

HoDoMS

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE UK

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11am on Friday 16
September 2011 at the London Mathematical Society, Russell
Square, London.**

Present:

David Arrowsmith	Chair
Toby O'Neil	Secretary
Jeremy Levesley	Immediate Past Chair
Tony Wickstead	Treasurer
Mary McAlinden	
Kevin Parrott	
Charles Taylor	Vice-Chair
Catherine Hobbs	
Martin Hyland	
Nigel Steele	IMA
Fiona Nixon	LMS exec secretary
Anne Bennett	LMS Group Head (Council & Committees)

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		ACTION
1.	Apologies	
	Dugald Duncan, Pargat Singh-Calay, Duncan Lawson, Jeff Griffiths, Alison Hooper.	
2.	Minutes of 8th April 2011 meeting	
	Future DFES workshop was noted. LMS/HoDoMs Share Education Day held on 31 May 2011. Chris Wood. Pointer to outcome needed. Conference report of MSOR and IMA.	DA
3.	Matters arising from last meeting	
	<u>Workload survey</u> <i>Goal:</i> to investigate standard workloads in departments across country (potentially a tool for HoDs for internal negotiations). <i>Decision:</i> Priority low: Postponed indefinitely. KP supports – will provide more leverage. DA: need to improve communications first with Heads, then reconsider the possibility. This will need resource. MH: need to have clear reason for gathering data and rationale to persuade HoDs to engage. <i>Conclusion:</i> it would be a good idea to have an abeyance list	TO
	<u>Analysis of RAE results</u> <i>Goal:</i> to understand how interdisciplinarity fared in last RAE. DD was asked to look into it but very hard to gather information. DA: Feed to John Toland any issues that arise from HoDoMS members.	DA
	HoDoMS website: see Item 6.	
	Potential report on "Share education". (joint LMS/HoDoMs).	MH/DA
	<u>Role of HoDoMs in support of MSOR</u> DA: requested whether departments could provide some funding. Variable response. MH: Lack of collective appreciation of MSOR and its role in ensuring our new academics receive appropriate training. DA: Will run with subscription ideas. Clarification on the payment method is needed. MG said community needs to feel there is an immediate return on basis of this fund-raising. DA: is it reasonable to ask DL to say what the money would buy? Yes. CT: Ideally, PG training/initial lecturer conference. MM: Appointed as Discipline Lead for Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research (MSOR) at the Higher Education Academy, York. This academic year the MSOR Network has committed to running 10 PG workshops and MM is currently committed to 10 events. MM: welcomes people telling her what they want.	MM

