

Minutes of the BCS IRSG Committee Meeting

22 September 2020

Zoom Video Conference convened at 17:00 (London)

Present

Stefan Ruger [SR] (Chair), John Tait [JT] (Minutes), Ingo Frommholz [IF] (Treasurer), Andrew MacFarlane [AM], Udo Kruschwitz [UK], Dyaa Albakour [DA], Haiming Liu [HL], Craig MacDonald [CM], Steven Zimmerman [SZ], Joao Magalha [JM], Frank Hopfgartner [FH], Jochen Leidner [JL], Martin White [MW], Fabrizio Sebastiani [FS] (from item 5)

1. Apologies

Yashar Moshfeghi [YM] (received after meeting).

2. Minutes of Previous IRSG Committee Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the 10 June 2020 were accepted as a true record.

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

3.1 Actions for the previous meeting:

Action Number	Action	Action on
Jun 20.01	Obtain report on the current situation with CLEF from Evangelos Kanoulos (CLEF General Chair).	Done
Jun 20.02	Secretary to issue call for proposals to hold ECIR 2022 and 2023.	Done
Jun 20.03	Supply MW with a contact on the ECIR 2021 organising committee for Informer material.	Done
Jun 20.04	Chair to write to the Chair of SIGIR to formally remind them of their responsibilities wrt ICTIR.	Done
Jun 20.05	Arrange publicity on the web site for the 2020 KSJ Award Call for Nominations.	Done
Jun 20.06	Treasurer to make arrangements for the 1000 prize to be paid to Chirag Shah, the 2019 KSJ Award recipient.	Done
Jun 20.07	UK to dispatch the trophy to Chirag Shah.	Done
Jun 20.08	Send out initial call for talks at SS2020.	Done
Jun 20.09	SS2020 organisers to make a decision on the exact form of Search Solutions 2020 by 31 July at the latest.	Done
Jun 20.10	Secretary to ask the organisers of Glasgow IR Day to consider moving to an online only or hybrid meeting.	Done

Jun 20.11	Draft call for online IR meetings.	C/f as Sep 20.05
Jun 20.12	Make arrangements to move the IRSG committee list to the BCS service.	C/f as Sep 20.06
Jun 20.13	Secretary to check the legitimacy of holding a group AGM online with Kerry Wear of BCS HQ Members Group Services.	Done
Jun 20.14	Treasurer to ask for confirmation of receipt and approval (or otherwise) of the group's 2020/2021 budget.	Done

4. Other Matters Agreed by email

None

5. Chairs report

The chair briefly reviewed various activities of which the committee would be aware.

[FS joined]

6. ECIR 2022 and 2023

[UK withdrew from the meeting due to a Conflict of Interest]

Three proposals to hold ECIR 2022 and 2023, from Dublin, Stavanger and Limassol had been received.

Each member was asked to review the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal in turn. This was interspersed with discussion on resolution of differences in understanding between members.

[FS left]

Each member was then then asked to provide independently a ranked list of proposals for 2022 and 2023.

This process took approximately one and three quarter hours.

Stavanger was ranked highest for 2022 and Dublin for 2023.

There were however some outstanding issues to be resolved concerning the Stavanger bid.

Action Sep 20.02 Chair and secretary to draft feedback for each proposal and to resolve outstanding issues concerning the Stavanger bid.

[UK returned]

7. Future Publication of ECIR Proceedings

No progress. To be carried forward in a more specific form.

Action Sep 20.03: FS to convene a meeting with the task force volunteers (JM, JL, FS, IF, CM and YM) to identify options and preferences.

8. Search Solutions 2020

It was confirmed this will be an online only meeting.

Calls for talks and tutorials had gone out. Two tutorial proposals had been received and several talks were confirmed.

Action 20.04 IF to provide DA and HL with material to update website to publicise SS2020.

9. ECIR 2021

[Taken out of order prior to the departure of FS]

Everything is progressing fine.

10. ECIR 2020

The financial report cannot be finalised due to the continue lack of resolution of the problems with Springer, who are refusing to honour the agreement made one the conference went online only concerning proceedings access.

11. Informer

Progress on the new template has been delayed due to work commitments of DA and Tony Russel-Rose.

With that exception progress towards the next issue is satisfactory.

12. FDIA

Nothing to report.

13. Strix Award

The 2020 Lecture will not proceed due to the COVID-19 situation.

Nomination for the 2020 Award closed on Friday 25 September 2020 and the winner would be announced shortly.

14. ICTIR

A new steering committee has been set up with the following members:

- Krisztian Balog
- Frank Hopfgartner (BCS IRSG Rep)
- Vanessa Murdock
- Tetsuya Sakai (Chair; SIGIR rep)
- Yi Fang
- Evangelos Kanoulas
- Fiona Raiber
- Dawei Song
- Bruce Croft
- Keith van Rijsbergen

The members were chosen based on their prior contribution to ICTIR, gender, and geographic location.

The by-laws have been revised to represent a new status as mini-conference co-located with SIGIR. The main change is that interested parties cannot submit a bid anymore. Instead, the steering committee will appoint ICTIR program chairs.

For 2021, we have appointed Yi Fang (<https://www.cse.scu.edu/~yfang/>) and Akiko Aizawa (<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=JQy5hPoAAAAJ>) and PC Chairs.

The changes were announced at the SIGIR conference.

15. Karen Spärck Jones Award

Hinrich Schuetze would be raising increased official involvement in the KSJ Award with the ACL Exec.

A satisfactory range of nominations have been made for the 2020 award, and the process of assembling the documentation and selecting the winner was proceeding.

16. IR Days

a) Glasgow – originally March 2020

Graham McDonald had reported that it is still intended to run the Fairness and Bias in IR workshop as an online event. A date between mid-November and mid-February would be set once the semester had started.

b) Further Calls

The draft call for online meetings had not been circulated as expected.

After the meeting YM reported he would willing to prepare a call for the next meeting, and the relevant action was carried forward as **Action Sep 20.03**.

17. Mailing Lists

CM reported no progress had been made with moving the committee mailing list to the BCS service.

Carried forward as **Action Sep 20.06**

18. Finance

The Treasurer reported that the group's budget had been dramatically reduced this year.

Therefore much of the activity we have supported in the past would need to be funded by Special Funding Requests. All financial commitments should therefore be referred to the treasurer at the earliest opportunity.

19. Any Other Business

a. *Sponsorship of Search Solutions*

MW began a discussion of sponsorship of Search Solutions. The secretary requested that it be continued off-line amongst the Search Solutions organisers.

b. *Timescale for Committee Nominations*

CM asked about the timescale for nominations for committee membership, and this year's process was briefly outlined.

20. Next Meeting

To be confirmed by email.

21. Actions Arising From Meeting

Action Number	Action	Action on
Sep 20.01	Make arrangements to move the IRSG committee list to the BCS service.	CM
Sep 20.02	Chair and secretary to draft feedback for each proposal and to resolve outstanding issues concerning the Stavanger bid.	SR & JT
Sep 20.03	FS to convene a meeting with the task force volunteers (JM, JL, FS, IF, CM and YM) to identify options and preferences.	FS
Sep 20.04	Provide DA and HL with material to update website to publicise SS2020.	IF
Sep 20.05	Draft call for online IR meetings.	YM
Sep 20.06	Make arrangements to move the IRSG committee list to the BCS service.	CM

Meeting Closed 19:42