

**Administration by BCS**

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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 **Tuesday 14 October 2025** at BCS, 25 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7DN and online

**PRESENT**

Nicky Danino (Chair)  
James Davenport  
Haris Mouratidis  
#Rebecca Strachan

Rob Aspin  
Damien Foster  
\*\*Funmi Obembe

Silvester Czanner  
Kate Hone  
#Dharam Shadija

**IN ATTENDANCE (Observers/secretariat)**

Laura McDonnell (EPSRC)      #Fiona McNeill (BCS  
Academy)

Maxine Leslie (BCS - sec)

*\*joined for part of meeting; #joined online*

**APOLOGIES**

Steven Bradley  
Jonathan Wallace

Kevin Chalmers

Paul Sant

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

There were no conflicts of interest and apologies for absence were received as above.

**2. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2025 [CPHC/2025/16]**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 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 as follows.

**3. Matters arising**

**3.1 Matters arising: AOB (July2025.4; item 2.1.6)** – for the action to add the terms of office review in the Constitution to the February 2026 agenda, this action is complete. Members discussed the need for a stagger of terms of office. R Aspin had it on good authority from Keith Miller (previous Secretary) that the Constitution would only need to be changed if a term of office of 3 years was being proposed and that 1 and 2 year terms are already in line with the Constitution.

**3.2 AOB: NCSC liaison on cybersecurity (July2025.5; item 9.1)** – for the action to set up a Zoom link for the cybersecurity webinar, J Davenport explained that the liaison with NCSC and BCS is still pending as the BCS contact (Rupert Ward) has indicated that it is better to wait. R Aspin noted that there is a move towards defence and security rather than cybersecurity and artificial intelligence and a government paper is due at some point.

**3.3 AI update (May2025.4; item 9)** – for the action for J Davenport to liaise with BCS (Adam Leon Smith/James Woodward) on asking industry members about the thoughts posed earlier and the July 2025 update that J Davenport is now liaising with Sharron Gunn, BCS Group CEO, it was reported that this has not progressed and the best way forward could be to build on J Wallace's report.

**3.4 Matters arising (July2024.1; item 2.3)** – for the action to work with the BCS Head of HE on a co-ordinated workshop programme, ML reported that the new contact will be Julia Adamson. The possibility of cross badging CPHC and BCS events was discussed and concern was raised that cross badging might imply that CPHC and BCS are speaking with the same voice. CPHC should be focussing on events/activities that support Heads and Profs in computing departments. There is also a unease that dual badged events will remove one of CPHC's selling points in terms of membership benefits. It was suggested that more work could be in the area of early career academics and the situation where Schools/Departments do not have enough professors and senior staff to develop. This could fit into Strategic Priority objective 1 and leadership is a vital aspect. K Hone's survey work should give some pointers on this. K Hone asked for a second volunteer for this, or notes from the workshop session and M Leslie undertook to request this from K Chalmers.

**ACTION: M Leslie/K Chalmers**

#### **4. EPSRC/UKRI Update**

L McDonnell reported that EPSRC/UKRI is working with Learned Societies and SATs in areas of mutual interest including accreditation and UG/PG programmes and the importance of not disadvantaging students. The report from the ICT team includes good news on the semiconductors work and an expanded lead agency journey enabling applicants to apply via either [Germany or the UK](#). The Fellowship schemes have now closed and a cross-UKRI consultation is underway on what will replace them. There has been interest from GCHQ/NCSC in Research Software Engineering and L McDonnell would like to hear from anyone interested in this area. In response to a question from R Aspin about funding routes in the Ministry of Defence, L McDonnell outlined the different areas of UKRI working with government departments. There is information on the website on the Defence Science and Technology laboratory (DSTL) and MOD activities and members were invited to get in touch with the ICT team if there are any missing areas.

