

## Minutes of the BCS IRSG Committee Meeting

26 February 2019

BCS London Office, Southampton Street London

### Present

Udo Kruschwitz [UK] (Chair, part), John Tait [JT] (Minutes), Steven Zimmerman [SZ], Andrew MacFarlane [AM], Dyaa Albakour [DA], Ingo Frommholz [IF] (Treasurer), Jochen Leidner [JL] (NB initially JL joined by vidcon, but arrived in person at the point noted).

### Via Google Hangouts Video Conference

Stefan Ruger [SR] (Chair, part), Yashar Moshfeghi [YM], Haiming Liu [HL], Craig MacDonald [CM], Joao Magalha [JM], Phillip Mayr-Schlegel [PMS].

#### 1. Apologies

Frank Hopfgartner [FH].

#### 2. Minutes of Previous IRSG Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2018 were approved as a true record.

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

##### 3.1 Actions for the previous meeting:

Action Number	Action	Action on
Nov 18.01	Contribute to IRSG Informer.	Everyone
Nov 18.02	Give Feedback to ECIR 2020 Bidders	Done
Nov 18.03	Investigate Changing the Constitution to allow Proxy Voting	Done
Nov 18.04	Secretary to request information on the final financial outturn from ECIR 2018 organisers (again).	Done
Nov 18.05	Circulate a revised version of the Informer Editor Ad to relevant mailing lists with a deadline about two weeks ahead of the next committee meeting.	Done
Nov 18.06	Include discussion of terms of ICTIR reps in agenda for next meeting.	Carried forward as Feb 19.02
Nov 18.07	Include a discussion of sponsorship of Strix Award Committee in the agenda for the next meeting.	Done
Nov 18.08	Circulate proposed web site maintenance process to all members.	DA

#### 4. Other Matters Agreed by email

None

#### 5. Chair Report

[SR took over the chair, having overcome his microphone problem].

The chair had nothing substantive report which was not covered elsewhere.

## 6. Informer

### *a. Appointment of new editor*

The secretary advised the members that although the advertisement of the Editor Post had been issued as agreed at the previous meeting, he had not issued a reminder a week or so before the deadline as he had intended. Members **unanimously agreed** to continue the appointment process despite this.

[JL arrived in person].

The one application to hand was then discussed. All members both present in person and joining by the video link were invited to give their view of the suitability of the application.

It was **unanimously agreed** to offer the post of Informer Editor to Martin White, and to co-opt him onto the committee if he accepted.

However, concerns were expressed about Tony Russell-Rose, who has stepped down from the committee, having sole responsibility for the technical/production side of the newsletter.

After a brief discussion SZ volunteered to take on this role.

**Action 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.

The committee gave a round of applause for the UK the outgoing editor.

### *b. Other matters*

The January issue had come out on time.

Student articles, related to IRSG travel grants and sponsored fee waiver schemes were a good source of copy.

## 7. Strix Award

### *a. Report*

As noted in the last meeting, Pia Borlund of the Oslo Metropolitan University had been given the 2018 Award and would be presenting the 2019 Lecture.

### *b. Sponsorship*

Contrary to the Agenda, the Strix Committee were not looking for sponsorship *from* IRSG, but would looking for the IRSG to assist with procuring commercial sponsorship. There was a short discussion of possible sponsors including Spotify, Signal, Huawei and Alibaba.

**Action Feb 19.04** AM to clarify requirements with Strix Committee and come back to individual members re contact with possible sponsors.

## 8. Finance

The Treasurer had prepared the group's 2019/20 budget to be broadly similar to last year. The draft had been circulated by email prior to the meeting.

Use of Eventbrite has increased Search Solutions costs.

Funding for two "IR days" had been included.

The proposed budget was **unanimously agreed**.

After discussion it was agreed that one IR day should be based on a call for proposals and ideally take place in September, and the other should be research student focussed.

**Action Feb 19.05:** Secretary to initiate a Call for Proposals based on last year's call.

**Action Feb 19.06:** JT to add a student focused one day meeting to the agenda for the May meeting.

[NB Action Feb 19.06 was changed subsequent to the meeting because of confusion over what was actually agreed].

There was also a discussion of the group's commitments to sponsorship which will include ECIR 2020 and ESSIR 2020.

## 9. IR List Management

The list [ir@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:ir@jiscmail.ac.uk) had been used as the group's principle means of communication with members for a number of years. It was currently managed by AM and CM. In recent times it has been increasingly subject to the activities of spammers despite ever more stringent enforcement actions, including banning transgressors from posting.

The list has always allowed all members to post, but it appears this is no longer sustainable, and the managers sought approval from the committee for their action converting the list to being a moderated list. AM noted that they have been using CORE to guide moderation, so the moderation has been more rigorous than merely preventing irrelevant material being posted to the list. The committee **unanimously agreed** to support the conversion of the [ir@jiscmail](mailto:ir@jiscmail.ac.uk) list to a fully moderated list with a rigorous moderation policy.

It was noted that one of the reasons for not pursuing more vigorously the BCS HQ preferred option of moving the list to their control was that the BCS offered only a moderated list service, and this would require more work from the list managers. This reason is no longer valid.

**Action Feb 19.07:** CM to investigate moving to using only the BCS lists and closing down [ir@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:ir@jiscmail.ac.uk).

**Action Feb 19.08:** JT to forward last email concerning setting up of Member and Associate Member lists to CM

[HL left the meeting].

## 10. Vice Chair

SR noted the constitution mentions the post of Vice-Chair, but currently there was no one in that Role. He therefore proposed we co-opt an official Vice-Chair.

After asking for volunteers, the chair invited Udo Kruschwitz to take the role of Vice Chair, UK agreed, and this was **unanimously agreed** by the committee.

