

CONFIDENTIAL

CPHC/AGM/20/01

COUNCIL OF PROFESSORS AND HEADS OF COMPUTING

The Annual General Meeting of the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing will be held on **Wednesday 22 April 2020** at **14:00** as an online meeting.

AGM AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** **CPHC/AGM/19/10**
Approve and digitally sign the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 29 April 2019

2.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes

3. REPORTS

3.1 Chair's Report (Sally Fincher) **CPHC/AGM20/02**

3.2 Secretary's Report (Keith Miller) **CPHC/AGM20/03**

3.3 Treasurer's Report (Ray Farmer) **CPHC/AGM20/04**
Receive and approve Accounts for 2019

3.4 LDG Report (Ian Allison/Siobhan Devlin) **CPHC/AGM20/05**

3.5 CPHC Devolved Nations Reports (Scotland – Carron Shankland; Wales – Mark Griffiths; Northern Ireland – Liam Maguire) **CPHC/AGM20/06**

3.6 UKCRC Report (Edmund Robinson) **CPHC/AGM20/07**

- 4. APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**
(RSM UK Tax and Accounting Limited TBC)

5. ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNCIL OF PROFESSORS AND HEADS OF COMPUTING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing held on Monday 29 April 2019 commencing at 17:00 at Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4BT

Approximately **38** members took part in the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from professor m.c. schraefel.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING [CPHC/AGM18/09]

The minutes of the CPHC 2017 AGM held on Monday 23 April 2018 at 17:00 at Newcastle University were approved.

2.1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters arising.

3. REPORTS

3.1. CHAIR'S REPORT – S Fincher

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 1

3.2. SECRETARY'S REPORT – K Miller

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 2

3.3. TREASURER'S REPORT INCLUDING 2018 ACCOUNTS – R Farmer

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 3

3.4. LDG REPORT – I Allison

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 4

3.5. CPHC IN SCOTLAND REPORT – I Allison

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 5. I Allison informed Members that a representative from each of the devolved nations would be co-opted onto the Committee.

3.6. UKCRC REPORT – E Robinson

RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 6

4. APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

R Farmer reported that CPHC is looking to change the independent examiners for the year ending 2019 due to a significant increase in fees of the existing company. The Committee would welcome any suggestions of possible auditors that might acknowledge CPHC's charitable status more readily. Approval of the CPHC Membership for the replacement independent examiners will therefore be sought by email.

ACTION: Members/R Farmer

5. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

RECEIVED & APPROVED by the Members present. As the existing quorum of 50 members or one tenth of the total membership at the time, whichever is the greater had not been reached, the vote would be completed by email – Appendix 7.

6. VISION AND 2 YEAR ACTION PLAN

RECEIVED. N Savage invited Members to review the paper and provide feedback via the Google comment link – Appendix 8.

7. ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE

The Chair introduced this item by proposing a vote of thanks to the outgoing Committee Member Professor Rupert Ward for his tremendous service and support during his term of office.

The following CPHC Officers are continuing:

Chair: Professor Sally Fincher

Vice Chair: Professor Edmund Robinson

Treasurer: Mr Ray Farmer

The Secretary listed the nomination for the Officer position of Secretary and the following Officer was elected:

Secretary: Mr Keith Miller

There were four Committee Member vacancies to serve a two-year Term of Office and the following new Committee Members were elected:

Dr Siobhan Devlin

Professor Carron Shankland

The following Committee Members have been elected for a further two years:

Professor Alastair Irons

Dr Nick Savage

The following two CPHC Members have been co-opted to represent the devolved nations:

Mark Griffiths (Wales)

Professor Liam Maguire (Northern Ireland)

A representative from Scotland would be co-opted shortly.

In addition, the following Committee Members are continuing:

Professor Ian Allison
Professor Miltos Petridis
Dr Rob Aspin
Dr Atif Waraich

The full Committee membership is appended to these minutes as Appendix 9.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

Ends at 17:29

Appendix 1 – Chair’s Report

Appendix 2 – Secretary’s Report

Appendix 3 – Treasurer’s Report including 2018 Accounts for England & Wales and Scotland

Appendix 4 – LDG Report

Appendix 5 – CPHC in Scotland Report

Appendix 6 – UKCRC Report

Appendix 7 – Revised CPHC Constitution

Appendix 8 – Vision and 2 Year Plan

Appendix 9 – Full CPHC Committee Membership

**CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019
CHAIR'S REPORT**

Externally-facing activities

In our work as the representative body for Computing in Higher Education in we have continued to build strong collaborations and partnerships. In this year we have maintained close links with BCS Academy, Computing at School (CAS), UKCRC and have worked with those bodies on joint responses to Governmental calls. We welcome the new National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) and hope to have similar excellent relations with them.

