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COUNCIL OF PROFESSORS AND HEADS OF COMPUTING

Minutes of the Committee meeting of the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing held on **Wednesday 21 May 2025** at BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, 25 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7BP and online

PRESENT

Nicky Danino (Chair)	Steven Bradley*#	Kevin Chalmers
Silvester Czanner	Rob Aspin#	James Davenport
Damien Foster	Haris Mouratidis*#	Dharam Shadija
Rebecca Strachan#	Jonathan Wallace*#	Paul Sant

GUESTS

Kate Hone	Funmi Obembe

IN ATTENDANCE (Observers/secretariat)

Daniela Tresoldi (EPSRC)	Laura McDonnell (EPSRC)	Fiona McNeill (BCS Academy) *#
Maxine Leslie (BCS - sec)		

joined for part of meeting   #joined online

1.   **Welcome, apologies and declaration of conflicts of interests**

There were no conflicts of interest and no apologies for absence.

2.   **To approve minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2025 [CPHC/2025/04]**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 3 February 2025 were accepted as a true record and approved for transfer to the website *[action complete]*. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda are at minute 11 below.

3.   **Committee Business**

3.1   **Committee membership and co-opted positions** – K Chalmers explained that the recently amended Constitution permits a maximum of five co-opted members, compared to the previous three. K Hone and F Obembe had been invited to this meeting as guests and expressed their interest in continuing for a second 1 year co-option. N Danino undertook to contact Hayley Burns about potential continued involvement.

ACTION: N Danino

K Hone & F Obembe left the room for the following vote.
N Danino proposed and P Sant seconded the appointment of K Hone and F Obembe as co-opted members of the Committee and the vote was carried and appointments AGREED.

It was noted that the new rules on term of office for Officers would come into effect at the 2026 AGM. Any ideas on possible contacts for co-opting were sought from members, in particular to represent HODs in Scotland and Wales, via the Secretariat.

ACTION: Members

4. **EPSRC/UKRI Update**

L McDonnell thanked members that have responded to the EPSRC ICT Horizon Scanning across Computer Science survey and encouraged any further contributions. A SAT meeting with Learned Societies is being planned for early October 2025, to which CPHC representatives will be welcome. The date will likely be either 7, 8 or 9 October depending on CSA availability. More information will be available shortly via the CPHC secretariat.

A 1-year funding assessment has been agreed and business is returning to usual with the outcomes of proposals considered in April being communicated. A Lead Agency agreement with Germany is now in place and members were asked to contact the ICT team if this is of interest. L McDonnell thanked anyone that has helped with the Fellowships, there is a temporary pause at the moment to unify and simplify this.

Anyone interested in participating in the September panel can contact L McDonnell.

5. **2025 Joint Summit Update – anecdotal feedback**

The full summary of feedback from the Summit will be available at the July meeting. Anecdotally D Shadija indicated that a number of HOD contacts had reported the announcement emails getting stuck in inboxes and date clashes with other meeting. It was suggested that an early bird rate could be offered in 2026 and that the Sheffield-based speaker that had to fly to Seattle at short notice could be invited to speak (Heather Dawe, UST talking about data science). M Leslie undertook to feed these notes to the planning for next year *[action complete]*.

The Chair recorded thanks to D Shadija and his staff for the hospitality and logistics.

6. **New Strategy and Committee Roles [CPHC/2025/06]**

   6.1 New CPHC Strategy – the updated CPHC Strategy 2030 document had been circulated to members. K Chalmers talked through the thinking behind each Strategic Priority (SP) and the resulting 2025/26 business plan for those that had not been able to attend the workshop on 28 June. Members discussed the SPs and R Strachan raised a concern about the wording of SP2 *'Provide national leadership… into computing education'* as it implies that this is focussed on schools rather than HE. In addition, there is no mention of research and influence around emerging technologies. It was suggested that SP2 should be re-worded as *'Provide national leadership… into computing HE and research'*. It was further suggested that the business plan year be aligned to the CPHC financial year (1 July-30 June). Members APPROVED the CPHC Strategy document subject to the amendments being made, including updating SP2, correcting typos and numbering the Objectives. The document can then be uploaded to the website and the link circulated to members by the CPHC Secretariat.