#### **5. Summit update – 2026 venue, theme and possible dates**

The Chair had not had any recent information about the Summit, although the suggestion is that UCL East is being researched as a venue. The initial contact has been via Louise Archer in the UCL Institute of Education (rather than the Department of Computer Science). UCL East is located in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and is reasonably accessible as it is on the Elizabeth Line. More information should be forthcoming at the joint meeting.

#### **6. Programme of work**

**6.1 SP1** Champion the growth of confident, capable, and future-ready academic leaders in computing across the UK [owner: K Hone + A N Other (survey)] – see also item 3.4 Matters arising above. K Hone had started thinking about the survey of departments with possible priority areas such as research projects and professional development needs. N Danino suggested that the survey results will help in deciding on special project funding, particularly if a theme emerges.

**6.2 SP2** Provide national leadership on integrating emerging technologies, particularly AI/cyber sec [owners; J Davenport, D Shadija] – see item 3 Matters arising above. J Davenport undertook to liaise with D Shadija on taking this forward.

**ACTION: J Davenport/D Shadija**

- 6.3 SP3** Advance equity, diversity, and inclusion in computing [owner: R Strachan and P Sant (survey)] – it was noted that this is everyone’s task not just for the objective’s owners. F McNeill reported that this is also being considered by the BCS Academy Board. It may be helpful to discuss how to share data and work together on this area. R Strachan and P Sant had been liaising with Alastair Irons on DEI. L McDonnell indicated that EPSRC/UKRI shares data on this, but it is difficult to extract information from the new system and the database is populated by users, however there are interesting data trends to note. It was further noted that HESA holds staff data but not by level so it is difficult to find information about professors. N Danino emphasised the need to ensure there is an equal gender balance in presenters at all CPHC events.
- 6.4 SP4** Foster a vibrant and engaged membership by articulating the collective benefits and influence of CPHC.

## **7. UPDATES**

- 7.1 Chair’s Update** – N Danino reported that the [CPHC LinkedIn page](#) has now been set up and there are posts calling for Scotland and Wales representation on the Committee and flagging the updated Constitution. There are new subscribers every week and members are asked to provide any ideas for including on the page to N Danino.  
**ACTION: Members**
- 7.2 Treasurer’s Update including CPHC subscription update [CPHC/2025/18]** – P Sant had sent apologies but had emailed the Chair to report that expenditure is in line with previous years and that final reminders will soon be issued to the 2024/25 debtors.  
**ACTION: P Sant**
- 7.3 Secretary’s Update** – no update.
- 7.4 UKCRC Update** – D Shadija reported that there has only been one UKCRC Exec meeting since the last CPHC meeting as the meeting earlier had been cancelled. The Committee is struggling with the membership and volunteers to fill roles. One piece of feedback on the joint summit is that UKCRC would like to see more research focus. One of the areas of confusion in the community seems to be around European funding, with Horizon starting to be talked about again. N Danino undertook to bring this up in the Summit discussions.  
**ACTION: N Danino**
- 7.6 NI HoS** – J Wallace had sent apologies but had shared the outcomes from Ulster’s engagement workshop on *‘AI and Software Engineering – The Implications for the Software Sector and Higher Education – The Way Forward’*, which was held on 29 September. On the positive side, in the last poll the majority still wanted placement to remain mandatory instead of optional and nobody wanted it to be removed completely. Also if computing shrinks to a more technical software engineering core and there is a push to Business with AI, Marketing with AI, etc. the majority agreed that the AI element needs to be taught by a subject expert from computing and not a Business lecturer who has dabbled in it. J Davenport thought that this would be a good survey to do with J Wallace providing the questions for circulating to the membership. D Foster suggested this subject could be raised at the summit to a panel of industrialists. Further thinking was needed to determine a way forward that replicates what J Wallace has done in Northern Ireland, provided it aligns with the new strategic objectives.  
**ACTION: CPHC Officers**
- 7.7 Scottish HoS** – nothing to report.
- 7.8 Updates from Other Organisations & Activities** (IE/PICTFOR; IoC) – ML undertook to check with P Sant if there are any notes from the PICTFOR DEI rally attended on 15 July 2025. (The relevant PICTFOR webpage may be found [here](#)).  
**ACTION: M Leslie/P Sant**