	<p>MH: Need to be clear that this is a short time thing rather than long term and make distinction clear. Good moment for HoDoMS to be quite active with MSOR. Need to think in terms of 'training for future vs training new staff'. MH: HoDoMS attests to MSOR schemes and (if new person has) then says that the person has already done lecturer training.</p> <p>JL: MSOR + LMS Education Committee + IMA could give a consolidated big picture of new mathematics lecturer training to play in to universities.</p> <p>DA: MSOR new lecturer course too small to count internally – needs beefing up to something that can compete! (CH: whole advantage is its brevity.)</p> <p>JL: Whole community needs plan.</p> <p>DA: Need to draw interested parties together to draw this up. (Use our money for this at least partly.)</p> <p>NS: IMA very much supports continuation of MSOR and offered money to help them get leverage to keep going. Recognition from community of importance of MSOR vital.</p> <p>JL: How do we bridge gap between PhD and somebody appointable as a lecturer? What is career path for UK mathematicians?</p> <p>MH: This issue falls between different camps. We could provide global view.</p> <p>DA: First step 'academic practice for mathematicians'.</p>	
	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>Lack of engagement in large depts. Report later – item 4</p> <p>CMS and HoDoMS later in agenda – Item 4</p> <p>Conference report for MSOR and newsletter</p>	DA
4.	Correspondence / Chair's communications	
	<p>Responses on attending HoDoMs. DA approached 10 institutions and had 3 responses. (One long) . Re usefulness of conference large departments often have other routes to same people but support HoDoMS in principle! HoDoMS performs a valuable role. Collectively weaker than individually, gathering of middle-managers and in competition to some extent.</p>	
	<p>DA: Frank Kelly Chair CMS – DA thought there was good communication on response to EPSRC over research fellowships. Independently but mutually supportive.</p> <p>DA: wrote to Philippa Hemmings (EPSRC) asking her to explain decision and length of time it will last and to indicate how they will engage with depts. EPSRC lacks resources to be broad, so over focusing – hence the issue of restricted EPSRC Fellowships. I think she found our approach helpful in that we offered a way forward. Saw PH on 15th September and had long informal discussion. Again, I feel a critical issue for HoDoMS is the engagement of EPSRC in effective small grant support for more departments while preserving the current focus supporting excellence</p> <p>AB: Provided update – re recent letter to EPSRC from Margaret Wright, Chair of International Review. Attended S&T select committee earlier this week and they were aware of current exchanges. David Delpy said would pay great attention to MW letter and acknowledged there was a communication issue. David Willetts was pressed on this as well.</p> <p>DA told PH that EPSRC had to communicate better with departments, and become more relevant to more of them. PH should force institutions to engage more with less successful ones and force community to drive engagement. (cf. Big Society agenda?)</p>	

	<p>Made suggestions for ways to broaden involvement of departments.</p> <p>MH: Thinks too optimistic about modifying EPSRC view. Right to focus on wider community. Natural for HoDoMS to have different view to CMS and to take a different avenue.</p>	
	<p>Membership of CMS</p>	
	<p>DA: raised with Frank Kelly membership of HoDoMS in CMS. But got a rather downbeat response – and not seen appropriate for institutions such as HoDoMS to be in CMS. No current view to revisit.</p> <p>NS: Keep pushing – it will happen!</p> <p>AB: Note that Jeff Griffiths is a potential conduit. (However doesn't attend meetings!)</p> <p>MH: Don't get distracted by this, concentrate on developing role of organisation (and rest will follow).</p> <p>DA: Had we been in CMS, may not have been able to write a HoDoMS letter.</p> <p>DA: Conclusion, will continue to pursue membership but in a pragmatic way and take advantage of different viewpoint when appropriate.</p>	
5.	<p>Matters arising from 2011 Conference</p>	
	<p>Good Practice Award</p> <p>CH: There was a workshop in May here in de Morgan house. Went very well, very positive and well-received. However LMS Council raised some issues: not happy with concept of an award. Steering committee called in to talk to LMS. Did so and conclusion of LMS is that a formal LMS award is not feasible. (Issue, LMS has no experience of being an accrediting body.)</p> <p>There will be a meeting with LMS in two weeks time to discuss way forward. After that, CH will be able to report back to us.</p> <p>CH: Described connection to Athena Swan Award, which is data collection heavy. GPA intended to be 'lighter touch' and complementary. There are other discipline-specific awards.</p> <p>REF2012 Discussion</p> <p>John Toland is happy to return to conference next year. It was felt that we should spend more time on mathematical issues, and less on the more general aspects of Panel F at the next meeting.</p>	
6	<p>Communication within HoDoMS</p>	
	<p><i>Fiona Nixon (LMS) only present for this item.</i></p> <p>HoDoMS website</p> <p>FN: Offered services of LMS to support us. Needed framework for progress. Variable prices from £2pa to £120 pa for web name. Decide d to use CMS webpage as a model. Potential item for next agenda.</p> <p>DA: Background issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications among members is not working. We need a blog of some sort, but not proprietary (e.g. Facebook or Twitter! – CT) 2. A private forum/discussion page. Discussions initiated via email. (Blog) Copy CMS! 3. Underlying database needed. 4. Potential Membership: Current HoDs, Recent exHoDs, LMS/RSS/ORS/LMS/IMA/CMS. 5. Gatekeepers needed. 	