ACTION: M Leslie

   L McDonnell was interested to see the new Strategy and offered to talk further with CPHC about emerging technologies in research.

   6.2 Committee roles – the main points to note are:

   - **Career and Industry Development Group:** to some extent the ToR of this group has been superseded by the new Strategy. J Wallace expressed concern about the environmental aspects in NI (ESG – Sustainable Computing, particularly for

AI), this aspect was thought to be covered in SP2. Members discussed the merging of the two groups and that there were benefits to combining them while reserving the possibility to form subgroups to address specific areas. It was agreed that, as the group is intended to support leaders, it be renamed as Professional Development Group, but referencing industry and careers (in that order) in the background.

- **Assistant Treasurer/Secretary:** it was noted that these roles had been introduced to assist in succession planning; however, members agreed that the level of work required for the Treasurer/Secretary was not detailed enough for this to help. It was agreed that these two roles be removed.
- **UKCRC representative:** members queried the role of UKCRC as an expert panel of CPHC as its activity is currently extremely limited. However, it was agreed that this role should be retained for the moment. D Shadija agreed to represent CPHC at the UKCRC Executive Committee meetings.
- **Informatics Europe representation:** CPHC was due to renew and S Czanner noted that CPHC Officers had asked for this membership to be discontinued due to lack of value for money. After a short discussion, the Committee AGREED that the Secretariat write to IE to resign CPHC's membership *[post meeting note: this action is complete however, IE responded that 3 months written notice of intention to resign IE membership is required according to the by-laws, therefore the subscription will be paid for 2025 and CPHC's resignation will be actioned for 2026]*.
- **JISCMail lists:** there is very little traffic on the INFOSEC and ENGAGE JISCMail lists and it was AGREED that these be deleted, following consultation with the list owners (Carsten Maple and m.c. schraefel respectively). In addition, it was felt that the Jobs list has been replaced by www.jobs.ac.uk.
- **Conference/Summit working group for 2026:** N Danino volunteered to join and also D Shadija to support in the same way as the 2024 host had provided support. A further volunteer could be secured once the venue is agreed.

M Leslie undertook to add the Committee roles information to the CPHC website *[action complete]*.

7. **CPHC subscription update [CPHC/2025/07]**

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the report, which in future will be added to the Treasurer's report.

8. **PROGRAMME of WORK** - this is to change with new SPs

8.1 **Learning and Development Group (LDG) and Special Projects** – no report as S Bradley had connection problems.

8.2 **Industry Development Group (IDG) & Career Development Group (CDG)** – see item 6.2 Committee roles above.

8.3 **Workshop Programme (Pipeline; Coffee table meetings; Chair in 10 Years; Outreach Network)** – now replaced by item 6 strategy.

8.4 **Special activities (if relevant)** – J Davenport updated members on the plan to write to NCSC to review the situation with cooperation referred to on the CPHC website [perspectives_integrating-cybersecurity-into-computer-science-curricula-final31102014.pdf](). Members AGREED to sending the letter and J Davenport undertook to liaise with M Leslie to produce a headed letter version. *[Post meeting note: this action was completed, however a query was raised about the impact of the academic accreditation criteria modernisation (approved at Academy Board in Feb) and whether this would affect the wording or timing of sending the letter. It is unclear to what extent the cybersecurity side has been updated.]*

9.   UPDATES

9.0   AI update – J Davenport shared the following thoughts.

As regards AI, what follows is a personal (though several agree with me) CS-oriented view.

a)   *What industry wants is people who can work in (large, distributed) teams on large complex programs solving ill-specified problems.*
b)   *Universities approach this by starting with working alone (or possibly pairs) on small simple well-specified problems, and gradually increasing size, complexity and fuzziness.*
c)   *Generative AI has thoroughly knocked away the first rung, will soon knock away the second rung, and is being used in some form in the majority of industry.*
d)   *The CS education community does not have a coherent answer to this challenge at the moment.*

See https://cacm.acm.org/opinion/what-is-programming/ for one simple article.
– about AI and how to assess authentically

J Davenport had been approached by other organisations and queried whether a taskforce would be a way forward. Concerns were expressed by members about teaching and the lack of reliable and valid assessment, the final year project assessment was particularly worrying. L McDonnell explained that EPSRC/UKRI no longer allows any tools, including spell check. R Strachan noted the potential breadth of this discussion, perhaps learning how industry uses AI and bringing together different people across the community to further discuss at a workshop would be helpful.