J Davenport had attended an Informatics Europe event on the day before the meeting, where there were similar discussions to those in the UK around problems with AI. There was no representation from CPHC at ECSS (European Informatics Leaders Summit) this year and J Davenport queried the reasons that CPHC had given notice to leave IE at the end of the year. In response to a question, J Davenport described the role of the Informatics Federation of Information Processing (IFIP) at which BCS is the UK member (only one member from each sovereign state is permitted under UNESCO regulations). H Mouratidis indicated that the Working Groups work well but the overall arrangements are less well run. There are different thematic areas including computer security. F McNeill noted that Alastair Irons is heavily involved in IFIP activities, however will stand down soon as Academy Vice President tenure comes to an end. F McNeill added that there is some concern that none of the Technical Committees are chaired by UK academics, therefore reducing the UK's influence. It would be good to have more UK academics involved and there is plenty of scope for this. Members discussed the possibility of inviting Rachid Hourizi to a future Committee meeting to talk about the Institute of Coding.

## 8. LinkedIn blogposts [\(18\) Council of Professors and Heads of Computing: Posts | LinkedIn](#)

As there have been recent posts, this item is deferred to the next meeting in December.

## 9. AOB

- 9.1 CPHC patron(s)** – this item had been suggested by N Danino as Maggie Philbin is very busy with TeenTech. CPHC is not limited to one patron, so another could be invited. Several suggestions were made of individuals with press visibility, enthusiasm and passion for computer science. A call out could be made, but it would need to be quite specific about what is required. N Danino asked members to provide any further ideas directly to [n.danino@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:n.danino@leedstrinity.ac.uk) **ACTION: Members**

The Chair thanked members for their input and closed the meeting at 15:16.

*[See below actions for notes of joint meeting]*

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2025	
Wednesday 3 December 2025 – Online	
COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2026 TBC	
Monday 2 February 2026 – Online	CONFERENCE/AGM DATES 2026 To be confirmed
Wednesday 20 May 2026 – BCS London	
Monday 13 July 2026 – Online	
*Tuesday 13 October 2026 (13:30-16:30) – BCS London	
Wednesday 2 December 2026 – Online	

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

### Actions – responsible people in red

#	Item	Min	Action	Who
Oct2025.1	Matters arising	3.4	Ask K Chalmers to circulate Strategy workshop notes and check if there is a second owner for SP1	M Leslie/K Chalmers
Oct2025.2	Programme of work	6.2	Liaise on SP2 Provide national leadership on integrating emerging technologies, particularly AI/cyber sec	J Davenport/D Shadija
Oct2025.3	Chair's update	7.1	Provide any ideas for including on the LinkedIn page to N Danino	Members

<b>Oct2025.4</b>	Treasurer's update	7.2	Send final reminders to the 2024/25 debtors	<b>P Sant</b>
<b>Oct2025.5</b>	UKCRC update	7.4	Raise topic of research funding across Europe with Summit planning group	<b>N Danino</b>
<b>Oct2025.6</b>	NI HoS update	7.6	Give further thought to how to replicate J Wallace's NI engagement workshop on AI and software engineering	<b>CPHC Officers</b>
<b>Oct2025.7</b>	Updates from other orgs & activities	7.8	Check with P Sant if there are any notes from the PICTFOR DEI rally	<b>M Leslie/P Sant</b>
<b>Oct2025.8</b>	AOB: CPHC patron(s)	9.1	Provide any further ideas on possible CPHC patron(s) directly to <a href="mailto:n.danino@leedstrinity.ac.uk">n.danino@leedstrinity.ac.uk</a>	<b>Members</b>
<b>July2025.5</b>	AOB : NCSC liaison on cybersec	9.1	Liaise on setting up a Zoom link for the cybersecurity webinar	<b>J Davenport/M Leslie</b>
<b>May2025.4</b>	Updates: AI update	9.0	Liaise with BCS (Adam Leon Smith/James Woodward) on asking industry members the thoughts posed by JHD <i>[July 25 update: JHD liaising with Sharron Gunn, BCS Group CEO]</i>	<b>J Davenport/ K Chalmers</b>
<b>Feb2025.10</b>	Updates: Scottish HoS	9.9	Ask Alastair Irons if Abertay HOD would be interested in contributing <i>[July 25 update: ML to check with FMcN re HOD to approach]</i>	<b>F McNeill (formerly N Danino)</b>
<b>Jul2024.1</b>	Matters arising: Workshop programme	2.3	Work with Laure Barker (BCS) on a co-ordinated workshop programme <i>[Dec 24 update: now BCS Head of HE, when appointed]</i>	<b>N Danino</b>

