

Minutes of the BCS IRSG Committee Meeting

25 May 2022

Zoom Video Conference convened at 18:00 (London)

Present

Udo Kruschwitz [UK] (Chair), Steven Zimmerman [SZ] (Minutes), Ingo Frommholz [IF] (Treasurer), Haiming Liu [HL], Frank Hopfgartner [FH], Annalina Caputo [AC], Graham McDonald [GM]

1. Apologies and Minutes of Previous IRSG Committee Meeting

Tony Russell–Rose [TRR] (Vice-Chair), Jochen Leidner [JL], Yashar Moshfeghi [YM], Krisztian Balog [KB]

Agreed Minutes approved

2. Actions arising from Feb 2022

Action Number	Action	Action on
Feb 01.01	May 25.01 To set up repository with IRJ agreement and other documents that should be readily accessible to IRSG committee members (CARRIED FORWARD)	SZ
Feb 01.02	Cast votes for Daljit Banger and Jo Stansfield	DONE
Feb 01.03	Contact Kerry Wear to sort out recordings of Search Solutions 2021	DONE
Feb 01.04	May 25.02 Explore ideas for expanding diversity(CARRIED FORWARD)	YM
Feb 01.05	Make announcements at ECIR 2022 to solicit interest in hosting ECIR 2024	DONE
Feb 01.06	Prepare Call for Bids to host ECIR 2024 ahead of next committee meeting	DONE
Feb 01.07	Book rooms for SS 2022	DONE
Feb 01.08	Start organising Search Solutions 2022 and contact UK if interested in joining the organising committee	DONE
Feb 01.09	Consider taking on the role of KSJ panel chair and contact UK if interested. Direct questions to JL.	DONE
Feb 01.10	Connect GM with Strix award panel	DONE
Feb 01.11	May 25.03 Compile and send the expected costs for FDIA. (CARRIED FORWARD)	IF SEE PT 14 BELOW

Feb 01.12	Keep call for bids for 1-day events on the agenda	DONE SEE PT 14 BELOW
Feb 01.13	Brainstorm ideas about improved contributor strategy for Informer for the next IRSG meeting	DONE SEE PT 15 BELOW
Feb 01.14	To send out doodle on public strategy group meeting	DONE
Feb 01.15	Send around doodle to find meeting for sometime in May	DONE

3. Items Agreed by email

Agreed: It was agreed via email that [HL] will chair the KSG Panel from next year and will shadow [JL] for this year.

4. Chair's report

[UK] Reports the following

- Sends a big thank you to Fabrizio Sebastiani for ECIR 2021 and all input into publication strategy
- Finding a replacement for informer editor is an important issue for later this year, should be someone committed. See additional notes in PT 15 below
- Elections → A reminder that positions will open later this year. Terms end for UK, IF & HL
- Efforts underway to become more involved with BCS to market what our committee has to offer when journalists contact the BCS for professional input
- Publication Strategy
 - Multiple options on the table
 - Springer is most popular
 - New option put forward that was not considered yet. [UK] and Jaap Kamps had a discussion about possibility of SIGIR and IRSG creating an executive committee for ECIR
 - In this manner SIGIR would underwrite ECIR & ECIR would be published in ACM
 - If IRSG is interested in this, Jaap is happy to answer question

Discussion: The following points came up in the discussion after the idea of joining forces with SIGIR (which would also resolve the publication strategy question) was raised by [UK]

- The loss of the BCS link (and the move to have everything under ACM) was seen as a concern.
- The conference was considered to be at serious risk of losing its own identity if we go down this path. Diversity within the conference landscape also came up as a concern in this context.
- While the publication strategy was seen as something that needed to be agreed on, there was no urgent need felt to change the general ECIR organisational structure.

- Some concerns were expressed about changing the publication strategy from the current situation, it may overburden committee members.
- The need for additional meetings was also considered a possible implication.
- The discussion continued later in the meeting under Section 16 (see below).

5. Report Inclusion officer

No updates to report on this will carry forward

Action May 25.02 - See **Feb 01.04**

6. Report Early Careers Advocate

[GM] Reports following

- Joined the BCS early career advocate LinkedIn group per nudge by BCS
- Introduced himself, but hasn't heard anything
- Doesn't appear to be much going on in group which means [GM] has very little insight into what should/should not be posted

Action May 25.4 [ALL] → Send [GM] any events, postings, etc that might be relevant

NOTE: [GM] Discovered later in meeting that the LinkedIn group has only 37 members, and a valid question is how effective is this channel?

7. ECIR 2022

[UK] Reports that [KB] oversaw a well attended conference (180 or so in-person attendees)

See additional notes / Full reports in articles on IRSG informer and SIGIR Forum

8. ECIR 2023

[AC] reports the following

- Difficulties getting some venues fixed due to Easter Holidays
- Final confirmation on venues very soon
- Organisation side going well. E.g. agreed common framework for conference
- No major bumps in the way

9. ECIR 2024

Action May 25.5 [UK] to make minor adjustments to bid and send out to appropriate channels

[UK] confirms that he has heard from a consortium willing to step in if no bids are received.