R Aspin emphasised the inclusivity angle, with AI being a really useful assistant for writing in a neurodiversity/dyslexia context.

Members AGREED with the thoughts above and it was suggested an initial approach to BCS F-TAG (Fellows Technical Advisory Group) through Adam Leon Smith (F-TAG Chair) and James Woodward (BCS Director of Communications). J Davenport and K Chalmers undertook to co-ordinate with BCS with a view to asking the question of industry members.   **ACTION: J Davenport/K Chalmers**

9.1   Chair's Update – N Danino noted that further to the update at the AGM, there was nothing to report.

9.2   Treasurer's Update *[CPHC/2025/08]* – P Sant also noted that there were no further updates to the paper circulated at the AGM. Some subscriptions are still due and some thought is needed about expenditure but there are no significant concerns about CPHC's financial position. Two HEIs have resigned from CPHC: Gloucestershire and Nottingham and two further HEIs have indicated their intention to resign: Greenwich and Essex, so this needs to be factored in. A final reminder will be sent out to attempt to recover subscriptions from the serial offenders. M Leslie undertook to prepare final reminders to be sent out by P Sant for the following HEIs: Liverpool Hope, Essex, Greenwich, Wales Trinity St David, West London and Westminster. If no reply is received, the HEIs will be removed from the list, in particular if they have previously indicated their intent to resign.   **ACTION: M Leslie/P Sant**

9.3   Secretary's Update – see items 6.1 New CPHC Strategy and 6.2 Committee roles.

9.4   EDI Lead update – see item 6 strategy update.

9.5   UKCRC Update – there had been no UKCRC Executive Committee meeting since the CPHC Committee last met (see also item 6.2 Committee roles).

9.6   NI HoS *[CPHC/2025/09]* – members NOTED the report which had also been shared at the AGM. It would be good to hold a Committee meeting in NI, maybe in 2026. It is regrettable that CPHC is not getting the same traction in Scotland and Wales as it is in NI. There has been a growth in mayors and regional devolution in England as well as in the Members discussed ways of helping with this, such as securing representation on the Committee or holding a teach-in. M Leslie to add this to the agenda for discussing along with the 2026 meeting dates.   **ACTION: M Leslie**

9.7   Scottish HoS – nothing to report.

9.8   Updates from Other Organisations & Activities (IE/PICTFOR; Distinguished dissertations; IoC) – it was noted that the PICTFOR annual report had been published. Members interested in attending forthcoming events organised by PICTFOR and CaSE can find out more and volunteer by completing the Events tab of the shared spreadsheet (contact [Secretariat](#)for link).

10.   LinkedIn blogposts

N Danino undertook to write a blogpost to thank those who attended the Summit, update members on the Constitution amendments and the new Strategy.   **ACTION: N Danino**

11.   Matters arising from minutes/actions

11.1 Updates: UKCRC (Feb2025.8) – for the action to check with Kevin Jones and Nadia Berthouze if there is any flexibility in background of nominations for UKCRC, it was noted that this action is still pending and a query was raised about UKCRC's status as an expert panel of CPHC and BCS. Currently there is very little UKCRC activity and members were concerned that UKCRC's remit is no longer being fulfilled.

11.2 Matters arising (Feb2025.11) – for the summit venue for 2026, N Danino had discussed this with various contacts including Julia Adamson. It will be important to grow the attendance and maybe a London venue would be good for attracting more attendees (although it was noted that accommodation would be more expensive). Possible venues included UCL, Brunel, City or Google at King's Cross. N Danino undertook to propose this at the Summit wash up on 9 June *[action complete]*.

11.3 Updates: Scottish HoS (Oct2024.7) – the action to ask SCEC for ideas on venues for the 2026 Summit, preferably Edinburgh or Glasgow, had been superseded as above. F McNeill reported that SCEC is in hiatus and that there will be a meeting in the next few weeks to discuss a new strategy. However, there has been activity in the RSE LSG.

