

HoDoMS

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE UK

Committee Meeting

Confirmed minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 14:00 on Wednesday 11 September 2019 at the University of Reading

Present:

Steve Langdon (SL)	<i>Vice-Chair</i>
Mary McAlinden (MM)	<i>Secretary</i>
Jan van den Heuvel (JVH)	<i>Treasurer and Director</i>
Ruth Fairclough (RF)	
Jon Forster (JF)	RSS
Matthias Maischak (MMai)	
Anke Wiese (AW)	By Skype
Lindsay Walsh	CMS

Apologies:

Philip Aston (PA)	<i>Chair and Director</i>
Ineke de Moortel (IDM)	EdMS
Kevin Golden (KG)	
Michael Grove (MG)	IMA
Owen Jones (OJ)	ORSoc
Cathy Hobbs (CH)	<i>Immediate past Chair and Director</i>
Paul Milewski (PM)	
Nick Monk (NM)	
John Parker (JP)	LMS

Chair

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	Preliminaries	
	The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.	Apologies for absence	
	These are noted above.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting on 5 April 2019	
	The minutes of the April 2019 meeting were provisionally approved, subject to ratification at the next Board of Directors meeting.	
3.	Matters arising not otherwise covered on the agenda	
	<p>Ineke de Moortel, from the Edinburgh Mathematical Society (EdMS) had been added to the HoDoMS Committee emailing list.</p> <p>It was noted that the Chair had filed the HoDoMS Confirmation Statement and the Treasurer was in the process of producing a summary of accounts. A brief summary update was provided for the meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the audit of HoDoMS documents was still pending and would be brought forward at the next meeting.</p> <p>Circulation of the evaluation of the previous conference was still pending.</p> <p>It was unclear whether the ICMS would be able to help with setting up general HoDoMS email address. It was agreed to investigate this.</p> <p>All other actions were either completed or had been superseded by events.</p>	<p>Action JVH</p> <p>Action MM</p> <p>Action PA</p> <p>Action JVH</p>
4.	Chair's communications report	
	<p>It was noted that since the last meeting the Chair had:</p> <p>(a) been in discussions with the ICMS about continued support for HoDoMS work;</p> <p>(b) arranged a venue for the next conference;</p> <p>(c) filed the Confirmation Statement for the HoDoMS CLG.</p>	
5.	Working with the ICMS	
	<p>Since the last meeting the Chair had spoken to the ICMS and they had indicated that they were happy to continue working with HoDoMS. A new contract had been drafted, but to date the ICMS had not signed it, even though a reminder had been sent.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the types of work the ICMS seemed most able to carry out and future support. It was agreed that the Committee would continue working with them with the preparations for the next conference, and that the work arrangements would be kept under review. It was agreed that the Chair would contact them again about getting the contract signed.</p>	Action PA
6.	Course for Heads	

	<p>The Course for Heads took place on 10, 11 September at the University of Reading. It was noted that the administrative work associated with the event had been carried out by SL with support from the University of Reading Conference Team. A £10 administration fee for this was charged per delegate. The overall cost per delegate was charged at £200 per person.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the event, which had a good attendance, with delegates who were very experienced Heads, others with less experience and quite a few aspiring Heads. It was noted that there were delegates from across the UK, including Scotland and Wales. While Reading is not central as a venue, it was noted that transport links to the city are very good.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Vice-Chair would write to speakers to thank them for their contributions and ask them if they wished to make the slides available via the HoDoMS website, if appropriate.</p> <p>The timing was such that a detailed analysis of the feedback had not yet taken place, but initial feedback was very positive. There was a view that it would be useful to try and run the event again next year, with possibly some new topics for next year e.g. physical spaces. It was agreed that AW would join the planning Committee for next year with SL remaining as Chair of the group – at least initially. It was agreed that the group would bring forward suggestions to the next meeting.</p> <p>A suggestion that had come forward during the event and the subsequent Committee meeting, was the mentoring of new Heads, possibly by other Heads. It was agreed that this was something the Committee could think about for the future.</p>	<p>Action SL</p> <p>Action SL, RG, AW, PM</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Conference Planning</p>	
	<p>It was noted that the next conference would be on 23 and 24 April at Warwick. The Committee discussed possible speakers for the event. It was agreed that the Chair would take the suggestions forward.</p>	<p>Action PA</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Watching briefs/items for note</p>	
	<p>Short reports from Committee members were received and discussed.</p> <p>JMC (JVH)</p> <p>(a) An update had been given on a so-called Maths Week, organised by Andrew Jeffrey.</p> <p>(b) The Treasurer had met with Alice Rogers to discuss issues around the increasing number of entrance tests for mathematics. This was suggested as a possible conference topic.</p> <p>ACME (MM)</p> <p>(a) The RS ACME Committee agreed to the undertaking of a new longer-term programme of work, focusing on mathematics curricula.</p> <p>(b) The Royal Society has commissioned the Careers Research and Advisory</p>	