It was **Agreed** that we would solicit bids 2 years in advance, as the attempt to shift to 3 years in advance was not successful

10. Search Solutions 2022

- Small committee overseeing the conference
- [HL] running tutorials
- A call has been for talk proposals on informer and other channels
- [TRR] wants to push more for search industry awards
 - [TRR/UK] to advertise search industry awards
- [MW] happy to contribute at same level as last year contingent on hiring help to run a hybrid event estimated to be £400.
 - **[IF] See action in section 14**
 - **Action May 25.6** [UK] to contact [MW] to say we are fine with his proposal if we can get approval from BCS

11. KSJ Award

[JL] reports the following (via email):

- The 2021 Karen Spärck Jones award was handed over at a very enjoyable ECIR 2022 in Stavanger.
 - I would like to thank Krisztian Balog (and our Treasurer Ingo) for accepting to receive the trophy by courier as it wasn't clear whether I would be permitted to go on business travel until quite late due to organisational pandemic rules, which resulted in a pile of extra customs paperwork and extra cost.
 - Haiming and I co-wrote a blog post for the Informer, which most you will have seen.
- We are proceeding with the 2022 award now; I say we because Haiming is shadowing me in this third and last year for me convening the award.
 - I have drawn up a balanced set of judges.
 - To create more awareness, I posted a LinkedIn message targeting former PhD supervisors of R&D rock stars to pre-announce the CfN this morning.
 - Some invitations to the judgment panels have been sent. I'll finish the rest this evening.
 - Two have already affirmed to participate, there are a few back-up names for the others just in case.

[HL] will oversee the first iteration of the award handed out at EACL 2024.

12. ICTIR report

[FH] reports

- The ICTIR steering committee is right now discussing potential General Chairs for the next iteration of the conference. We aim for GCs from outside Europe to guarantee diversity.
- ICTIR will be held concurrently with SIGIR in Madrid in July

13. Tony Kent Strix Award

[GM] Reports the following

- Spoke with Gary Horrocks
- Appears no award was handed out for 2021, therefore uncertainty around lecture
- GM will keep us posted

14. Budget

IF reports the following

- Budget has been submitted for 22/23 but we will not hear back until August
- Update on FDIA funding request from previous meeting
 - BCS would cover approximately £600 in accommodation (**agreed** by the committee)
- We still have remaining budget this year. Given timelines it was proposed that some additional money be made available to cover some student costs for FDIA
- Given timelines, funding will not be used to support a 1 day event. We would like to continue this next year and will kick off process in September

Action May 25.7 [IF] to confirm with BSC if funds can be used for student support and travel expenses for FDIA chairs at FDIA

Action May 25.8 [IF] to confirm with BSC that we can spend to cover costs of hiring someone to help running hybrid SS

Action May 25.9 [Academic members] - Put out call to your students to submit proposals for FDIA (Deadline June 20th)

Action May 25.10 [UK] to put out call in September for proposals to hold 1-day event

15. Informer

Martin White [MW] Joined 1900 to 1910 reports the following

- Will end editor role in Winter 2023
- Template is an issue that needs to be resolved with next editor
- Strategy is an important issue to discuss
 - Periodicity: quarterly currently, but could be changed to more regular posts with a 3-monthly newsletter
 - Editor needs to have initiative to run it
 - Editor needs to own the overall production
- Needs more feedback from committee members on direction and what to include
- Some confusion around who is handling content on Website. There is protocol in place to contact BCS for site updates.
 - NOTE: It was decided in previous meeting that [TRR] is the content interface between IRSG and BCS.

Action May 25.11 [UK] - Strategy to be put on agenda for next meeting

Action May 25.12 [ALL] - Any web content issues should be discussed with TRR (content manager)

Action May 25.13 [UK] - Invite MW to give an update on Informer at the next meeting

16. Publication strategy group

Based upon discussions during chair's report about publication strategy, it was **Agreed** that Springer is the best option for time being.

Agreed: This topic will be removed from agenda until it is raised as an issue again

17. AOB

None

18. Next meeting

Action May 25.14 [UK] to send around doodle to find meeting after ECIR 2024 bids received

19. Actions Arising From Meeting

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	SZ
May 25.02	Explore ideas for expanding diversity	YM
May 25.03	Compile and send the expected costs for FDIA.	IF
May 25.04	Send [GM] any events, postings, etc that might be relevant	ALL
May 25.05	Make minor adjustments to ECIR 2024 bid and send out to appropriate channels	UK
May 25.06	Contact [MW] to say we are fine with his proposal if we can get approval from BCS	UK
May 25.07	Confirm with BSC if funds can be used for student support and travel expenses for FDIA chairs at FDIA	IF
May 25.08	Confirm with BSC that we can spend to cover costs of hiring someone to help running hybrid SS	IF
May 25.09	Put out call to your students to submit proposals for FDIA (Deadline June 20th)	Academic Members

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

Meeting Closed 19:58