

HoDoMS

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE UK

Confirmed minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 13:45 on Tuesday 14 April 2015 at Lucas House, University of Birmingham

Present:

Cathy Hobbs (CH)	<i>Chair</i>
Peter Clarkson (PC)	<i>Vice-Chair</i>
Mary McAlinden (MM)	<i>Secretary</i>
Dugald Duncan (DD)	<i>Treasurer</i>
David Arrowsmith (DA)	<i>Immediate past chair, IMA</i>
Fordyce Davidson (FD)	
Ian Dryden (ID)	RSS
Kevin Golden (KG)	
Peter Hydon (PEH)	
Jan van den Heuvel (JVH)	
Eddie Wilson (EW)	

In attendance:

Lindsay Walsh (LW)	LMS
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Apologies:

Stephen Huggett (SH)	LMS
Paul Harper (PRH)	ORSoc

Chair

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	Preliminaries	
	The Chair welcomed Ian Dryden, Peter Hydon and Fordyce Davidson as new members of the Committee and Mary McAlinden as the new secretary. She extended her thanks to the outgoing members and officers: Nigel Steele, Pargat Calay, Kevin Parrott and Toby O'Neill.	
1.	Apologies for absence	
	These are noted above.	
2.	Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 9 January 2015	
	The minutes of the January 2015 meeting were approved subject to minor corrections.	
3.	Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda	
	<p>The proposed survey of departments following REF 2014 has not taken place yet. It was agreed to establish whether or not the IMA and LMS were planning work in this area before taking any further action.</p> <p>DD reported that his name was now on the HoDoMS account. There was agreement that other signatories were required.</p> <p>MM reported that the workshop for postgraduate students new to teaching had taken place at Oxford Brookes. Students from 12 universities attended and the event was very successful.</p> <p>CH reported that she had written an article for the LMS Newsletter about the first female Head of a Mathematical Sciences Department.</p> <p>It was noted that the discussion of pockets of absence of provision in the Mathematical Sciences linked with one the conference discussions on the allocation and clustering of research/research training funding.</p>	<p>Action PC</p> <p>Action DD</p>
4.	Chair's communications/report	
	<p>The Chair of JMC alternates between a specialist in Mathematics and one in Mathematics Education. HoDoMS has been invited to nominate a mathematician as the next JMC Chair by 30 April. Suggestions should be emailed to the Chair before this date.</p> <p>JMC has invited HoDoMS to be included in a JMC letter of introduction of mathematical organisations to be sent to the new government. Initial views of the Committee were that such an introduction would only have value as an introductory communication and would need to be followed up. CH agreed to circulate the letter for further comment before responding.</p> <p>It was reported that MM had agreed to represent HoDoMS on the BCME9 Reference Committee.</p>	<p>Action All</p> <p>Action CH</p>

	<p>Obtaining some administrative support for HoDoMS activity was discussed. It was noted that similar organisations such as the Engineering Professors' Council (EPC) have such support. CH agreed to identify the activities that an administrator could undertake for HoDoMS and to find out how administrative support is managed by EPC.</p> <p>The possibility of HoDoMS providing some useful information for new Heads was raised. More broadly it was suggested that it would be useful to collate a concise list of useful facts about the value of the Mathematical Sciences which could be used by Heads within their own universities. LW pointed out that CMS has been considering collating similar information to present to the new government. It was agreed to contact CMS to find out what they are proposing.</p>	<p>Action CH</p> <p>Action EW</p>
5.	Conference 2015 review	
	<p>The Chair noted that she would send letters of thanks to conference speakers and collect their presentations for the website.</p> <p>The Committee review of the conference noted the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The programme had a good balance of information and discussion sessions covering a range of topics. (b) Providing wine at the dinner was well received. (c) The conference had been well run. (d) The attendance of more departments would have been even better. <p>There was a consensus that the conference had been successful.</p> <p>The suggestions for future conferences were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) providing tea/coffee after the conference dinner; (b) returning to a Thursday/Friday conference; (c) more formal chairing of sessions to facilitate questioning from a wider range of individuals; (d) longer discussion slots; (e) a date at the end of April, rather than at Easter; (f) sessions on new topics e.g. technology enhanced learning, student activity, NSS and league tables, placements and internships, the common good of Mathematics, departmental perspectives on research. <p>Logistic planning for the next conference needs to begin immediately. Dates for the next conference which avoid BMC and BAMC need to be identified and a conference booking made.</p>	<p>Action CH</p> <p>Action CH,MM</p>
6.	Induction course for new lecturers	
	<p>An update was given on progress since the last meeting. The IMA were unable to provide support for such a course in September due to other events. Since the last meeting the HEA has announced a new to teaching event scheduled for June 2015. The event does not distinguish between the needs of postgraduate</p>	