6.	EPSRC Postdoctoral Fellowships																																	
	DA: Mentioned in Item 4.																																	
7.	Preliminary ideas for Conference 2012																																	
	<p>Possible ideas for 2012 Conference (provisional date: 12/13 April 2012)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student experience (NUS education chair?) 2. REF 2014 – already raised with John Toland, he’s happy to attend. 3. Government (Adrian Smith?) 4. Performance Management (David Riley?) Retirement issue? How to handle it? What are views of community on this? Want view from admin side as well. 5. Employability (Robert Leese CBI sp? Heather Tewskbury?) chair of the graduate recruiters’ association. (Put next to student experience.) 6. Community reports: HEA, MSOR 7. HE-STEM Makhan Singh (get him to introduce outputs perhaps before lunch?) 8. EPSRC workshop – hopefully something different from previous – how do we broaden engagement. Issues with research students. 	TO, DA																																
	Representation on other committees																																	
8.	<p>Do we need to track all these other committees/organisations? JL: What are we trying to achieve? May return to this at a later date.</p>																																	
9	Watching briefs/external organisation representation																																	
	<p>Current Brief distribution:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Agency</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>JMC</td> <td>Duncan Lawson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACME</td> <td>Kevin Parrott</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CMS</td> <td>David Arrowsmith</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NCETM HE</td> <td>Pargat Calay</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HEA MSOR Network</td> <td>Duncan Lawson/Mary McAlinden</td> </tr> <tr> <td>STEM (incl WP)</td> <td>Alison Hooper</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EPSRC</td> <td>Dugald Duncan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IMA</td> <td>Nigel Steele</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LMS</td> <td>Martin Hylund</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RSS</td> <td>Charles Taylor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ORSOC</td> <td>Jeff Griffiths</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TDA</td> <td>Jeremy Levesley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UUK</td> <td>Toby O’Neil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bologna International Affairs</td> <td>Charles Taylor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Engineering Professors Council maths working group</td> <td>Cathy Hobbs (to be nominated by us)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Routine reports should be sent to the Secretary to the Committee one week before each committee meeting. News requiring urgent action should be sent immediately.</p>	Agency		JMC	Duncan Lawson	ACME	Kevin Parrott	CMS	David Arrowsmith	NCETM HE	Pargat Calay	HEA MSOR Network	Duncan Lawson/Mary McAlinden	STEM (incl WP)	Alison Hooper	EPSRC	Dugald Duncan	IMA	Nigel Steele	LMS	Martin Hylund	RSS	Charles Taylor	ORSOC	Jeff Griffiths	TDA	Jeremy Levesley	UUK	Toby O’Neil	Bologna International Affairs	Charles Taylor	Engineering Professors Council maths working group	Cathy Hobbs (to be nominated by us)	All
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	<p>RSS: Two issues of concern are REF2014 and EPSRC policy. REF2014: long periods between submission and publication for math sciences - maternity/career breaks. Current rules don't allow sufficient time. (DA: Can special circumstances help? MH: Limited use of arxiv may help here?) EPSRC: Concern about current directions in policy (see elsewhere in minutes). Bologna/International Affairs: UUK response to framework been sent. TDA: NS reported that Michael Gove said there would be a pilot of a science-specific PGCE. ACME: KP. Primarily concerned about curriculum review 5-16 kicking off in 2012. Responding to HE white paper and effect of AAB on A level subject choice. Noted Carol Vorderman's report. JL: We're 47th in international league table for maths.</p>	
	Date of next meeting	
10.	Friday 20 th January 2012 at De Morgan House. Tea/coffee from 10.30am for 11am start.	
	Any other business	
11.	There was no other business.	

Chair's signature

Date

Items in abeyance		
	Workload survey	
	RAE results analysis	