by the audiences at our current events so far this year. Based on there currently being 20 events for the year, at an average cost of £300 per event, this would be £6k. The Christmas event we will be asking for £1.5k under special funding and we currently have a budget of £2k to cover events. That leaves us about £2.5k short. Assuming we can get some indirect sponsorship, as we have in the past, our best estimate is a further £2k would be required to comfortably deliver this program." At our business lecture at Cardiff on the 15th October, which Judith attended, she informed us that the extra budget requirements had been agreed to on that very day. He asked at the time if this could be confirmed in writing but did also give the committee the go ahead to proceed with our events program as originally planned. After a further month had gone by and he still had nothing in writing so continued to circulate his emails to ever-wider distribution lists but none were ever replied to until recently when he asked Margaret Ross if she would raise it. PB has now had an email confirming that the requested extension to the budget will be made. The Branch will then be on track to complete the year to budget.	PB
	Chair's Report: This topic was not discussed at this meeting	
	Branches Board/Council Reports: There was no further report at this meeting	

Universities: The next meeting was confirmed as being on 22nd April 2009 in Bangor.	**RRM**	
Schools: RRM asked Daniel to contact his Schools liaison with details of Computer games from the BCS -Ongoing .	**DC**	
YPG/ Student Chapters: Max is awaiting YPG Exec update on Proposal for a skill centre in South Wales. Ongoing	**MD**	

161.5.8 2008/2009 Events Programme

There was much discussion on the future events incorporated into the Programme maintained by Jeremy. April was becoming congested and thee committee suggested deferring one event.	**JW**
In particular that we would host the Lovelace Women's lecture for 2010, through the efforts of Mikhaila Burgess. A number of future topics were suggested and incorporated into the list of potential events.	**MB**
Jeremy reported that a CPD grading for events would be incorporated into the programme.	**JW**
Jeremy agreed to prepare a short note on how he saw programme planning being influenced by the member survey.	**JW**

Mikhaila sent in the following further information:

1) BCSWomen Undergraduate Lovelace Colloquium
University of Leeds, 16 April 2009 (8 April 2010, Cardiff University)
This is a one day, UK-wide event for women students in computing, comprising talks from industry and academia, a poster contest for original work, careers advice session and an evening social.
Started last year this will be the second time it will be held in Leeds.
Next year we shall be hosting this event in Cardiff – approximate date – 8th April 2010.
I will be attending the event in Leeds in April so will find out more about this then, and report back to the committee with more information.

2) 'Information as Asset'
Wednesday 13th May 2009, Cardiff, Dublin & Edinburgh.
This three-way event will be hosted by the three universities mentioned above.
The three locations will be linked using Access Grid technology.
Each location will host one speaker, with a panel session for all speakers at the end of the evening.
This event will be co-hosted in Cardiff with the IAIDQ (International Association for Information & Data Quality). I'm hoping to get the BCS in Scotland and Ireland involved with the event at their locations, as currently the others are solely IAIDQ.
We have never tried holding an event like this before, so it will be an interesting learning experience!

3) Sir Terry Matthews
Wednesday 22nd April 2009, Cardiff University,
Thanks to Beti, I have recently arranged for Sir Terry Matthews to give a talk in Cardiff on 'Successful Start-ups'. This will be similar to the talk he gave in Swansea for IT Wales on 27th January 2009.
The date for this event will be Wednesday 22nd April 2009.
This will be hosted somewhere in Cardiff University. However, we can also link this to BCS if anyone wishes. I'm considering contacting Cardiff Innovation Network to see if they would be involved as well as we need funding for both a buffet before the event then a meal for invited VIPs afterwards.

161.5.9 W elsh Language Website and Welsh Matters

RRM reported that a meeting had been arranged to discuss "PITCOM in Wales" idea, with cross party AM, Peter Black.	**RRM**
Notes of a meeting with North Wales and Chester with JVT, BW and RRM, held on 21st January would be circulated. RRM had been proposed as Chairman, Garfield Southall of NW and Chester as Secretary	**RRM**
As reported above, Beti has arranged the first meeting of the Women's group.	**BW**
RRM to pursue idea of Welsh Health Specialist Group with Jeremy.	**JW RRM**
It was agreed that Fred Long would be asked his opinion on setting up a West Wales Sub Branch.	**FWL**

161.5.10 Guidance Notes

Not discussed at this Meeting. See Website for these Notes.

161.5.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
SV described his vision for making Work Based Learning available as a BCS "product" in Wales. We should look for Partners in Industry who would co-operate. The projects should be of suitable size to apply theory and enable the students to gain experience. BW would be asked for help in compiling a likely list, which might be useful for SMEs. Ongoing.	**SV BW**
It was asked if the new "pick and mix" careers leaflets and a small number of the new DVD " Computing in 2057" could be made available. RRM said he would see if HQ could supply them .	**RRM**
It was agreed that a student survey developed by the Newcastle Branch should be discussed at the Universities Conference.	**RRM**
John Tucker brought the following information a bout The National Assembly Cross-Party Group on Science and Technology has been set up with the aim of bringing together Assembly Members and others with an interest in Science and Technology in Wales in order to raise awareness amongst AMs of important developments in Science and Technology. The group will meet approx 4 times a year and will hold focussed meetings, with debates by guest speakers who are active in the fields of scientific and technological developments of interest to AMs. The next meeting is planned for late March and will focus on the skills agenda. The Royal Society of Chemistry is providing a speaker from Industry to speak on the effect the shortage of skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects is having on business and commerce.

The group is chaired by Huw Lewis AM (Labour) and Alun Cairns (Conservative) Kirsty Williams (Lib Dem) and Gareth Jones (Plaid) are all Vice Chairs and they all attended the first meeting.
The group is made up of the following:-

Cerian Angharad, Field Officer, Association of Science Education Cymru
Bob Cater, Chief Executive, Technology Alliance Wales
Nick Dusic, Director, Campaign for Science & Engineering
Bruce Etherington, Manager, Beacon for Wales
Leigh Jeffes, Welsh Assembly Liaison Officer, Royal Society of Chemistry (Secretary)
Dr Angharad Thomas, National Officer, Institute of Physics in Wales
Beti Williams, Director, ITWales | |
161.5.12DATE(S) OF FUTURE MEETING(S)	
Next meeting would be on 16th April at Cardiff . Margaret Ross, the Branch liaison would be there.	**MB**