

Minutes of the BCS IRSG Committee Meeting

14 May 2019

BCS London Office, Southampton Street, London

Present

Stefan Ruger [SR] (Chair), Udo Kruschwitz [UK], John Tait [JT] (Minutes), Dyaa Albakour [DA], Ingo Frommholz [IF] (Treasurer), Jochen Leidner [JL] (NB initially JL joined by vidcon, but arrived in person later). Steven Zimmerman [SZ] (observing).

Via Google Hangouts Video Conference

Yashar Moshfeghi [YM], Haiming Liu [HL], Craig MacDonald [CM], Joao Magalha [JM], Frank Hopfgartner [FH].

1. Apologies

Andrew MacFarlane [AM], Martin White [MW], Phillip Mayr-Schlegel [PMS] (sent before meeting, but received after).

2. Minutes of Previous IRSG Committee Meeting

It was noted the original draft of the minutes of the February Meeting had already been modified and recirculated after input from AM.

Therefore the tabled minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2019 were approved as a true record, subject to the FDIA Organising Committee (Item 17) being corrected to recorded as YM not SZ being recorded as being the third member of the organising committee.

3. Matters arising (covered under appropriate agenda item where possible)

3.1 Actions for the previous meeting:

Action Number	Action	Action on
Feb 19.01	Contribute to IRSG Informer.	Continues
Feb 19.02	Include discussion of terms of ICTIR reps in agenda for next meeting.	Done
Feb 19.03	Secretary to explore the acceptability of sharing/transitioning the technical/production role for Informer between Tony Russell-Rose and SZ with Martin White and Tony, and inform Martin of the committee's decision.	Done
Feb 19.04	AM to clarify requirements with Strix Committee and come back to individual members re contact in possible sponsors.	Done
Feb 19.05	Secretary to initiate a Call for Proposals for a one-day IR meeting in September based on last year's call.	Done
Feb 19.06	Add a one day student focussed meeting to the agenda for the May meeting.	Done

Feb 19.07	Investigate moving to using only the BCS lists and closing down ir@jiscmail.ac.uk.	Done
Feb 19.08	Forward last email concerning setting up of Member and Associate Member lists to CM.	Done
Feb 19.09	Modify Web Site to reflect UK's appointment as Vice Chair.	Done
Feb 19.10	Investigate modifying the IRSG 2018 Constitution to incorporate Proxy Voting.	Done
Feb 19.11	Urgently book rooms for Search Solution 2019	Done
Feb 19.12	Invite Tony Russell-Rose to join the Search Solutions 2019 Awards Committee.	Done
Feb 19.13	Approach David Haynes about ISKO's involvement in Search Solutions 2019.	Done
Feb 19.14	Remind SIGIR Chair about the agreement re ICTIR.	Done
Feb 19.15	Draft Call for Search Solutions Tutorial Proposals	Done
Feb 19.16	Invite Tony Russell-Rose join the Search Solutions 2019 Organising Committee.	Done

3.2 Other matters – Web site

There was a short discussion of the group's web site. The 2019 KSJ Award announcement is now up, and the changes to the committee membership have been made.

HL had put forward a proposal in the attempt to recruit a student to produce a more comprehensive content management system than we currently have. She encouraged other members to try to recruit such a student.

Security issues concerning Wordpress and the BCS servers had been resolved.

SZ is planning to take over responsibility for the Informer site with Tony Russell-Rose.

The chair thanked SZ for taking over responsibility for this important matter.

Action May 19.02 SZ to liaise with DA re PHP update for Informer Wordpress instance.

4. Other Matters Agreed by email

None

5. Chairs Report

The chair congratulated UK on his appointment as a Professor at Regensburg University.

The chair had attended ECIR on the group's behalf, and reported that it had gone well with excellent keynotes and good attendance.

The chair then noted that the BCS now required approval from HQ for all overseas travel. There was a short discussion of whether this was a re-emphasis of an existing policy or a change of policy.

Action May 19.03 SR to address with BCS HQ re process for sending Chair to ECIR and handling KSJ Award recipient expenses.

6. One Day Meetings

6.1 Bedford September

The secretary reported only one proposal for a One Day Meeting had been received in response to the call circulated in March. This was from the University of Bedfordshire. HL and IF therefore withdrew due to their having a conflict of interest.

The proposal was an innovative proposal to bring together academics, PhD students and industry.

The committee **unanimously agreed** to support the proposal to hold a one day meeting under the title "TALMIRI: Talent Meets IR Industry" in principle.

IF and HL then returned to the meeting. Following a short discussion it was **agreed** the group should support the TALMIRI meeting with a £700 grant on the understanding that capacity of the meeting will be 60 to 80, the date would be approximately the 18 September 2019, and the details would generally follow the submitted proposal.

Action May 19.04 HL and IF to confirm availability of suitable premises for the meeting and confirm date with JT and SR.

6.2 Further Calls

It was agreed there should be a further call for proposals for one day meetings, with new suggested prompt words, including "Ethics", "Dialogue", "Social Science", "Intelligent Learning" and "eBusiness". Since the TALMIRI was focused on students there was no need to emphasise the student participation in the new call.

Action May 19.05 JT to revise and update the CFP and circulate to the usual lists.

7. ECIR 2019

[PMS had sent his apologies earlier in the afternoon, but unfortunately this was not picked up by the secretary until after the meeting. PMS apologised for the late notice.]

PMS reported there were 270 attendees and there was expected to be a small budget surplus.

There were 369 papers submitted and 39 full papers accepted.

As noted under Chairs Report the conference was felt to gone well, and members supported this view. UK noted over 100 people attended Industry Day.

8. ECIR 2020

JM reported the Call for Papers was completed and had been distributed at ECIR 2019 and would be at SIGIR, other conferences, electronically etc.

