

HoDoMS

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE UK

Combined Committee and
Board of Directors Meeting

Confirmed minutes of the Combined Committee and Board of Directors Meeting held at 14:00 on Friday 5 April 2019 at the Edgbaston Park Hotel, Birmingham

Present:

Philip Aston (PA)	<i>Chair and Director</i>
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)	
Nick Monk (NM)	
John Parker (JP)	LMS
Anke Wiese (AW)	

Apologies:

Kevin Golden (KG)	
Michael Grove (MG)	IMA
Owen Jones (OJ)	ORSoc
Cathy Hobbs (CH)	<i>Immediate past Chair and Director</i>
Paul Milewski (PM)	
Lindsay Walsh (LW)	CMS

Chair

Prof Philip Aston
Department of Mathematics
University of Surrey
Guildford,
GU2 7XH

Tel: 01483 68 2631

Email:
p.aston@surrey.ac.uk

Vice-Chair

Dr Steve Langdon
Department of Mathematics
and Statistics
University of Reading
Whiteknights
PO Box 220
Berkshire
RG6 6AX

Tel: 0118 378 5021

Email:
s.langdon@reading.ac.uk

Secretary

Dr Mary McAlinden
School of Computing and
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 Jan van den Heuvel
Department of Mathematics
Columbia House
London School of Economics
and Political Science
Houghton Street
London
WC2A 2AE

Tel: 020 7955 7632

Email:
j.van-den-heuvel@lse.ac.uk

	Preliminaries	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.	Apologies for absence	
	These are noted above.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting on 11 January 2019	
	The minutes of the January 2019 meeting were approved.	
3.	Matters arising not otherwise covered on the agenda	
	<p>It was reported that the LMS and the OR Society had agreed to become Associate Members of HoDoMS. The new OR Society representative was noted as Professor Owen Jones from Cardiff.</p> <p>The Chair had also approached the Edinburgh Mathematical Society (EMS) about Associate Membership and they too would like to become an Associate Member. There had been no objections at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the admission of the EMS was formally ratified by the Committee/Board. The contact for the moment would be Professor Ineke de Moortel, from St Andrews, the current EMS President. It was agreed that additions would be made to the various HoDoMS emailing lists to reflect this change.</p> <p>It was reported that the HoDoMS CLG satisfied the conditions for a micro-entity, due to the size of its annual turnover and as a result it was exempt from having an annual audit. However a brief summary of accounts would be needed for 31 August 2019.</p> <p>The Chair reported that due to the change of legal status of HoDoMS a Confirmation Statement had to be filed. It was agreed that the Chair would take this forward.</p> <p>It was reported that the Treasurer had been in contact with the IMA about the Induction Course for New Lecturers and it had been agreed that HoDoMS would make a contribution of £2000 towards the running of the course again this year.</p> <p>The audit of HoDoMS documents remained outstanding.</p> <p>The discussion of the work carried out by the ICMS and work in the GDPR area were deferred until later items. All other actions were either completed or superseded.</p>	<p>Action PA</p> <p>Action JVH</p> <p>Action PA</p> <p>Action MM</p>
4.	Chair's communications report	
	This had been given at the AGM the previous evening.	
5.	Conference 2019 Review	
	All present agreed that the 2019 conference had gone well. The Chair agreed to collate the contents of the conference evaluation forms and circulate a summary to the Committee.	Action PA

	<p>It was agreed that overall the venue worked well, although there were some issues with the room temperature of the main conference room, the uncomfortable chairs and the general acoustics. It was suggested that it would have been preferable to have the projection facing in the opposite direction so that delegates could conveniently enter and leave the room without disrupting the flow of the conference.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Chair would write to thank the speakers and arrange to publish their slides on the website, where permission was given.</p> <p>It was noted that delegates did not receive acknowledgement of conference registration. The use of a gmail email address for correspondence about the conference was felt not to be ideal. It was agreed that the Chair and Treasurer would explore a more general HoDoMS email address which could perhaps be accessed via the HoDoMS website. Consultation with the ICMS was suggested as a possible way forward.</p> <p>There was some discussion of possible speakers for next year, but further discussion was deferred until the next meeting. Possible dates for next year's conference were discussed but this would depend on the availability of the venue, which the Chair agreed to explore.</p>	<p>Action PA</p> <p>Action PA/JVH</p> <p>Action PA</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>GDPR</p>	
	<p>It was reported that while HoDoMS had a privacy statement, this would now need to be updated following the move to a CLG.</p> <p>The Chair reported that HoDoMS now had a new Sharepoint site. It was agreed that existing HoDoMS documents would be transferred to the site when possible. An initial stage of the process would be determining the full extent of the documents HoDoMS held and deciding what needed to be retained. It was agreed that the Chair and Secretary would take this forward. Where there were queries over whether or not documents needed to be retained these queries would be brought to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Action PA</p> <p>Action PA/MM</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Working with the ICMS</p>	
	<p>The Treasurer reported that there had been some initial communication issues between HoDoMS and the ICMS surrounding the conference and subscription collection, but that once identified these were quickly sorted out. The Secretary pointed out that arrangements for printing conference documents and badges had been very efficient. In general the support from the ICMS for the conference had been very valuable.</p> <p>PA reported that the workload for the ICMS that had been shared with the Committee had been sent to the ICMS, but that they had not signed any agreement. JVH also drew attention to the fact that the ICMS had not billed HoDoMS yet, so it was impossible to predict the likely costs for future work. These areas needed to be addressed.</p>	

