CPHC

CPHC2026/16

Administration by BCS
c/o 3 Newbridge Square, Swindon SN1 1BY

COUNCIL OF PROFESSORS AND HEADS OF COMPUTING

Minutes of the Committee meeting of the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing held on **Wednesday 20 May 2026** at BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, 25 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7BP and online

PRESENT

James Davenport (Chair)	Nicky Danino	*#Kevin Chalmers
*#Steven Bradley	Paul Sant	Funmi Obembe
*Silvester Czanner	#Kate Hone	Darren Dancey
#Jonathan Wallace	*Dharam Shadija	*Gabriela Czanner
*#Kathryn Jones		

OBSERVERS

#Fiona McNeill (BCS Academy)	Jan Donnelly (EPSRC)

IN ATTENDANCE (Secretariat)

Maxine Leslie (BCS - sec)

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

APOLOGIES

Damien Foster

1. Welcome, apologies and declaration of conflicts of interests

There were no conflicts of interest and apologies for absence were received as above. The Chair welcomed J Donnelly (EPSRC).

2. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2026 [CPHC/2026/04]

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 2 February 2026 were accepted as a true record and approved for transfer to the website *[action complete]*.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising that are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Committee business [CPHC/2026/06]

4.1 Appointments of Secretary and co-opted positions *[G Czanner and K Jones were not in the meeting for this item and S Czanner left the room]* – K Chalmers proposed the appointment of an Assistant Secretary to provide support and also for succession purposes at the next AGM. Members were invited to contact the Chair or K Chalmers if interested.

Members considered the submitted CVs and AGREED that the following CPHC members be co-opted to the Committee:

- Dr Kathryn Jones (Cardiff University)
- Professor Emma Norling (University of Sheffield)
- Professor Gabriela Czanner (University of Southampton)
- Dr Alistair McConnell (Heriot-Watt University)

M Leslie undertook to send a welcome to the new co-opted members *[action complete]*.

5. **EPSRC/UKRI Update** [CPHC/2026/12]

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the content of the slide deck. J Donnelly has recently joined the ICT Theme team at EPSRC (Daniela Tresoldi has been promoted into another team). The Chair asked about whether the date for Investigator eligibility was in August or December and J Donnelly undertook to check with Laura McDonnell and let J Davenport know.

Committee members or their networks/communities interested in applying to become an EPSRC Peer Review college member can find further information via the link below:

How to join the college – UKRI

5.1 Network+ bid – item for decision [CPHC/2026/14] *J Donnelly left the room for this item* – S Bradley introduced the paper, explaining that for the original bid CPHC acted as a partner organisation and offered a letter of support. This proposal links into SP3 Advance equity, diversity, and inclusion in computing but it was noted that the SP relates to the teaching profession whereas this project relates to the profession. From the proposal:

"We are seeking a letter of support as a project partner, with cash input from CPHC to top up the flexible funding pot from EPSRC - no CPHC money would go towards core academic time, travel or overheads. This would correspond to ring-fencing part of the existing Special Project Grant scheme, contributing towards a part of a much larger but more targeted scheme."

Members AGREED to providing a letter of support with the proposed ringfencing and the precise mechanism to be worked out later. S Bradley, J Davenport and P Sant undertook to draft the letter for the secretariat to finalise on headed paper. The deadline for receipt of the letter is 19 June.

ACTION: S Bradley/J Davenport/P Sant/M Leslie

6. **CPHC Conference feedback** [CPHC/2026/07]

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the report and the content of the form summary link. The following comments were discussed:

- Thanks to the organising committee and those involved from MMU for their hard work.
- The Conference seemed like a more valuable event for CPHC members compared to a joint summit as it is more focussed, particularly in terms of networking and building the community.
- Helpful to continue seeking input from BCS and UKCRC in future.
- Retain a slot in the Easter break for future events to ensure room availability and maximise attendance.
- Length of 1.5 days works well.
- The EPSRC session would be good to run again, maybe encouraging departments to apply for funding (J Donnelly noted that EPSRC would be happy to adapt the session to CPHC's needs).