Centre (CRAC) to undertake research into how universities signal the importance of mathematics post-16.
(c) The RS ACME T levels Working Group paper on general mathematics competencies (GMCs) has been sent to the Department for Education.

CMS (LW)

(c) Sir Ian Diamond, Chair of CMS, has been appointed as the National Statistician.

GPS/Athena SWAN (JVH)

There was nothing to report.

EPSRC (SL)

- (a) Professor Lynn Gladden, EPSRC's Executive Chair, had a series of meetings with the engineering and physical sciences community in early September (in London, Bristol, Sheffield and Edinburgh).
- (b) EPSRC has introduced a new advisory board, the Science, Engineering and Technology Board. Their first meeting, with an interim membership, was held on September 11 2019, and recruitment for the full membership is expected to commence shortly.
- (c) EPSRC are strongly encouraging panel members to provide more feedback on the panel review process.

Additional

- (d) UKRI has updated its fEC Grant Terms and Conditions and Training Grant Terms and Conditions, in particular setting out expectations relating to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, safeguarding, bullying and harassment and to guard against duplicate funding.
- (e) UKRI has signed the San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment, aimed at strengthening and promoting best practice in the way research is assessed.

IMA (MG)

- (a) The Induction Course is planned for 18/19 September in Cambridge with 51 delegates registered. The role of HoDoMS in the event has been promoted.
- (b) Two free national events for postgraduates involved in teaching within the mathematical sciences have been planned. These will take place on the 4 October in Edinburgh (in conjunction with the Scottish Mathematical Sciences Training Centre) and on the 16 October in Cambridge (in conjunction with the Isaac Newton Institute).

LMS (JP)

- (a) The LMS will be putting more money into extending the scheme for school teachers' CPD to also include HE teachers. This money is for conferences etc.
- (b) The LMS is also looking at the overall shortfall in school maths teachers and what can be done about it.
- (c) Some universities require summer bursary students to be employees, which can raise issues about paying a living wage. EPSRC have increased what they pay to summer bursary students. So the LMS is looking at

	<p>whether this means its summer bursaries are less attractive or not.</p> <p>RSS (JF) JF will be taking over as Vice-President Academic Affairs in January 2020.</p> <p>ORSoc (OJ) (a) The Women in OR and Analytics Network has its launch event at the Royal Society on 15 October. (b) The Committee of Professors in OR (COPIOR) is updating its ranking of journals in the field of Operational Research and Management Science. (c) There will be an OR Careers Open Day on 20 November 2019 at the Millennium Point, Birmingham.</p> <p>UUK (PA) (a) It has recently been decided that the increase in pension contributions will be shared between employers and members in line with the proposal made by Universities UK (UUK) on behalf of employers. (b) UUK are continuing to work with government and universities dealing with the implications of Brexit.</p> <p>European Mathematical Society (RF) There was nothing to report.</p> <p>EPC (CH) There was no report.</p> <p>REF (NM) There was no report.</p> <p>TEF (MM) It was reported that the Pearce Review was due to report in October 2019.</p>	
9.	Any other business	
	The Committee discussed succession planning at the request of the Chair (in his absence). It was agreed that individual members would discuss ideas and proposals with the Chair outside the meeting.	
10.	Date of next meeting:	
	The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 9 January 2020 at the LSE in London.	
	The meeting closed at 15:30.	

Signed: Professor Stephen Langdon
Vice-Chair

Date: 9 January 2020