12.   AOB

M Leslie raised the issue of succession planning for 2026, as the terms of office of all of the CPHC officers and ordinary members come to an end at the 2026 AGM. It was noted that the amended Constitution comes into effect at the 2026 AGM when some ordinary members are eligible for re-election to a second 2-year term of office, N Danino will become Vice Chair for 1 year and J Davenport will become Chair for 3 years. As officers and ordinary members eligible for re-election will serve a 2 year term of office from 2026-2028, there will be the same issue of succession planning in 2028. It was suggested that terms of office could be split into 1, 2 and 3 year terms to avoid the issue in future; however this would require a further change in Constitution. CPHC officers will discuss this further.   **ACTION: CPHC officers**

The Chair thanked members for their input and closed the meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS *All commencing at 11.00am, unless otherwise stated*

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2025	CONFERENCE/AGM DATES 2025
Wednesday 21 May 2025 – BCS London 11:00-15:00 Monday 14 July 2025 – Online *Tuesday 14 October 2025 (13:30-16:30) – BCS London Wednesday 3 December 2025 – Online	Tuesday 29/Wednesday 30 April – Sheffield Hallam University

*to be co-located with UKCRC Executive Committee & BCS Academy of Computing meetings

Actions – responsible people in red

#	Item	Min	Action	Who
May2025.1	Committee membership & co-opted positions	3.1	Contact Hayley Burns about continued co-option to the Committee	**N Danino**
May2025.2			Provide any ideas for co-opted members, in particular for Scottish & Welsh Heads to sec	**Members**
May2025.3	New CPHC Strategy	6.1	Update the Strategy document (SP2), upload to the website and signpost to CPHC members	**M Leslie**
May2025.4	Updates: AI update	9.0	Liaise with BCS (Adam Leon Smith/James Woodward) on asking industry members the thoughts posed by JHD	**J Davenport/ K Chalmers**
May2025.5	Updates: Treasurer's update	9.2	Prepare and send final reminders	**M Leslie/P Sant**
May2025.6	Updates: NI HoS	9.6	Add possible teach-in to engage Scottish/Welsh HEIs to agenda along with 2026 meeting dates	**M Leslie**
May2025.7	LinkedIn blogposts	10	Write a blogpost to thank Summit attendees, update members on the Constitution amendments/new Strategy	**N Danino**
May2025.8	AOB	12	Consider whether terms of office could be split into 1, 2 and 3 year terms to avoid succession issues in future	**CPHC officers**
Feb2025.3	Subscription update	7	Follow up with small number of 2023/24 debtors	**P Sant/M Leslie**
Feb2025.4	Programme of work: LDG/SPG	8.1	Enhance the SPG content on the website with more criteria info and project start/end date request	**S Bradley/M Leslie**
Feb2025.6	Updates: EDI Lead update	9.4	Consider input on EDI from Alastair Irons before reporting back to Committee	**R Strachan/P Sant**
Feb2025.8	Updates: UKCRC update	9.6	Check with K Jones/N Berthouze if there is any flexibility in background of nominations	**M Leslie**
Feb2025.9	Updates: Scottish HoS	9.9	Consider who to approach for the role of Scottish HEI representative	**Members**

Feb2025.10			Ask Alastair Irons if Abertay HOD would be interested in contributing	**F McNeill (formerly N Danino)**
Feb2025.11	Matters arising	11.1	Summit venue 2026 – provide contact details/background on Jane Hillston for Chair to contact	**~~M Leslie~~/N Danino**
Dec2024.8	Updates: CPHC/BCS DisDis update	9.5	Check with A Irons & J Adamson and arrange an initial meeting to include D Foster, N Danino and D Shadija (R Strachan – EDI)	**M Leslie**
Oct2024.7	Updates: Scottish HoS update	9.8	Ask SCEC for ideas on venues for the 2026 Summit (prefer Edinburgh or Glasgow)	**F McNeill**
Jul2024.1	Matters arising: Workshop programme	2.3	Work with Laure Barker (BCS) on a co-ordinated workshop programme *[Dec 24 update: now BCS Head of HE, when appointed]*	**N Danino**
May2023.1	New CPHC member	4	Work on providing further guidance for applying institutions such as an application form template at Strategy Day	**N Danino**