We have also engaged with the Engineering Professors' Council (EPC), PICTFOR (the Parliamentary Internet, Communications and Technology Forum) and the Institute of Coding (IoC).

During this year, we have been consulted by the National Centre for Universities and Business (NCUB) and DfE on matters of Computing Employability.

Member-facing activities

In April we published "Promoting Careers in Computing Education", a Sharing Practice report originating from workshops held last year.

New for this year, we have initiated two series of workshops

- "A Chair in 10 Years" is aimed at networking and supporting early-career colleagues. The first was held in Sheffield in December, and we have two planned for the coming year. In complement to this, we offered for the first time a "New Professors" workshop at conference this year.
- "North of 300" is a Sharing Practice workshop that recognises the burdens of increasing student numbers and scaling provision. The first was held in London in January and we intend to run further instantiations in the coming year.

Sally Fincher
April 2019

**CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019
SECRETARY'S REPORT**

1. The current membership of the Council is over 785 members drawn from 106 institutions.
2. The Committee met on 5 occasions since the last AGM. Pertinent items of business are reported elsewhere on the agenda.
3. The Council has charitable status for England, Wales and Scotland. Accounts will shortly be submitted for these.
4. Administrative support to the Council's affairs continues to be ably supplied by the BCS Secretariat.

Keith Miller, Manchester Metropolitan University
Secretary, CPHC Committee

CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

TREASURER'S REPORT

Summary: CPHC finances remain healthy and our current balance is approximately £110k. Last year's accounts are attached to this report.

More detail:

Our annual income consists of about:

- 48k subscriptions from departments

Our annual expenditure is approximately:

- 30k on operational support from the BCS (covering secretarial and financial support, provision of meeting rooms, etc)
- 4.7k memberships of other bodies (PICTFOR, CASE, Informatics Europe)
- 4-5k on committee-sponsored activity (mainly travel, but also website and survey tools)
- A variable amount (up to 20k a year on specific projects and events for members: e.g. Careers in Computing workshops; North of 300: Dealing with Significant Growth; A Chair in 10 Years).
- About 10k on the annual conference (giving an overall loss of about 5k).

Ray Farmer
23/04/19

**CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019
LEARNING DEVELOPMENT GROUP REPORT**

The LDG completed and distributed the production of the "Promoting Careers in Computing Education: Sharing Practice" report.

The group will continue to work with and complement the SIGCSE chapter. CPHC will focus on departmental and national priorities. For example: in response to Government policy, educational and resource challenges, skills and sector trends, and national and international quality benchmarks.

Refreshed working groups will be formed in:

Teaching at scale:

- Semi-automated assessments
- Managing projects at volume
- Ensuring pastoral support and retention

Inclusivity in student recruitment, learning and assessment

- Designing assessments
- Learning models
- Marketing and outreach sharing of practice

**Challenges of managing standards in work-based assessments
(apprenticeship model)**

Interest in joining one of these groups will be sought by a short application

The nomination process for joining these working groups will be open soon. Details will be circulated. Proposals for other work streams are welcomed by the Committee.

Ian Allison
April 2019

**CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019
CPHC IN SCOTLAND REPORT**

There is an independent review of the Scottish Research Pooling initiative taking place. The Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance (SICSA) is seeking follow on funding after 2020.

SICSA Cyber Nexus, Scottish Government funded initiative, began in the last year. It aims to establish a coherent and vibrant Scottish Cyber Security and Resilience innovation community; linking academia, business, government, the public sector and the third sector. The Cyber Nexus delivers a range of funding programmes, events and activities throughout the year.

Scotland will be hosting the prestigious ACM CHI Conference in Glasgow this May.