**(A) JOINT MEETING WITH BCS ACADEMY & UKCRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** (BCS Academy of Computing Board members were in attendance for this item; however UKCRC Executive Committee members sent their apologies)

BCS Academy of Computing Board members in attendance: Alastair Irons (Chair, session Chair), Julia Adamson, Miles Berry, Chris Farnath, \*Chrisina Jayne, \*Oliver Kerr, Ian McChesney, \*Fiona McNeill, Parveen Samra, \*Sue Sentance, \*Jane Waite

CPHC Committee members in attendance: Nicky Danino (Chair), Rob Aspin, Silvester Czanner, James Davenport, Damien Foster, Kate Hone, \*Funmi Obembe,

BCS staff in attendance: Maxine Leslie

\*Joined online

Apologies: Kevin Jones

## Reflection on 2024/25 collaboration - Year ahead plans

AI welcomed members to the joint meeting, noting that there were some items to share from the preceding workshops. A Irons, K Jones, Rebecca Strachan and Paul Sant had met to look at EDI and the possibility of putting a paper together, drawing on the expertise of Louise Archer.

Members discussed the potential output from a 2026 Summit and P Samra emphasised the importance of including significant input from industry, as this had created a buzz at the Coventry Summit. N Danino reminded members that it is part of the CPHC constitution that an annual event and AGM be held, so it will go ahead either as a joint or CPHC only event. J Adamson reported that UCL, Stratford had offered to host the 2026 event, offering the venue for free and charging for the catering. It would be important to expand the organising committee to ensure that the organising duties are spread amongst people willing to help.

Possible areas to include were discussed including content and research/pedagogy (I McChesney), what employers want to see being taught in the age of AI (J Davenport) and the new heads and chair in 10 years workshops. It could also work to include a workshop on the issues being brought up in O Kerr's new academics specialist group, such as support for early career academics. It will be important to ensure that topics selected are inclusive.

Members debated the type of audience to aim for, perhaps with a sharp brief which could attract employers and sponsors, perhaps in a one-day attendance format which would bring down the cost. Interest groups could hold activities on the fringe. The 2025 event did not cover its own costs and any future events would need to. The advantage of an event spanning two days was the opportunity to network, particularly for new heads and early career academics to have contact with more experienced colleagues in other institutions.

It was suggested that an AI themed event would help to pull in sponsors, although this subject is being discussed all over, but maybe less so for computing education (M Berry).

A Irons asked members interested in contributing to organising the Summit to contact the Secretariat [maxine.leslie@bcs.uk](mailto:maxine.leslie@bcs.uk). N Danino, D Shadija, P Samra and D Foster from CPHC volunteered.

**ACTION: members interested in contributing to organising the Summit to contact the Secretariat [maxine.leslie@bcs.uk](mailto:maxine.leslie@bcs.uk)**

A Irons thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

### Actions from Joint UKCRC/CPHC/ACB meeting 14 October 2025

Min	Item	Action	Who	Status
(A)	Joint meeting With CPHC & UKCRC Executive Committee	Members interested in contributing to organising the Summit to contact the Secretariat <a href="mailto:maxine.leslie@bcs.uk">maxine.leslie@bcs.uk</a>	Members	On-going