	<p>students and new lecturers. It does not provide the residential experience which members of HoDoMS want for new lecturers.</p> <p>CH reported that correspondence with the HEA had not been producing responses. MM reported that the HEA had been correspondence with her in which she had flagged concerns about the current offering and offered to work with the HEA to produce an alternative that would be suitable for Mathematical Sciences departments. She was waiting for a reply.</p> <p>It was agreed that HoDoMS wanted a residential course in September and that it would be preferable to work with the HEA if possible. HoDoMS could provide some funding to do this.</p> <p>It was agreed that the suggestion made during the conference to base a course on the <i>Transitions in Undergraduate Mathematics Education</i> book was not what was needed.</p> <p>Workshops for postgraduates were also discussed.</p> <p>One of the major administrative hurdles in arranging such events (and the conference) is the lack of an online booking system, such as those which many universities use internally. It was agreed that CH would investigate if there was such a system at UWE which could be used.</p>	Action CH																												
7.	Watching briefs																													
	<p>In the light of changes to the Committee the allocation of watching briefs was updated to the following.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="268 1330 1214 1890"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="268 1330 780 1368">Agency</th> <th data-bbox="780 1330 1214 1368"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1368 780 1406">JMC</td> <td data-bbox="780 1368 1214 1406">Cathy Hobbs</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1406 780 1444">ACME</td> <td data-bbox="780 1406 1214 1444">Mary McAlinden</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1444 780 1482">CMS</td> <td data-bbox="780 1444 1214 1482">David Arrowsmith/Lindsay Walsh</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1482 780 1520">NCETM HE</td> <td data-bbox="780 1482 1214 1520"><i>Deleted for future meetings</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1520 780 1559">GPS/Athena SWAN</td> <td data-bbox="780 1520 1214 1559">Peter Clarkson</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1559 780 1597">EPSRC</td> <td data-bbox="780 1559 1214 1597">Eddie Wilson</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1597 780 1635">IMA</td> <td data-bbox="780 1597 1214 1635">David Arrowsmith</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1635 780 1673">LMS</td> <td data-bbox="780 1635 1214 1673">Stephen Huggett/Kevin Golden</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1673 780 1711">RSS</td> <td data-bbox="780 1673 1214 1711">Ian Dryden</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1711 780 1749">ORSOC</td> <td data-bbox="780 1711 1214 1749">Paul Harper</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1749 780 1787">UUK</td> <td data-bbox="780 1749 1214 1787">Peter Hydon</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1787 780 1825">European Mathematical Society (EMS)</td> <td data-bbox="780 1787 1214 1825">Stephen Huggett</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1825 780 1863">Engineering Professors Council (EPC)</td> <td data-bbox="780 1825 1214 1863">Cathy Hobbs</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="268 1962 357 2000">Reports</p>	Agency		JMC	Cathy Hobbs	ACME	Mary McAlinden	CMS	David Arrowsmith/Lindsay Walsh	NCETM HE	<i>Deleted for future meetings</i>	GPS/Athena SWAN	Peter Clarkson	EPSRC	Eddie Wilson	IMA	David Arrowsmith	LMS	Stephen Huggett/Kevin Golden	RSS	Ian Dryden	ORSOC	Paul Harper	UUK	Peter Hydon	European Mathematical Society (EMS)	Stephen Huggett	Engineering Professors Council (EPC)	Cathy Hobbs	
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<p>JMC (CH) Points are covered earlier in the minutes.</p> <p>ACME (MM) An update was given as a conference presentation.</p> <p>CMS (LW) (a) CMS is collating information to communicate to the incoming government. (b) Work on the People Pipeline report is continuing with a possible House of Commons launch later in the year. (c) CMS is responding to the Nurse and Dowling reviews. (d) Work is ongoing with the Royal Society on setting up a Mathematics subject committee.</p> <p>GPS/Athena SWAN (PC) A workshop on unconscious bias will take place in Edinburgh later in the year.</p> <p>EPSRC (EW) (a) Changes in the Mathematics priority areas were discussed at the conference. (b) Changes to EPSRC Fellowships have taken place. It was agreed that details of these and the new EPSRC mailing list should be communicated through the HoDoMS list.</p> <p>IMA (DA) (a) In the last year the two IMA education committees have been working to provide input to a range of consultations including on A-level Mathematics, Further Mathematics, GCSE Mathematics. There is concern about the pace of change. (b) In preparation for the post-election period the IMA has produced a short position statement. It was agreed that this would be circulated to the Committee.</p> <p>LMS (KG) (a) Discussions about the A-level reforms have been ongoing. (b) The first LMS research summer school is going ahead. It was oversubscribed. The LMS would like this activity to grow.</p> <p>RSS (ID) The response to the Nurse Review is being prepared and will go through CMS.</p> <p>ORSOC(PRH) There was no report.</p> <p>UUK (PEH) There was no report. (PEH had just taken on the brief earlier in the meeting.)</p>	<p>Action CH</p> <p>Action DA</p>
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	<p>EMS (SH) There was no report.</p> <p>EPC (CH) The meeting of EPC was scheduled for the following day. In the interim there was nothing to report.</p>	
8.	Any other business	
	There was none.	
9.	Date of next meeting:	
	Details will be circulated by email.	Action MM, CH
	The meeting closed at 15:30.	