The Digital Skills Partnership (DSP) is a ScotlandIS initiative established with the support of the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and Skills Development Scotland (SDS), to create a new collaborative partnership between colleges, universities and industry to ensure that the education system aligns to the changing skills requirements. The DSP's progress to date includes: over 240 lecturers attending industry-led Career Long Professional Learning sessions; over 50 companies actively involved; 2 major curriculum development projects co-designed by colleges, universities and employers; and an innovative programme of industry *Critical Friends* for college and university lecturers has been established.

Scotland has expanded its Graduate Apprenticeship scheme to include the following frameworks

- IT: Software Development (SCQF level 10 – Honours degree)
- Cyber security (SCQF level 10 (Honours degree) and level 11 (MSc))
- IT: Management for Business (SCQF level 10 – Honours degree)
- Data Science (SCQF level 10 – Honours degree)

Ian Allison
April 2019

**CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019
UKCRC REPORT**

I am anticipating that there will be a UKCRC presentation at conference. I don't wish to add to that, other than to say that the UKCRC, like CPHC is keen to attract more engaged members who are interested in becoming part of a network of colleagues working on behalf of the discipline.

Recent chairs of UKCRC have initiated a practice of publishing chairs reports, synchronised with the executive committee meetings. These give a good introduction to the work of the Committee.

Edmund Robinson
April 2019

2019 DRAFT MINUTES & PAPERS

**CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019
CPHC Vision and 2-Year Plan REPORT**

As a part of a regular update to the CPHC website, there are some sections that need to be updated; particularly the vision, aims, objectives, benefits and subgroups/activities. The following suggestions can be commented on [here](http://bit.ly/CPHC429) (bit.ly/CPHC429).

The CPHC vision is a foundation of what the council believes in and wishes to achieve. It should be concise and focussed. Our proposed vision statement is:

Members, the wider academic community and government will recognise us as the collective voice for the academic discipline of computing.

In order to achieve this vision, our proposed aim is:

Ensure that CS departments are well informed of national activity and represented at a national level.

Our proposed objectives for the next two years are:

- 1. Maximise external visibility and flow of information across and between internal/external groups.**
- 2. Promoting and developing communication between our members.**

In addition to the above points, the following should also be added to the CPHC website.

“CPHC Membership Benefits

CPHC as a membership body, represents nearly all HE computing departments and senior staff in the UK. CPHC has the authority and the mandate to represent the HE computing sector to elected representatives of parliament, the funding councils, the research councils, the sector skills councils, charitable bodies, public bodies, FE and the Schools sector, and industry in all its forms. To its membership, CPHC offers a comprehensive set of links at local, national and international level with a very wide range of groups.

In this context, CPHC provides a lobbying facility on behalf of its membership, to address issues of funding, for both teaching and research, professional standards, recruitment issues, and such other topics as the membership wish to have pursued from time to time. To support this activity, CPHC consults with its membership through a variety of mechanisms: JISC mailing lists; the CPHC website; and regular news updates; and an annual conference where all of the activities of CPHC and the issues for the membership are discussed.

In support of its membership, CPHC also acts to research, collate and disseminate information relating to all aspects of the management of HE computing, teaching and research, and best practice in those areas. Through links with industry, CPHC is able

to offer opportunities for national level project development and localised interactions to encourage greater volumes and a wider spread of industry / academia interaction. In collaboration with the Sector Skills Councils, CPHC is also able to influence national and regional initiatives in skills development, industry liaison and promotion of the discipline. CPHC also interacts with a number of other professional, voluntary and public bodies in promoting public engagement with science, and particular with computer science, and always seeks to be actively engaged in a number of activities in this area.

Role of Subgroups and Activities

CPHC will form subgroups to focus on particular issues. The initiation and lifetime of these subgroups will be decided by the main committee and will have the following rules:

- i) The chair of any subgroup will be either an elected or co-opted committee member.*
- ii) There is no limit on members of the CPHC committee taking on roles in subgroups.*
- iii) Subgroups must provide minutes of meetings to keep the CPHC committee informed of their activities.*
- iv) Subgroups can have members outside the CPHC Committee, but the process for identification and recruitment of members must be agreed with the committee to ensure it is representative of their community.*
- v) If appropriate, sub-groups must normally provide an action plan at the start of the year to the CPHC committee.*
- vi) Remit and terms of reference of sub-groups should be annually reviewed by the main committee at its first meeting after the AGM.”*

