

## **UKCRC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee held on **Friday 1 December 2023** between 14:00 – 15:00 via video/teleconference.

### **Attendees:**

|                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Kevin Jones     | UKCRC Chair                |
| David De Roure  | Executive Committee member |
| Andrew Gordon   | Executive Committee member |
| Michael Fisher  | Executive Committee member |
| Jie Xu          | Executive Committee member |
| Julie McCann    | Executive Committee member |
| Nadia Berthouze | Membership Panel Chair     |
| Alex Frangi     | Membership Panel member    |
| Steve Furber    | Member                     |
| Anthony G Cohn  | Member                     |
| Bashar Nuseibeh | Member                     |
| Peter Andras    | Member                     |
| Ben Scott       | EPSRC/UKRI                 |
| Maxine Leslie   | UKCRC Secretariat          |

### **Apologies:**

|                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Simon Dobson    | Executive Committee member |
| David Hutchison | Executive Committee member |
| Ann Blandford   | Member                     |
| Alan Bundy      | Member                     |
| V Anne Smith    | Member                     |
| Cliff Jones     | Member                     |

## **1. WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed UKCRC members to the AGM and the apologies for absence were received as above.

## **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM [UKCRC/AGM2022/06]**

The minutes of the AGM held on Friday 2 December 2022 including the slide deck presented by A Gordon were recorded as a true record and uploaded to the [UKCRC website](#).

### **2.1 Matters arising from minutes**

There were no actions from the previous Annual General Meeting which will not be covered within the agenda for this AGM.

## **3. CHAIR'S REPORT [UKCRC/AGM/2023/02] – K Jones**

RECEIVED & APPROVED - Appendix 1

Although members were willing to undertake UKCRC activities, time commitment was still proving to be a challenge. However, it would be good to broaden the number of people involved. The most pressing area of activity is consultations and

submissions following Chris Johnson stepping down from the Executive Committee having completed two terms of office. Individual UKCRC members have continued to respond to consultations but UKCRC has been unable to respond with a unified voice. The Chair underlined that this role is for a co-ordinator rather than the leader role that was undertaken previously.

There have been a number of discussions with BCS and the IET and the BCS Group CEO Rashik Parmar attended the UKCRC Executive Committee meeting in June 2023. A diagrammatic representation of the ownership of different activities for UKCRC, CPHC and BCS Academy was presented and agreed at this meeting (see Chair's report at Appendix 1).

The joint event on 16/17 April 2024 at Coventry University will assist in the three organisations speaking with one voice, eg when talking to government. UKCRC members are encouraged to attend (see [UKCRC website](#)).

Due to resource availability and challenging workloads at EPSRC, a date for the REF discussion has been delayed. It is hoped that a refresh of the vision and mission statement for UKCRC will be completed by a task and finish group early in 2024.

A question was raised on the relationship between UKCRC and the National Engineering Policy Centre (NEPC). This could be a good connection to build (see [NEPC webpages](#)) particularly to feed into reports in areas of common interest. It would be important to include BCS and the IET in any co-operation with NEPC. A link with ARIA may also be helpful. The Chair undertook to raise these possible connections with the Executive Committee.

**ACTION: Chair**

#### **4. CONSULTATIONS & RESPONSES REPORT**

No report for reasons outlined in Chair's report (Item 3 above and Appendix 1).

#### **5. MEMBERSHIP PANEL REPORT**

N Berthouze informed members that there had only been one recent application for membership, which had met the criteria and been approved. Members were encouraged to look out for good prospective members from both academia and industry. N Berthouze and the Membership Panel had worked hard to ensure that the process was straightforward. See website for [criteria](#). N Berthouze indicated that she was happy to have an informal chat with anyone interested in applying, if that would encourage more applicants. One suggestion was to put a call out to invite applications for membership, however care would be needed on any wording to ensure that the volume of applications could be adequately managed. It was agreed that the launch of the new mission/vision statement could accompany a push for new members in order to link membership to UKCRC activities. N Berthouze and the Chair undertook to liaise on this offline.

**ACTION: N Berthouze/Chair**

#### **6. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

There were no reports on other activities.

#### **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair noted that in the last couple of years, there has been movement of UKCRC Membership Panel members onto the Executive Committee (the

membership of each group must be independent). It may be beneficial to co-opt new members to the Membership Panel to fill expert areas.

It was noted that D De Roure has stepped down as an Executive Committee member, having completed two 3-year terms of office. The Chair thanked D De Roure for his support and involvement in the work of the Executive Committee.

Members expressed a preference for using Zoom instead of Microsoft Teams for the next AGM and M Leslie undertook to arrange this. **ACTION: M Leslie**

## ACTIONS

|               |                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>2023.1</b> | Chair's report – liaise with Exec Committee on possible connections with NEPC and ARIA                                                                                       | Chair/Exec               |
| <b>2023.2</b> | Membership Panel report – liaise on planning a push for new members in order to link membership to UKCRC activities following the launch of the new mission/vision statement | MP Chair/<br>UKCRC Chair |
| <b>2023.3</b> | AOB – arrange for next AGM to be held via Zoom                                                                                                                               | Secretariat              |
| <b>2022.1</b> | Chair's report – let Committee know what communications would be of interest in relation to UKCRC activities by emailing <a href="mailto:ukcrc@bcs.uk">ukcrc@bcs.uk</a>      | All members              |
| <b>2022.2</b> | AOB – arrange date/venue for UKCRC Strategy day                                                                                                                              | Secretariat              |

## Appendix 1 – Chair's report

In the last year, it has proven difficult to find resources (i.e. people's time) to move actions forward in the way that would be liked. This issue appears to be worsening given the overall trends on academic workloads.

We still lack a volunteer to take ownership of coordinating responses to consultations and, as a result, we have been less active in response than in previous years.

Over the course of the last year, we have made efforts to fully re-engage with our "parent" organisations, BCS and the IET. I have met with senior representatives from both organisations, up to the CEO level, and we have mutually agreed that there is more value to be had from these relationships than has been evident in the recent past. Discussions will continue, with representatives from BCS and IET now actively engaged with the UKCRC Exec.

On-going activity, with both the BCS Academy and CPHC, has continued to define responsibilities and "ownership" of activities within the broad spectrum of activities within the Computing space. There is clear understanding, and agreement, that UKCRC is the focal point for activity in the research space, covering both academia and industry. The latest summary of this activity was presented as the following diagram in a slide deck presented by the chairs of the 3 bodies:

## Combined



The next step in this activity will be a joint conference, hosted by CPHC, the BCS Academy and UKCRC, at Coventry University on 16/17 April 2024. The overall aim here is to have a coordinated voice for Computing in the UK, without losing the unique strengths of each organisation.

We are not the only organisation to be struggling with capacity. There has been an on-going action to meet with UKRI/EP SRC to discuss the outcomes of the last REF from a computing research perspective, and the implications for the next, but it has proven impossible to find a date when the right people were available for such a discussion. The intent is still to follow up on this as resources free up, although it is noted that the workload at EP SRC generated by the recent TFS deadline makes this unlikely in the near future.

The major outstanding action on the Exec is the refresh of the vision and mission statement for UKCRC. Volunteers are solicited to join a brief task and finish group to engage with this task, with the aim being to get something circulated to the membership in the first quarter of 2024.

Kevin Jones  
November 2023