Generally organisation of the conference was progressing satisfactorily.

Currently there was no sponsorship chair in place, although there was a long list of potential sponsors. There was a short discussion of the best way to progress the sponsorship situation, and various members of the committee offered their assistance.

Signal AI had offered an additional paper prize, but wished it to be awarded for several years. This made it a matter for the IRSG Committee rather than the ECIR 2020 organisers.

Action May 19.06 JM to arrange video conference with Miguel Martinez (Signal AI), the ECIR 2020 organisers and with SR and JT (representing IRSG) to progress the proposed prize.

On behalf of the committee, the Chair thanks the ECIR 2020 organisers for their efforts.

9. Search Solutions 2020

The dates have been confirmed as 25 November 2019 for the Tutorial and 26 November for the main event. The BCS London offices have been booked.

UK reported the speakers had started to be lined up.

FH had been added to the Tutorial Panel.

Action May 19.07 UK to approach Tony Russell-Rose about taking over and refreshing the spreadsheet to record Search Solutions Speaker approaches and responses.

10. Constitution

JT and SR had drafted a change to the constitution to allow Proxy Voting, which had been circulated previously to the committee for comment. None were forthcoming, therefore the revised version would be put to the AGM. The committee confirmed their approval of this.

The Chair thanked MW for raising this issue.

11. Mailing Lists

CM had investigated the possibility of moving the jiscmail lists to be BCS maintained lists.

As a first step it was agreed to move the Committee List to the BCS service.

Action May 19.08 CM to make arrangements to move the IRSG committee list to the BCS service.

12. Informer

Following the email discussion, Martin White had now been appointed as Editor of Informer and as a result had been co-opted to the committee. The committee formally approved these decisions.

There was then a brief discussion about various items to be included in future issues of Informer.

13. FDIA

IF reported the Call for Papers was out. The deadline was for about a week after the committee meeting but might be extended slightly if response levels justified that.

14. ICTIR

JT had had a brief email discussion with the SIGIR Chair, Diane Kelly, re the operation of the ICTIR Steering Committee and the BCS IRSG/ACM SIGIR agreement concerning the conference. She had promised to investigate but so far had not reported back.

There was a short discussion of the term of appointment of CM on the Steering Committee, and it was agreed in order to clarify the issue a process should be initiated to appoint/reappoint the IRSG rep.

Action May 19.09 Secretary to ask for expressions of interest from members of the committee in serving as IRSG ICTIR Steering Committee Rep.

15. Karen Spärck Jones Award

UK reported the presentation of 2018 KSJ Award Winner Krisztian Balog at ECIR was well received.

The Call for Nomination for the 2019 had been distributed at ECIR, NAACL, ACL and SIGIR and publicised in various other ways.

The panel would be appointed in due course.

JL had been included in the panel in anticipation of the conclusion of UK's term as KSJ Award Chair.

Action May 19.10 UK to approach Marti Hearst (ACL President) re more formal involvement in the award of the Association for Computational Linguistics.

16. Finance

A request had been received from European Summer School on Information retrieval for £1000 sponsorship. IF confirmed this could be covered within the budget, and it was **agreed unanimously** to provide the requested sponsorship.

It was also **agreed** to provide partial travel support for one or more organisers of FDIA.

Action May 19.11 SR to approve amount and payment method for FDI organisers travel with YM, IF and HL.

17. Any Other Business

a. *ECIR 2021 Call for Proposals*

JT apologised for failing to include this item on the main agenda.

There was a short discussion of the needed changes to the 2021 Call. The secretary will be unavailable for much of the summer, so will not be able to accept the proposals or provide advice as is usually done. UK (as Deputy Chair) agreed to take of responsibility for accepting proposals etc. for this year.

Action May 19.12 JT to circulate draft call to the committee for comment.

Action May 19.13 JT to circulate the Call for Proposals through the usual lists.

b. *Any other AoB*

There was no further business.

18. Next Meeting

Subject to confirmation, the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 17 September 2019 at 17:00 (London Time), in Luton or the surrounding area. The date and time (and other arrangements) will be confirmed once the date and location for the TALMIRI meeting and the AGM have been confirmed.

19. Actions Arising From Meeting

Action Number	Action	Action on
May 19.01	Contribute to IRSG Informer.	All
May 19.02	SZ to liaise with DA re PHP update for Informer Wordpress instance.	SZ
May 19.03	SR to address with BCS HQ re process for sending Chair to ECIR and handling KSJ Award recipient expenses.	SR
May 19.04	HL and IF to confirm availability of suitable premises for the meeting and confirm date with JT and SR.	HL/IF
May 19.05	JT to revise and update the CfP for One Day Meetings and circulate to the usual lists.	JT
May 19.06	JM to arrange video conference with Miguel Martinex (Signal AI), the ECIR 2020 organisers and with SR and JT (representing IRSG) to progress the proposed prize.	JM
May 19.07	UK to approach Tony Russell-Rose about taking over and refreshing the spreadsheet to record Search Solutions Speaker approaches and responses.	UK
May 19.08	CM to make arrangements to move the IRSG committee list to the BCS service.	CM
May 19.09	Secretary to ask for expressions of interest from members of the committee in serving as IRSG ICTIR Steering Committee Rep.	JT
May 19.10	UK to approach Marti Hearst (ACL President) re more formal involvement in the award of the Association for Computational Linguistics.	UK
May 19.11	SR to approve amount and payment method for FDIA organisers (YM, IF and HL) to receive partial travel support.	SR
May 19.12	JT to circulate draft ECIR 2021 Call for Proposals to the committee for comment.	JT
May 19.13	JT to circulate the Call for Proposals to host ECIR 2021 through the usual lists.	JT

Meeting Closed 19:40