TERMS OF OFFICE FOR THE CPHC COMMITTEE – APRIL 2019

CPHC Committee Membership (post AGM):

OFFICERS:

DATE

| | |
|---|---------|
| Chair: Professor Sally Fincher (Kent) | 2018-20 |
| Vice-Chair: Professor Edmund Robinson (Queen Mary) | 2018-20 |
| Secretary: Mr Keith Miller (Manchester Metropolitan) | 2019-21 |
| Treasurer: Mr Raymond Farmer (Coventry) | 2018-20 |
| Immediate Past Chair: Professor Carsten Maple (Warwick) | 2018-20 |

Full Committee Members:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Professor Ian Allison (Central Lancashire) | 2018-20 |
| Dr Rob Aspin (Salford) | 2018-20 |
| Dr Siobhan Devlin (Sunderland) | 2019-21 |
| Professor Alastair Irons (Sunderland) | 2019-21 |
| Professor Miltos Petridis (Middlesex) | 2018-20 |
| Dr Nick Savage (Portsmouth) | 2019-21 |
| Professor Carron Shankland (Stirling) | 2019-21 |
| Dr Atif Waraich (Liverpool John Moores) | 2018-20 |

Co-opted Members:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Mark Griffiths (South Wales) | 2019-20 |
| Professor Liam Maguire (Ulster) | 2019-20 |

COUNCIL OF PROFESSORS AND HEADS OF COMPUTING

C/o BCS, First Floor, Block D, North Star House,
North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1FA

Wednesday 22 April 2020
Online meeting

CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020
CHAIR'S REPORT

Externally-facing activities

In our work as the representative body for Computing in Higher Education in we have continued to build strong collaborations and partnerships. We have maintained close links with BCS Academy Board, Computing at School (CAS), and UCKRC and have worked with those bodies on joint responses to Governmental calls.

We have also engaged with the Engineering Professors' Council (EPC), PICTFOR (the Parliamentary Internet, Communications and Technology Forum), the Institute of Coding (IoC) and Informatics Europe,

Member-facing activities

- The Learning Development Group continues its programme of work (see separate report).
- We have continued to offer our "A Chair in 10 Years" workshops, supporting and networking early career colleagues, in both research-focussed and education-focussed forms.
- We have established an "outreach network" to share practice in this vital area. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a physical event is postponed. However, we have been able to launch an online survey to inform a "landscape study" which we will publish later in the year.

Committee changes

- Alastair Irons resigned from the committee in November to take up a role as Chair of the BCS Academy Board, and we look forward to continue to work with him in that capacity.
- With the sudden death of Miltos Petridis on 13th of April we lost a valued colleague. Miltos was a CPHC committee member from 2014-2020, and organised and led our successful annual conference at Middlesex in 2019. He worked in several institutions over his career and was well liked and respected across the community. Miltos was a kind and charming man with a great sense of humour: we will miss him.

Sally Fincher
14 April 2020

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2. The Committee met on 5 occasions since the last AGM. Pertinent items of business are reported elsewhere on the agenda.
3. The Council has charitable status for England, Wales and Scotland. Accounts have now been submitted for these.
4. Administrative support to the Council's affairs continues to be ably supplied by the BCS Secretariat.
5. Many thanks to the BCS Secretariat for organising this year's AGM as a virtual event.

Keith Miller
14 April 2020

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**CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020
TREASURER'S REPORT**

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More detail:

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Our annual expenditure is approximately:

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Ray Farmer
21/04/2020

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CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020
LEARNING DEVELOPMENT GROUP REPORT

The Learning Development Group has been working on two themes this year:

Community Sourcing – automating the assessment and support of computer science students

Schools of Computing are faced with ever-growing numbers of enrolments, from an increasingly diverse educational background. This brings challenges of capacity and teaching at scale. In January 2020, we organised a workshop for those working on or wishing to develop automated tools in areas such as programming teaching and computing related assessments. About 30 people attended from across the country and a number of others were keen to be involved.

We heard about work on automated student assessment, marking and feedback in programming. Across the speakers it was evident that student feedback was very positive, in particular they liked the ability to continue to try and to get feedback without fear of failure. The issues discussed included a sense of compulsive behaviour and potential gender bias from this style of learning.