**Action Feb 19.09:** Modify Web Site to reflect UK's appointment as Vice Chair.

## 11. Proxy Voting

JT noted that he had approached BCS HQ about introducing Proxy Voting, as proposed by member Martin White. There was no problem with introducing it if we wanted to.

There was then a lengthy discussion of what Proxy Voting at the AGM would mean in practice, and how it would work.

Following that discussion the committee **unanimously agreed** to support the principle of introducing Proxy Voting at the AGM into the constitution and putting forward the necessary changes to the 2018 AGM.

**Action Feb 19.10:** SR and JT to investigate modifying the IRSG 2018 Constitution to incorporate Proxy Voting.

## 12. Search Solutions 2019

It was noted the date could not yet be confirmed because the rooms had not been booked.

**Action Feb 19.11** IF to book rooms and circulate proposed dates.

It was **agreed** AM should continue as tutorials organisers, and UK, AM, JL, IF and DA to continue as members of the organising committee. It was also **agreed** Tony Russell-Rose should be invited to be part of the organising committee, and ISKO should again be invited to co-operate and appoint a member of the committee.

JL agreed to lead the organisation of the Search Industry Awards 2019.

The chair asked if other members of the committee wished to be involved and no volunteers were forthcoming.

**Action Feb 19.12** JL invite Tony Russell-Rose to co-chair the Search Industry Awards and

**Action Feb 19.13** AM to approach David Haynes about ISKO's involvement.

**Action Feb 19.15** AM to draft a call for tutorial proposals.

**Action Feb 19.16** UK invite Tony Russell-Rose join the Search Solutions 2019 Organising Committee.

## 13. ECIR 2019

PMS reported the programme was now on line, and things were going to plan.

There were 175 registrations by the early bird deadline, with 25 fee waivers from various sources. The support for these would be acknowledged on the web site.

[NB This compares to approx. 110 registrations at a comparable point in 2018.]

The proceedings had been submitted by the deadline. They ran to over 1000 pages which meant they would appear in two volumes. There were 38 full papers and 44 short papers.

The key notes had been organised. There was a short discussion of the arrangements for the fees and expenses of the KSJ Award winner.

UK had made arrangements for a full Industry Day.

There was a short discussion of the increase in fee levels this year. PMS explained this was due to a combination of the relatively high cost in Cologne compared to previous years, maintaining a lower student fee level, and having one extra day in the programme.

PMS had been in touch with the ECIR 2018 organisers re transfer of the surplus from ECIR 2018.

#### 14. ECIR 2020

Preparations are proceeding.

The initial website [ecir2020.org](http://ecir2020.org) is up.

The Logo is in Twitter and Facebook, and the Call for Papers is done. Various arrangements are being made for publicity.

#### 15. ICTIR

CM reported ICTIR 2020 would be in Santa Clara.

The action on JT to investigate the terms of ICTIR reps was carried forward as **Action Feb 19.02**.

It appears there is some confusion about the operation of the ICTIR Steering Committee.

**Action Feb 19.14** Secretary to remind SIGIR Chair about the agreement re ICTIR.

#### 16. KSJ Award

This year there were 8 nominations for 7 candidates. Although it was a tight race to decide the winner in the end there was full agreement that the award should be made to Krisztian Balog of the University of Stavanger.

UK reported he had achieved a balanced panel, in terms of gender and subject expertise. Some new panellists had also been introduced. JL had been included this year (panellist normally remain anonymous in terms of the year in which they serve).

UK noted his term as KSJ Chair was drawing to a close, and he recommended the committee consider JL as the next Chair of the KSJ Panel.

#### 17. Any Other Business

Maristella Agosti, on behalf of the organisers of ESSIR 2019, had approached IF re organising an edition of FDIA as part of the summer school. The committee **agreed** to support this proposal, and after discussion agreed IF, HL and SZ should organise it.

There followed a short discussion of making FDIA an annual event, and it was agreed this was a good idea and should be followed up as part of Action Feb 19.06 (Research Student Event).

#### 18. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at 17:00 (London Time), at the BCS London Office. Video Conference Facilities will be provided.

#### 19. Actions Arising From Meeting

Action Number	Action	Action on
Feb 19.01	Contribute to IRSG Informer.	Everyone
Feb 19.02	Include discussion of terms of ICTIR reps in agenda for next meeting.	JT
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.	JT

Feb 19.04	AM to clarify requirements with Strix Committee and come back to individual members re contact in possible sponsors.	AM
Feb 19.05	Secretary to initiate a Call for Proposals for a one-day IR meeting in September based on last year's call.	JT
Feb 19.06	Add a one day student focussed meeting to the agenda for the May meeting.	JT
Feb 19.07	Investigate moving to using only the BCS lists and closing down ir@jiscmail.ac.uk.	CM
Feb 19.08	Forward last email concerning setting up of Member and Associate Member lists to CM.	JT
Feb 19.09	Modify Web Site to reflect UK's appointment as Vice Chair.	DA
Feb 19.10	Investigate modifying the IRSG 2018 Constitution to incorporate Proxy Voting.	SR & JT
Feb 19.11	Urgently book rooms for Search Solution 2019	IF
Feb 19.12	Invite Tony Russell-Rose to join the Search Solutions 2019 Organising Committee.	JL
Feb 19.13	Approach David Haynes about ISKO's involvement in Search Solutions 2019.	AM
Feb 19.14	Remind SIGIR Chair about the agreement re ICTIR.	JT
Feb 19.15	Draft Call for Tutorial Proposals	AM
Feb 19.16	Invite Tony Russell-Rose join the Search Solutions 2019 Organising Committee.	UK