

HoDoMS

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE UK

Confirmed minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11:00 on Friday 9 September 2016 at De Morgan House, Russell Square, London

Present:

Cathy Hobbs (CH)	<i>Chair</i>
Peter Clarkson (PC)	<i>Vice-Chair</i>
Mary McAlinden (MM)	<i>Secretary</i>
Eddie Wilson (EW)	<i>Treasurer</i>
David Arrowsmith (DA)	<i>Immediate past Chair, IMA</i>
Jan van den Heuvel (JVH)	
Peter Hydon (PEH)	
Matthias Maischak (MMai)	
Jeff Waldock (JW)	

In attendance:

Lindsay Walsh	LMS
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Apologies:

Kevin Golden (KG)	
Stephen Huggett (SH)	LMS
Ian Dryden (ID)	RSS
Paul Harper (PRH)	ORSoc

Chair

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6.	Financial Status of HoDoMS	
	<p>While EW had taken over as Treasurer the change of name had not taken place on the HoDoMS bank account, thereby resulting in some extra administrative hurdles. Nevertheless Committee members were asked to send expenses forms to EW. CH agreed to send the expenses form to EW for updating.</p> <p>Since the last meeting CH, EW and JVH had meet to discuss progress on changing the status of HoDoMS to a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). Accountants had been consulted and the advice was that a solicitor should be employed to provide legal advice. There was a consensus this was a sound move and that the on-off investment in obtaining professional legal advice would benefit HoDoMS in the longer term. It was agreed that EW and CH would take this forward and obtain quotations from accountants and solicitors.</p> <p>A change of status would require a vote of the AGM which could either happen at the next HoDoMS Conference or, if sufficient progress had been made, at an extraordinary AGM in January. Advance notification to members of HoDoMS would have to be given as set out in the HoDoMS Constitution.</p> <p>It was also reported that work was ongoing on the website and that a small honorarium had been paid for the work done.</p>	<p>Action CH</p> <p>Action CH, EW</p>
7.	Induction course for new lecturers	
	<p>It was reported that the first HoDoMS/HEA Induction Course for new lecturers would be taking place at the University of Greenwich on 15-16 September 2016. The planning and academic development of the course, the arrangement of the venue and recruitment of speakers had been undertaken by MM as the HoDoMS nominee. The HEA arranged the web-presence, took the bookings, and arranged speaker accommodation. All the contributions from the Mathematical Sciences community were given voluntarily, with the HEA charging for their services.</p> <p>It was reported that there had been issues with the HEA pricing of the course, but that throughout HoDoMS had insisted on transparency. Some Committee members said that they were unable to send their staff to the course as the cost was prohibitive. Others felt that the value to Departments of a HEA badged course was essential as this was the only way in which they could use the course productively to gain credit for members of staff within their institutions.</p> <p>MM drew to the attention of Committee that she had approached all of the speakers asking for their time before the issues regarding costing had arisen. She highlighted the importance of making sure that the Mathematical</p>	

	<p>Sciences community knew about the voluntary contributions of speakers and that they were thanked after the event. It was agreed that an email would be sent to the HoDoMS list explaining this and asking for feedback from Departments.</p> <p>CH said that she would write to thank speakers on behalf of the Committee, once the event was over.</p>	<p>Action CH</p> <p>Action CH</p>
<p>8.</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) In May 2016 Professor Alex Halliday FRS, Vice-President of the Royal Society, took over as Interim ACME Chair.</p> <p>(b) In June 2016 ACME published a report entitled <i>Problem solving in mathematics: realising the vision through better assessment</i>.</p> <p>(c) The most recent ACME Conference took place in July 2016.</p> <p>(d) ACME has been actively involved in engaging with the Smith Review and the review of Mathematics Functional Skills.</p> <p>CMS (LW)</p> <p>(a) A report was given on discussions between CMS and EPSRC on the DTP allocation model. The Chair of CMS had written to CH asking for assistance on collecting further information on how ready Departments were for this and the degree of engagement during DTP discussions within institutions. It was agreed that CH would circulate information about the request to the HoDoMS list.</p> <p>GPS/Athena SWAN (PC)</p> <p>(a) The next GPS workshop will be on Wednesday 12 October at De Morgan House. The focus will be "Good Practice in Recruitment".</p> <p>(b) The GPS Steering Committee would welcome ideas from HoDoMS on topics for future workshops.</p> <p>(c) One more Department of Mathematical Sciences has been successful in achieving a Bronze Award with a further two successfully retaining their awards.</p> <p>(d) The new format for Athena SWAN applications has been introduced. November 2016 is the last time that the old scheme can be used.</p> <p>EPSRC (EW)</p> <p>(a) It was reported that DTP issues were being discussed by the SAT.</p>	<p>Action CH</p>