K Jones (in the chat) offered to look into the possibility of Cardiff University to host and report back at the next meeting. D Dancey and N Danino could advise on the commitment required.
ACTION: K Jones

Committee members were asked to consider volunteering to host if their institution are easy to access on public transport and priority would be given to devolved nation locations.
ACTION: Members

It was AGREED that the 2027 Conference and beyond should be included as a standing item for future meetings. **ACTION: M Leslie**

7. Committee roles

7.1 Roles [CPHC/2026/08] – members discussed the vacancies and opportunities to volunteer. For the Conference Working Group, D Dancey (as previous host) and N Danino volunteered with the third position to be assumed by a representative of the host venue. Cardiff and Edinburgh universities were suggested as possible venues for 2027 and 2028. It was further suggested that the next conference venue should be announced at each conference. M Leslie undertook to add conference venue/organiser/date to the October meeting agenda *[action complete]*.

There are further positions available as Assistant Secretary (to support and ultimately succeed K Chalmers – see 4.1 above) and Vice Chair (for when N Danino stands down at the next AGM).

7.2 Trustee appointment – see https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-commission-guidance#minute-guides-for-charity-trustees. K Hone and D Dancey volunteered to become trustees. M Leslie to add both to the Charity Commission web portal.
ACTION: M Leslie

8. Programme of work

8.1 SP1 *Champion the growth of confident, capable, and future-ready academic leaders in computing across the UK [Owner: K Hone; contributor: D Foster]* – K Hone reported that a survey is being put together to ask members what support they would like. This had stalled due to work changes but the plan is to catch up with it in June. The Chair suggested asking 'what members would have wanted'. The survey wording will be considered by the Committee before circulation, potentially by email, to ensure that it can be circulated at the start of the 2026/27 academic year or in the week before.

8.2 SP2 *Provide national leadership on integrating emerging technologies, particularly AI/cyber security/quantum [Owner: J Davenport; contributor: D Shadija]* – D Shadija is due to attend a workshop for the maths community on what AI means for the discipline. It is hoped that lessons can be learned from this on AI and assessment. N Danino noted that AI and assessment is one of the priorities of the new BCS Academy Board Chair. ACB members had fed back that it could be helpful to start with looking at the wider landscape. ACB is keen to work with CPHC on this area. F McNeill added that BCS is undertaking a lot of work in this area including in degree accreditation to ensure that students are learning what the university is teaching them and being assessed by methods other than 100% examination. Other considerations were the National Curriculum statement and the cybersecurity aspects.

D Shadija undertook to report back on the AI in maths workshop and liaise with Steve Pettifer on this. **ACTION: D Shadija**

8.3 SP3 *Advance equity, diversity, and inclusion and sustainability in computing [Owner: P Sant; contributor: F Obembe]* – as well as volunteering to join the SPG Review Panel, F Obembe agreed to become the contributor to this Strategic Priority area. P Sant is involved in the FIRST Global Challenge which is a competition organised by a US philanthropy organisation, deciding on the team to represent the UK and taking forward the mantle to ensure equal representation. F Obembe will put some thought into ensuring that the SPG September 2026 round reflects this Strategic Priority. J Wallace raised the issue of CPHC taking a stance on ESG (sustainability and water) in Northern Ireland and making this a part of the CPHC Strategic Priorities. F McNeill noted that outreach is powerful but expensive and due to the current landscape, the tutoring network at Edinburgh has been cut. Maybe CPHC could fund outreach or provide a place to share ideas. N Danino stated that BCS has funding available in the form of the Levelling Up programme concerned with mentoring in schools. There is the UK STEM Ambassador scheme also, which offers support other than direct funding. The Chair proposed that CPHC acts as a hub of resources.

It was AGREED that sustainable computing should be added to SP3 and P Sant undertook to include this. **ACTION: P Sant**

8.4 **SP4** *Foster a vibrant and engaged membership by articulating the collective benefits and influence of CPHC [Owner: S Bradley; contributor: tba]* – there is little to report over and above the SPG updates. It was noted that there is a greater need to publicise SPGs and encourage applications, perhaps using the heading of thought leadership. This will be considered in the context of the new big project process.

9. UPDATES

9.1 Chair's Update

9.1.1 **Proposal for CPHC-Teaching** [CPHC/2026/15] – J Davenport introduced the paper, observing that HODs spend time on activities such as recruitment and writing cases while Directors of Teaching may not be Profs or HODs. It is therefore proposed that a separate mailing list be created for teaching-oriented work to encourage more discussion, but not necessarily to include individual CPHC members.

