

HoDoMS

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE UK

**Confirmed minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11:00 on Friday 12 January 2018 at 32
Lincoln's Inn Fields, London School of Economics and Political Science, London**

Present:

Philip Aston (PA)	<i>Chair</i>
Peter Clarkson	<i>Vice-Chair</i>
Mary McAlinden (MM)	<i>Secretary</i>
Jan van den Heuvel (JVH)	<i>Treasurer</i>
Steve Langdon (SL)	
Jeff Waldock (JW)	
Anke Wiese (AW)	

Apologies:

Ian Dryden (ID)	RSS
Ruth Fairclough (RF)	
Kevin Golden (KG)	
Michael Grove (MG)	IMA
Paul Harper (PH)	ORSoc
Cathy Hobbs (CH)	<i>Immediate past Chair</i>
Stephen Huggett (SH)	LMS
Matthias Maischak (MMai)	
Lindsay Walsh (LW)	LMS

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	Preliminaries	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.	Apologies for absence	
	These are noted above.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting on 8 September 2017	
	The minutes of the September 2017 meeting were approved subject to one minor correction.	
3.	Matters arising not otherwise covered on the agenda	
	<p>It was reported that a HoDoMS Committee JISCMail list had been set up.</p> <p>The action to send a reminder about the HoDoMS Conference to the HoDoMS list remained outstanding.</p> <p>The sending of an official HoDoMS thank you gift to Dugald Duncan also remained outstanding.</p> <p>All other actions were completed or were covered elsewhere on the agenda.</p>	<p>Action PA</p> <p>Action JVH</p>
4.	Chair's communications report	
	<p>The Chair reported that work had been ongoing since the last meeting to refine the HoDoMS Articles and Constitution. An update was given under item 6.</p> <p>Much work had been done on the conference planning since the last meeting and an update was given under item 5.</p> <p>Since the last meeting HoDoMS had been in close collaboration with CMS organisations regarding REF panel nominations and had finally submitted a list of 15 names (12 male and 3 female). It was noted that other CMS organisations had submitted their own lists. HoDoMS had supported the letter written to Alison Etheridge by MG requesting Mathematics Education representation on the REF panel.</p>	
5.	Conference planning	
	The Chair gave a brief update on the conference planning and the Committee was very supportive of the draft agenda and the strong group of speakers. There was some discussion about including more time for informal discussion in the programme, or the inclusion of a discussion session in the programme as a scheduled item or as a backup in the event of a speaker being unable to attend.	

	<p>The conference fee was discussed and it was agreed that the Treasurer would contact CH to find out how the fee had been worked out in the past. The Committee agreed that the fee should be set so that the conference was cost neutral. The Treasurer agreed to set up the conference booking so that notifications could be sent out to enable registration to start.</p> <p>Possible speakers to approach were identified.</p>	<p>Action JVH</p> <p>Action PA</p>
6.	Legal status of HoDoMS	
	<p>The Chair gave an update on the work that had been done since the last meeting. This had involved consultation with the solicitors and the legal advice was that the Articles would supersede the Constitution which would become known as the 'Rules'. It was agreed that the Special General Meeting (SGM) to vote on the Articles would take place immediately before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the HoDoMS Conference. It was agreed that the Chair would circulate the Articles, allowing four weeks for comment, before notification of the SGM was given within the stipulated 20 day requirement. At the same meetings the election of Directors and Officers would take place.</p> <p>The Secretary raised the issue of the HoDoMS address and asked if there was an update on the discussions that had been taking place with the LMS. The Chair agreed to speak to CH about this.</p>	<p>Action PA</p> <p>Action PA</p>
7.	Update from the Treasurer	
	<p>It was reported that HoDoMS now had a new bank account and that funds from the old account had been transferred to it, with only a nominal amount remaining in the old account in case subscriptions or other payments were inadvertently directed there.</p> <p>A new PayPal account had also been set up which JVH agreed to test out.</p> <p>The Treasurer said that finances were healthy. The annual subscription was set at £175 and the Treasurer agreed to send out the notifications regarding subscriptions shortly.</p>	<p>Action JVH</p> <p>Action JVH</p>
8.	Induction course for new lecturers	
	<p>JVH gave an update on progress.</p> <p>There was discussion about the fee for the course and it was felt that if HoDoMS could subsidise it by, e.g. £50 for up to 3 delegates per Department, this would help some of the less affluent Departments with the cost.</p>	