We plan to put the presentations on the CPHC website and to share some of the work at the CPHC conference. We are looking to follow up the work through to formation of a network and the potential for the development of open tools for the community. If you are interested in joining the community to work on these problems please contact Professor Ian Allison (University of Central Lancashire) (iallison@uclan.ac.uk).

Theme 2 is: **Confidence and Creativity as Computer Science Outcomes**

In a couple of meetings so far we have had representation from six universities: Newcastle, Sunderland, Nottingham Trent, De Montfort, Warwick and the OU. Learning scenarios being examined are as diverse as engaging in CPD, designing and building software, visualising data and sitting a formal examination. Yet in all of them we have begun to identify common elements in the learning process such as authenticity, challenge, and discomfort, and commonalities too in the outcomes such as self-awareness, confidence and agency.

We will meet a further once or twice prior to CPHC conference and hope to make progress formalising our findings with a view to presenting them at conference. Participants have expressed an interest to take the project further so we will be seeking to do so and anyone interested in being part of a wider study should contact Dr Siobhan Devlin (University of Sunderland) (siobhan.devlin@sunderland.ac.uk).

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CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020
DEVOLVED NATIONS REPORTS

Northern Ireland

The two universities in Northern Ireland (QUB and Ulster) are working together with our local Department for the Economy, InvestNI, the local CBI and employers to consider approaches to increase the number of students who wish to study Computer Science locally. Northern Ireland has been successful in increasing the digital sector over the last few years and to sustain such growth requires an increase in the number of graduates locally. We have also witnessed an increased interest and enrolments in HLAs, conversion masters and part-time advanced masters courses.

Similarly in research there is collaboration between the two universities to establish a Northern Ireland Centre of Excellence in AI following the recommendations of Turing who were commissioned by our local Department for the Economy. In addition there are a number of City Deal projects in both Derry and Belfast that are led by (or have a significant input from) Computing.

Finally, the current emergency has seen the two universities finishing their courses online and academic staff have made huge efforts to facilitate students working from home and making additional hardware and devices available on a loan basis. Interaction and advice with the BCS on our mitigation plans was very welcome and helpful. Staff and student wellbeing is now a key focus in these difficult times. Researchers are now trying help the local trusts eg in data analytics and health related research projects. Liam Maguire (April 2020)

Scotland

There was a positive report from the independent review of the Scottish Research Pooling initiative (Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance (SICSA)) reported in October 2019. Overview: <https://www.sicsa.ac.uk/news/sicsa-celebrates-positive-outcomes-from-sfc-independent-review/>, Full review: <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/research/research-pooling/research-pooling-review.aspx>

The review praised numerous areas of SICSA's activities, including:

- contribution to the AI strategy for Scotland
- sustained engagement with the trade-body and cluster management organisation for digital technologies in Scotland (ScotlandIS)
- the establishment of the SICSA Cyber Nexus for Cyber Security
- strong representation in Scottish Computing Science education policy and strategy across levels and organisations.

SICSA is funded through institutional contributions (as in previous years) and has received one further year of transitional funding (to end July 2021) from the Scottish Government.

SICSA Cyber Nexus continues to thrive. Cyber Nexus is funded by the Scottish Government, and links academia, business, government, the public sector and the third sector to establish a coherent and vibrant Scottish Cyber Security and Resilience innovation community. Funding initiatives include: [Distinguished Visitor Fellowship Programme](#), [Virtual Innovation Hub](#), [Event Sponsorship](#), [Research Exchanges](#), and [Industrial / Public Sector Fellowships](#).

Scotland hosted ACM CHI in Glasgow 4-9 May 2019. The CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems is the premier international conference of Human-Computer Interaction. CHI 2019 was the first time that CHI has taken place in the UK. The theme was 'Weaving the Threads of CHI', reflected in the celtic knot logo, a symbol of strength and friendship. Threads are interconnected and interwoven, without clear beginning or end. The CHI community are those threads: people from different disciplines, cultures, sectors, communities, backgrounds – designers, researchers, practitioners – weaving together into one community, with the common purpose of technology that works for people and society. A [playlist of presentation recordings](#) is available.