- (b) It was noted that another round of Shaping Capability is about to happen.
- (c) There is in existence a draft proposal to remove the cap on EPSRC first grants. It is worth noting that applications for first grants can also be submitted to other Research Councils where appropriate.

IMA (DA)

- (a) The IMA has been active in responding to consultations on the TEF and the Smith Review and in working through CMS on discussions regarding a subject committee for Mathematics.
- (b) DA reported that he had attended a meeting at the Royal Society with other representatives from Mathematics and Statistics organisations and ACME regarding Mathematics Education and its representation to Government.

LMS (KG/PC)

- (a) The LMS Research Policy Committee (RPC) had discussed the possibility of collecting data about Mathematical Sciences Departments who had successfully obtained research funding within their institutions. The LMS Executive Secretary will be contacting HoDoMS to gauge interest in such a study.
- (b) The RPC thanked Heads for their responses to the survey on EPSRC DTPs. There was a concern that EPSRC had not made obvious efforts to check on the impact of the new DTP allocations on Mathematical Sciences. This will be taken up with the EPSRC Chief Executive and will be discussed at the EPSRC Mathematical Sciences SAT.

RSS (ID)

- (a) The RSS responded to the TEF and made the point that there is no evidence that NSS scores are associated with teaching quality.
- (b) The main RSS International Conference took place in Manchester from 5-8 September 2016.

ORSoc(PRH)

- (a) The new OR Society branding and logo were launched at the annual conference in Portsmouth in September 2016.
- (b) 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, with the inaugural meeting being planned for mid-September 2016.
- (c) The 2016 Blakett Memorial Lecture will be given by Professor Andrew Blake, Director of the Alan Turing Institute.
- (d) A new special interest group on Behavioural OR has been established.

UUK (PEH)

	<p>(a) It was reported that that there was very little STEM related activity to report. UUK has been active in representing the perspectives of universities in the light of the Brexit vote. Work is also ongoing in relation to TEF.</p> <p>EMS (SH)</p> <p>(a) The Council of the EMS was held in Berlin in July 2016. (b) The results of the EMS elections have been announced. (c) The 7th European Congress of Mathematics was held in Berlin in July. The 8th European Congress of Mathematics will be held in Portoroz, Solvenia in July 2020. (d) The EMS Executive Committee has issued a statement on the treatment of academics in Turkey.</p> <p>EPC (CH)</p> <p>It was reported that the Wakeham review had been published, but otherwise there was nothing to report.</p> <p>Following all the reports it was agreed that CH would review the list of organisations on the list of watching briefs to establish if it needed revision.</p>	Action CH
9.	Any other business	
	<p>The Chair reported that a university Mathematics Department had contacted her as a substantial number redundancies were in prospect for the Department. The Committee discussed possible courses of action. It was agreed that more information was need before committing to action and that the Chair would contact the Department to find out more and establish best how HoDoMS could assist.</p>	Action CH
10.	Date of next meeting:	
	<p>The next meeting will be on Friday 13 January 2017 at De Morgan House, London.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 14:05.</p>	