

HoDoMS

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE UK

Confirmed minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 13:30 on Friday 22 April 2016 at Lucas House, Birmingham Conference Centre

Present:

Cathy Hobbs (CH)	<i>Chair</i>
Mary McAlinden (MM)	<i>Secretary</i>
Eddie Wilson (EW)	<i>Treasurer</i>
David Arrowsmith (DA)	<i>Immediate past Chair, IMA</i>
Ian Dryden	RSS
Kevin Golden (KG)	
Paul Harper (PRH)	ORSoc
Jan van den Heuvel (JVH)	
Peter Hydon (PEH)	
Matthias Maischak (MMai)	
Jeff Waldock (JW)	

In attendance:

Lindsay Walsh	LMS
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Apologies:

Peter Clarkson (PC)	Vice-Chair
Stephen Huggett (SH)	LMS

Chair

Dr Catherine Hobbs
Engineering Design &
Mathematics
University of West of England
Frenchay Campus
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1QY

Tel: 0117 32 83231

Email:
Catherine.Hobbs@uwe.ac.uk

Vice-Chair

Prof. Peter Clarkson
School of Mathematics
Cornwallis Building
University of Kent
Canterbury
Kent
CT2 7NF

Tel: 01227 82 7781

Email:
P.A.Clarkson@kent.ac.uk

Secretary

Dr Mary McAlinden
Department of Mathematical
Sciences
University of Greenwich
Old Royal Naval College
Park Row
London
SE10 9LS

Tel: 020 8331 8163

Email:
M.McAlinden@greenwich.ac.uk

Treasurer

Prof. Eddie Wilson
Department of Engineering
Mathematics
University of Bristol
Merchant Venturers Building
Woodland Road
Bristol
BS8 1UB

Tel: 0117 331 5606

Email:
r.e.wilson@bristol.ac.uk

	Preliminaries	
	The Chair welcomed new members Jeff Waldo and Matthias Maischak to the Committee and welcomed Eddie Wilson in his new role as Treasurer. Thanks were extended to Dugald Duncan for this valuable work in the role of Treasurer and to outgoing Committee member Fordyce Davidson for his contribution.	
1.	Apologies for absence	
	These are noted above.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting on 8 January 2016	
	The minutes of the January 2016 meeting were approved.	
3.	Matters arising not otherwise covered on the agenda	
	All actions from the previous meeting were completed. There were no other matters arising.	
4.	Chair's communications report	
	This had been delivered the previous evening at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).	
5.	Conference 2016 review	
	<p>There was a consensus that the conference had been a success with a strong delegate attendance, a good mix of speakers and some rich discussion. The Chair and Past-Chair highlighted work that they had done in an effort to encourage departments who did not in general attend the conference. While such departments do not necessarily attend, discussions with their Heads had revealed that they did value the work of HoDoMS.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Chair would write to thank speakers and obtain their presentations for the HoDoMS website where possible.</p>	Action CH
6.	Induction course for new lecturers	
	<p>MM gave an update on progress and provided provisional dates. It was anticipated that the event would be very popular given that there had been no such course for several years. It was felt that Departments would need information about the course as soon as possible. It was expected that this information would be available very soon. In discussions with the HEA it had been agreed that the fees for the course would be approved by the HoDoMS Committee before opening the course for registration.</p> <p>It was noted that the HEA speaker at the HoDoMS only made a passing reference to the course. There was a consensus that it was very important to communicate to Departments that all from the Mathematical Sciences community who were contributing to the event were doing so voluntarily without any form of payment.</p>	Action CH

	<p>There was also discussion of workshops for postgraduate students who teach. It was felt that it would be best to defer work on these until the induction course had run.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Watching briefs/items for note</p>	
	<p>Reports</p> <p>JMC (JVH)</p> <p>(a) JVH attended in place of CH. It was reported that JMC is in the process of becoming a charity.</p> <p>ACME (MM)</p> <p>(a) ACME has been undertaking work on the assessment of problem solving and will shortly be publishing a report on this.</p> <p>(b) Following on from the publication of the ACME report on initial teacher education (<i>Beginning teaching: best in class?</i>) ACME has been working on the dissemination of this work.</p> <p>(c) In the last few months ACME has set up an expert panel to look at the professional learning journey of teachers.</p> <p>(d) In February 2016 ACME convened a round table to discuss early years mathematical provision.</p> <p>CMS (LW)</p> <p>(a) CMS is seeking evidence from the Mathematical Sciences community to inform a response to the discussions with EPSRC on balancing capabilities. A request has already been circulated via the HoDoMS emailing list.</p> <p>(b) It was reported that CMS is discussing with the Royal Society on the setting up of a national standing committee for Mathematics. A meeting has taken place and another one is due. The discussions in this area have somewhat been overtaken by the announcement in the most recent budget that Professor Sir Adrian Smith will be undertaking a review of 16-18 Mathematics.</p> <p>GPS/Athena SWAN (PC)</p> <p>(a) There was no report.</p> <p>EPSRC (EW)</p> <p>(a) There was a discussion around the EPSRC Newsletter which some members of the Committee had received while others who had expected to receive it had not. The recent changes to Fellowships were also flagged up. EW reported that he had requested an update from EPSRC but that this had not been forthcoming yet.</p> <p>IMA (DA) and LMS (KG)</p> <p>(a) Responding to consultations had been key areas of work for both the</p>	

	<p>IMA and the LMS. The consultations on the TEF Green paper and the HEFCE consultation on quality matters were major pieces of work.</p> <p>RSS (ID)</p> <p>(a) Again the RSS had been heavily engaged in consultation responses. In particular the RSS response to the Stern review of the REF stated that peer review should not be replaced by metrics.</p> <p>(b) The RSS response to the Green Paper on the TEF raised the importance of developing Statistics in universities across broader subject areas rather than just being concentrated in large groups in Mathematics departments.</p> <p>(c) The next RSS Conference will be in Manchester from 5-8 September 2016.</p> <p>ORSoc(PRH)</p> <p>(a) Arising from the ORSoc theme day in September 2015 was the agreement that EPSRC will now treat OR as a single research theme. The Board of the OR Society has agreed to set up a new Research Panel with the goal of improving the health of OR research in the UK.</p> <p>UUK (PEH)</p> <p>(a) It was reported that UUK has been active in putting the case for remaining in the EU.</p> <p>EMS (SH)</p> <p>There was no report.</p> <p>EPC (CH)</p> <p>It was reported that preliminary information on the unpublished Wakeham review was discussed at a recent EPC event.</p>	
8.	Any other business	
	<p>Following the decision at the Annual General Meeting on 21 April for the HoDoMS Committee to change the status of HoDoMS to a Company Limited by Guarantee, a small working group was set up to investigate this further. CH, JVH and EW will form the working group and will report to the next Committee meeting in September.</p> <p>It was noted that the TEF technical consultation was due and it was agreed that DA would undertake to read the full white paper and update the Committee on key areas so that a decision could be taken on whether or not HoDoMS needed to respond at this stage.</p>	<p>Action CH, JVH and EW</p> <p>Action DA</p>
9.	Date of next meeting:	
	<p>It was agreed that MM and CH would work on dates for the next meeting and the conference and that this information would be circulated once confirmed.</p>	<p>Action CH and MM</p>

	The meeting closed at 14:30.	
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