The Digital Skills Partnership (DSP) continues to foster collaboration across colleges, universities and industry to ensure that the education system aligns to changing skills requirements. Working groups in 2020 are: Short duration industry current practice events for lecturers, Longer-term opportunities for lecturers to engage with industry, Curriculum development, Creation of a Scotland-wide computing careers adviser network, and Supporting students to make an effective transition in to the world of work. The Digital Skills partnership works from school (National Student Software Development Competition), further education (creation of curriculum materials to support the Digital Forensics and Data Security units within the HNC in Cyber Security), higher education (Young Software Engineer of the Year Awards) and industry (CPD pilot: Developer to Engineer). Carron Shankland (April 2020)

Wales

September 2019 saw the publication of the Welsh Government's *Review of Digital Innovation for the Economy and the Future of Work in Wales - Wales 4.0 Delivering Economic Transformation for a Better Future of Work*. This explored the impact of advances in digital technologies, including, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Big Data, Virtual and Augmented Reality, Cloud Computing, the Internet of Things, and Data Analytics, on the Welsh economy. The review made a number of key recommendations, including the creation of six Industrial Innovation Clusters (IICs) and called for the investment of £100 million of public money to be made. <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-09/delivering-economic-transformation-for-a-better-future-of-work.pdf>

In Wales, degree apprenticeships in the computing field fall under the Welsh Government's Digital Degree Apprenticeship Framework. This was published in 2018 and outlines three pathways: Applied Software Engineering, Applied Data Science and Applied Cyber Security Management. Progress has been rapid, with all eight Welsh universities (Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Cardiff Met, Glyndwr, Swansea, USW and UWTSU) and the OU in Wales now having either degree apprenticeships running or under development in one or more of the three pathways.

The Emerging Tech Fest 2020 event was held in North Wales in January, organized by the Centre of Excellence in Mobile and Emerging Technologies (CEMET), in collaboration with Technology Connected (formerly ESTnet), the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) and

Innovate UK. The event brought together universities, SMEs and several multinational companies together with two of the UK's catapults (Compound Semiconductor Applications Catapult, and High Value Manufacturing Catapult AMRC Cymru). The focus of the event was on developing commercial and R&D links between the stakeholders.

The National Software Academy and The National Cyber Security Academy, both of which are based in Newport, go from strength to strength. Both Academies use an innovative teaching pedagogy, with students operating in an emulated commercial environment working on live project briefs from companies. This approach has proven to be very popular with both students and companies.

The eight universities in Wales are all working together within the Technocamps programme to address issues surrounding computing education. The focus is to provide much needed CPD to teachers, and to increase the pipeline both of school students wishing to study Computer Science and of university students wishing to go into the teaching profession.

With schools closed due to the current pandemic, Technocamps has been working with the Welsh Government's Department of Education on its Continuation of Learning programme, which is being announced this week. This programme is centred on the provision by universities of online resources to Year-13 students, and the Technocamps STEM enrichment Activity Packs produced and published online within its Bridge to Learning project. These have already attracted over 225 unique users per day before the launch of the Education Department's programme.

Mark Griffiths (April 2020)

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CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020
UKCRC REPORT

Prepared by Edmund Robinson:

I am going to focus first on the more long-term strategic activities undertaken by the UKCRC this year.

First of all, they have been working hard to improve the links the community has with government. The primary activity is responding to calls for information, but more generally there has been an increase in engagement between the two communities. They have been discussing with us putting on training for people interested in this area.

Secondly, they have been working to develop their community. This includes attempts to expand and broaden their membership. They (and I) would strongly encourage anyone to consider joining, particularly if they believe they have a strong research presence, the ability to contribute to the community, and most especially if they believe (for whatever reason) that the voice of people like them has been underrepresented. This activity also includes sponsoring workshops aimed at delineating key research areas which can be put forward for strategic funding in the future. This activity is really important because while there is a willingness on the part of government to fund research in our area where it can contribute to the public good, a targeted case nevertheless has to be made by the community and particularly by UKRI.

Thirdly they have continued to work closely with EPSRC in order to improve communication between the research council and our community. This includes working jointly on supporting diversity, and it also includes trying to manage better communication, so that a broader community is kept informed of opportunities in the pipeline. This is particularly important when those opportunities require bids to be prepared very quickly. We cannot stop that happening, but we can push back to a limited extent on timing and make sure that notification happens as soon as possible. EPSRC is now producing a regular briefing for UKCRC which is being distributed openly.

Finally, they like us have been engaged with similar bodies internationally, both the US community through the Snowbird conference, and Informatics Europe. We expect that to continue.