A question was raised on how such a list would be maintained. It was further suggested that guidelines/principles be provided to ensure that the mailing list is used appropriately and cross posting between this and the main list is discouraged. There may be a list type that prevents duplication, perhaps a teaching-announce list could be used for SPG calls.

Members APPROVED the setting up of a list, subject to the details being investigated and further discussed at the next meeting. **ACTION: J Davenport/M Leslie**

9.2 **Treasurer's Update including CPHC subscription update** [CPHC/2026/09] – Members RECEIVED and NOTED the paper and were asked about a specific outstanding set of debts from the University of Exeter. Exeter has paid the 2025/26 subscription of £862, but has a number of debts from previous years when it has intermittently requested to resign its membership. The CPHC accountant had asked if these debts should be written off. Members expressed their wish for Exeter to provide a rationale for their non-payment in previous years (2019/20: £120; 2020/21: £348; 2021/22: £248; 2022/23: £348 and 2023/24: £348) and P Sant and M Leslie undertook to liaise on writing to Exeter to request this information. **ACTION: P Sant/M Leslie**

The figures in the audit sheet have not changed since the report to the AGM and income is slightly down on this time last year. Members undertook to review these figures more closely at the next meeting.

9.3 **Secretary's Update** – nothing further to report.

9.4 **Special Project Grants update** [CPHC/2026/13] – S Bradley reported that so far three applications had been approved in the March 2026 round, one of which provided further (in-cycle) information. The number of applications had decreased compared to last year and it is unclear why this is the case. A significant number of applications were turned down again due to the quality of the proposals. It would be good to run another workshop as this was last run at the Conference 3 years ago. It was agreed that there is not enough visibility of the output of projects and therefore they are not having the desired impact. Members discussed ways to address this and S Bradley undertook to arrange an online meeting for those institutions that were successful in the last round.

ACTION: S Bradley

Proposal for SPG work packages: S Bradley reported that the LDG had met a couple of times to discuss ways of focusing and improving applications for SPG. As a result it is proposed that, alongside the usual round of applications in September, there is a call for participation in "big projects" that the Committee commissions and leads. The idea is to identify some work packages that people can bid for, focusing the funding on the CPHC Strategic Priorities, and reducing the burden of making an application. The first suggested "big project" would be "Evidence-driven DEI: what interventions impact representation, progression, belonging", led by F Obembe with support from S Bradley. There are ideas for further work packages, but for now the LDG is seeking approval in principle to proceed with this idea, and to come back to the next Committee meeting with details of proposed work packages, requested funding and the process for application and evaluation. If this is successful the aim is to have a similar "big project" call in March 2027, focussing on Skills for Cyber, led by N Danino.

Members discussed the proposed work packages. This could include packages of up to £10k in funding or an umbrella project with smaller packages which would be good for DEI, but will need to be carefully managed by the LDG. It is envisaged that this will require one or two meetings. This was thought to be a good utilisation of the extra surplus being generated.

Members APPROVED the proposal in principle and S Bradley undertook to refine the process and details for members to consider at the next meeting in July.

ACTION: S Bradley

9.5 **UKCRC** – D Shadija had attended the last Executive Committee on 29 April and reported that at that meeting and at the AGM in December 2025, the members had set themselves a challenge to improve engagement which is time limited, potentially the next 12 months. The offer had been made to circulate calls for members to the CPHC member list. D Dancey queried whether, if UKCRC did not exist whether CPHC would need to do something else in that space. It would be worrying for the research community if there was no representation or advocacy. It was noted that in writing the CPHC strategy, a conscious effort was made to avoid stepping into the research space, but maybe more of this will be needed. A question was raised as to the currency of research expertise across the membership.

9.6 **NI HoS** [CPHC/2026/10] – RECEIVED and NOTED the report. The Chair asked J Wallace about sharing results and methodology for doing a survey with members and industrial liaison boards, similar to the AI Bubble engagement. Both J Wallace and J Davenport agreed to liaise further on this. **ACTION: J Davenport/J Wallace**

9.7 **Welsh HoS** – no report as currently no representative.

9.8 **Scottish HoS** – F McNeill reported that the current situation is in flux due to the Scottish elections and appointment of the First Minister. The Scottish Computing Education Committee is liaising with the government on curriculum development for schools, including the concern that computing science is siloed within technologies and the withdrawal of scientific content. There is also work being undertaken on maths in schools which students often struggle with in the context of computing, as is the case for other STEM subjects. SICSA is conducting research in this area and it recognised that there must be a balance between removing maths to make courses more appealing and fun and providing enough maths to prepare students for further studies. Efforts are being made to ensure that computing is well represented in discussions with government about AI and education.