	It was agreed that JVH and PA would contact MG to discuss the arrangements.	Action PA/JVH
9.	LMS Good Practice Scheme	
	PC gave an overview of the LMS Good Practice Scheme. He gave a summary of HoDoMS involvement in the scheme and answered questions about it. PC was standing down as Chair of the LMS Good Practice Committee and Jeremy Levesley was standing down as HoDoMS representative. It was agreed that the Chair would write to thank Jeremy Levesley for representing HoDoMS on the Committee for so long. JVH agreed to take over as the HoDoMS representative. PA agreed to contact the LMS about this.	Action PA Action PA
10.	Succession planning	
	It was noted that both PC and JW would be standing down from the HoDoMS Committee at the AGM. Formal thanks were extended to both for their contributions while on the Committee. MMai and KG were both eligible for election. MMai had agreed to stand again but no response had been received from KG yet. The Chair said that he would write to Fiona Nixon at the LMS to get clarity regarding the LMS co-option(s).	Action PA
11.	Watching briefs/items for note	
	Short reports from Committee members were received and discussed. Reports JMC (JVH) The next British Congress of Mathematics Education (BCME) conference will take place in April. It was agreed that a reminder would be send to the HoDoMS list about this. ACME (MM) (a) The next ACME conference will take place in July 2018. (b) The former ALCAB/ALMAB group was now an ACME Contact Group and other such groups were being set up. (c) A Community of Interest Group had been set up which replaced the ACME Outer Circle. CMS (LW) There was no report. GPS/Athena SWAN (PC) This was covered under item 9.	Action MM

<p>EPSRC (SL)</p> <p>(a) In November 2017, EPSRC held a meeting for Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences.</p> <p>(b) The next EPSRC call for CDTs will be launched early in 2018, with the priority areas to be revealed on the launch date. Outline proposals will be needed by Easter 2018, with full proposals by the summer. The total budget is expected to be similar to the 2013 call.</p> <p>(c) The EPSRC outcomes framework suggested that there was a need to make UK society more productive, connected, resilient and healthy, but this was not intended to tightly prescribe research activities. EPSRC will continue to welcome long-term discovery-led research.</p> <p>(d) Balancing capability: EPSRC is seeking to grow funding for Statistics and Applied Probability, and Continuum Mechanics and to reduce funding for Complexity Science.</p> <p>(d) Recent EPSRC activities included: two new networks addressing different aspects of decision making under uncertainty; five new centres in the areas of Mathematical Sciences and Healthcare; new consortia on New Approaches to Data Science; refreshed fellowship priorities; an Early Career Forum; embedding and monitoring the changes to the DTP algorithm; working with the KTN to support the community-led review of Knowledge Exchange and the Mathematical Sciences; preparing for the refresh of the CDT portfolio.</p> <p>(e) EPSRC have put in place an equality and diversity action plan (reviewed in March 2017), which was closely aligned to the RCUK action plan.</p> <p>IMA (MG)</p> <p>There will be a meeting of IMA Representatives on 24 January 2018.</p> <p>LMS (PC)</p> <p>(a) The LMS had submitted a list of potential REF reviewers.</p> <p>(b) The Research Policy Committee was investigating how DTP monies were allocated to departments by universities.</p> <p>(c) The LMS and EPSRC SAT were looking at data on the monies allocated to PhD students in order to compare with EPSRC data.</p> <p>(d) PC was stepping down from HoDoMS and so it was agreed that PA would contact the Research Policy Committee about a replacement HoDoMS representative.</p> <p>RSS (ID)</p> <p>(a) The RSS was concerned about EPSRC DTP allocations for research student funding.</p> <p>(b) The new RSS Computational Statistics and Machine Learning Group will</p>	<p>Action PA</p>
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	<p>have a launch event on 25 January 2018.</p> <p>(c) The RSS received a lot of press coverage for the inaugural 'Statistic of the Year' awards.</p> <p>ORSoc (PRH)</p> <p>(a) John Hopes from EY (Ernst & Young) is the new President of the OR Society.</p> <p>(b) All of the Society's journals have now moved from Palgrave Macmillan to Taylor & Francis. A new ORS journal, <i>Journal of Business Analytics</i>, will be launched later in 2018.</p> <p>(c) The OR Society's 60th annual conference will take place in Lancaster (September 2018) and will be preceded by a new two-day Early Career Researcher workshop with a focus on research.</p> <p>UUK (PA)</p> <p>(a) UUK President Prof Janet Beer was recognised with a Damehood in the New Year Honours.</p> <p>(b) UUK welcomed the initial Brexit agreement and have been addressing issues such as pension reform and senior pay. They were pleased with the government's Industrial Strategy white paper, but wary of Jo Johnson's plans to develop a "Knowledge Exchange Framework", to compare how effective universities were at business engagement and knowledge exchange.</p> <p>EMS (SH)</p> <p>There was no report.</p> <p>EPC (CH)</p> <p>There was nothing new to report.</p> <p>The inclusion of watching briefs on TEF and REF was discussed. It was agreed to add and allocate these watching briefs following the Committee changes at the next AGM</p>	
11.	Any other business	
	<p>Congratulations were extended to CH on being promoted to Professor.</p> <p>For travel convenience of Committee members it was agreed that a target completion time for the next Committee meeting would be 15:30.</p>	Action PA
12.	Date of next meeting:	
	The next meeting was scheduled for Friday 20 April following the HoDoMS Conference.	
	The meeting closed at 14:10.	