9.9 Updates from Other Organisations & Activities – the Chair reported on conversations in the UK and EU on professional AI qualifications, as the EU is producing standards for qualifications. The UK is actively intersected but there is no formal proposal to the BSI as yet (J Davenport is on the BSI AI Committee).

10. LinkedIn posts

The Chair reminded members to forward any posts or ideas/themes for posts to N Danino or M Leslie.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Global Banking School application for CPHC institutional membership – for decision: members discussed the application and noted that GBS does not have degree awarding powers, although it delivers degrees awarded by another institution (Bath Spa University, which is not a CPHC member). J Davenport, K Chalmers and M Leslie undertook to liaise on the scenario of an member applicant with devolved degree awarding powers (from either a CPHC or non-CPHC member). GBS degrees are currently awarded via Bath Spa University, and J Davenport agreed to contact them. **ACTION: J Davenport, K Chalmers and M Leslie**

In the meantime, J Davenport will contact GBS with the outcome of their application to join. **ACTION: J Davenport**

11.2 Future online meeting records – members discussed the use of AI note for future online meetings and AGREED to its use provided the recordings and transcripts are removed following production of the minutes.

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2026	CONFERENCE/AGM DATES 2027
Monday 13 July 2026 – Online *Tuesday 13 October 2026 (13:30-16:30) – BCS London Wednesday 2 December 2026 – Online	Date/venue TBC

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

Actions – responsible people in red

#	Item	Min	Action	Who
May2026.1	EPSRC/UKRI update: Network+ bid	5.1	Draft a letter of support for the proposal and set up on CPHC headed paper	**S Bradley, J Davenport, P Sant (& Sec)**
May2026.2	CPHC Conference feedback	6	Look into the possibility of Cardiff University hosting the 2027 Conference	**K Jones**
May2026.3			Consider volunteering their institution to host in 2027 or 2028, especially if in a devolved nation	**Members**
May2026.4			Include 2027 Conference and beyond standing item for future meetings	**M Leslie**
May2026.5	Committee roles	7.2	Add K Hone and D Dancey as CPHC trustees	**M Leslie COMPLETE**

May2026.6	Programme of work	8.2	SP2: Report back on AI in maths workshop	**D Shadija COMPLETE**
May2026.7		8.3	Add sustainable computing to SP3	**P Sant**
May2026.8	Chair's update: CPHC-teaching list	9.1.1	Investigate CPHC-Teaching JISCMail list options and report back to next meeting	**J Davenport/ M Leslie**
May2026.9	Treasurer's update	9.2	Liaise on writing to University of Exeter about outstanding CPHC subscription debts	**P Sant/M Leslie**
May2026.10	SPG update	9.4	Arrange an online meeting with SPG institutions	**S Bradley**
May2026.11			Refine the 'big project' process for consideration at the next meeting	**S Bradley**
May2026.12	NI HoS update	9.6	Liaise on sharing results and methodology for ILB survey	**J Davenport/ J Wallace**
May2026.13	GBS application	11.1	Liaise on scenario of applicant with devolved degree awarding powers	**J Davenport/ K Chalmers/ M Leslie COMPLETE**
May2026.14			Liaise with Global Banking School on their CPHC member application outcome	**J Davenport COMPLETE**
Feb2026.7	Secretary's update	7.3	Compile list of Conference/Summit attendees from the past few years	**M Leslie**
Dec2025.1	Matters arising: Chair's update (Oct 25)	3.1.1	Liaise on publicising J Wallace's work in NI on LinkedIn and/or a specific area of the website	**N Danino/ J Wallace**
Dec2025.2	Matters arising: AOB: CPHC patron (Oct 25)	3.1.2	Contact Hannah Fry to ask if willing/available to become a patron	**J Davenport**
Dec2025.3	Matters arising: Workshop programme (Jul 25)	3.1.3	Work with the new BCS Academy Board Chair (once appointed in March 2026) on a co-ordinated workshop programme	**N Danino**
Oct2025.3	Chair's update	7.1	Provide any ideas for including on the LinkedIn page to N Danino	**Members**