	<p>Subject to sorting out the above points it was agreed that it would be desirable to continue working with the ICMS, probably for a year before a realistic assessment could be made of whether or not this was an effective way forward.</p> <p>It was also felt that it would be useful to determine ways in which the ICMS could access HoDoMS information. It was identified that there could potentially be issues with information relating to finance.</p> <p>It was agreed that PA and JVH would arrange a Skype meeting with Jane Walker from the ICMS to discuss all of the points above.</p>	<p>Action PA/JVH</p>
8.	Course for Heads	
	<p>Following on from the presentation given at the conference it was agreed that the Course for Heads would take place at the University of Reading on Tuesday 10 September and Wednesday 11 September at a price of about £150 per person. It was agreed that SL would send the anticipated costs through to JVH for the purposes of budget checking before the final cost was agreed.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be helpful if the ICMS could handle the registrations and perhaps collect the payments. PA agreed to enquire if they would be willing to do this.</p>	<p>Action SL/JVH</p> <p>Action PA</p>
9.	Watching briefs/items for note	
	<p>Short reports from Committee members were received and discussed.</p> <p>JMC (JVH) (a) At the last JMC on 19 February 2019 there was a discussion about the possibility of having a "Maths Week" in England and Wales. Such Maths weeks already take place in Ireland and Scotland. The discussion was inconclusive, and is likely to come up again at the next meeting. (b) There was also a discussion, chaired by Kevin Houston from the LMS, on the supply of mathematics teachers.</p> <p>ACME (MM) There was nothing to report.</p> <p>CMS (LW) There was no report.</p> <p>GPS/Athena SWAN (JVH) (a) The LMS Good Practice Scheme Steering Group met in February 2019. (b) The Benchmarking Survey was now more or less ready. (c) The next Women in Mathematics Day would be on 24 May 2019, at the University of Kent, Canterbury.</p> <p>EPSRC (SL)</p>	

- (a) On 26-27 March 2019 the Mathematical Sciences team at EPSRC held a series of engagement meetings: (i) a Heads of Department meeting; (ii) a one-day workshop for early career researchers; (iii) a two day workshop on "Strategy for Mathematical Sciences." A key point discussed was the concern about the poor referee reply rate.
- (b) EPSRC are very much encouraging applications for various global challenges programmes.
- (c) Seventy-five new EPSRC Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) were announced on 4 February 2019. This compares to 115 in the previous allocation.

IMA (MG)

- (a) It was reported that the IMA would be running a series of teaching related workshops. Further information is available at <https://ima.org.uk/10449/ima-higher-education-teaching-and-learning-workshops-2018-2019/> .
- (b) As reported earlier the IMA planned to run the Induction Course for New Lecturers on 18-19 September 2019. Further details are available at <https://ima.org.uk/11361/inductioncourse-for-new-lecturers-in-the-mathematical-sciences-2019/>
- (c) The IMA is setting up two new awards to honour contributions to:
(i) higher education teaching and learning; (ii) knowledge exchange.

LMS (JP)

- (a) The LMS has a working party discussing implications of the Bond Review.
- (b) The LMS is reviewing its grant schemes.
- (c) The LMS has signed DORA - the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment, aimed at reducing the misuse of journal impact factors.
- (d) The next LMS Education Day will be on 13 May 2019.

RSS (JF)

- (a) Prompted by the RSS, the UKRI is carrying out work on "Data-driven research – an assessment of UKRI application, review and studentship processes" with the involvement of several RSS members. The report is currently in draft form and will be published shortly.
- (b) The RSS has published a detailed criticism of statistical issues in TEF, which they also submitted to the Pearce review. As part of the Independent Review of TEF, RSS representatives were invited to a separate meeting with Dame Shirley Pearce to discuss their concerns.

ORSoc (OJ)

The OR Society's Training Working Group (TWG) is inviting bids to provide training courses in 2020. The closing date for the receipt of bids is 26 May 2019 and details can be obtained via Jennie Phelps (Email: jennie.phelps@theorsociety.com)

UUK (PA)

UUK are dealing with current big issues such as Brexit, immigration policy and international students, pensions, regulation of higher education, innovation and research policy.

	<p>European Mathematical Society (RF)</p> <p>To avoid possible confusion with the Edinburgh Mathematical Society (EMS), the name to the European Mathematical Society is given in full in the remainder of the minutes.</p> <p>(a) A reorganisation of the Research and Innovation Directorate General of the European Commission is scheduled to take place this year with a goal to revise reporting procedures and increase coordination between the different agencies. The European Mathematical Society is concerned that such reorganisation may have a negative impact on the European Research Council (ERC).</p> <p>(b) The European Mathematical Society Education Committee is conducting a survey to collect and report to the mathematics communities information needed in order to devise national and international actions to improve the school-university transition. The survey can be accessed here: https://euro-math-soc.eu/sites/default/files/STT-survey-%2015-02-2019.pdf</p> <p>EPC (CH)</p> <p>(a) The EPC has prepared a report on the impact of Brexit on engineering research, which has parallels with mathematics research: http://epc.ac.uk/the-impact-of-brexit-on-engineering-research-funding/</p> <p>(b) The EPC runs an annual admissions forum. Further information can be found at: http://epc.ac.uk/recruitment-and-admissions-forum-2018/</p> <p>(c) Details of the EPC conference can be found at: http://epc.ac.uk/events/epc-congress-2019/</p> <p>REF (NM)</p> <p>A detailed update on REF had been given at the conference by Professor Alison Etheridge, Chair of the Mathematical Sciences REF Sub-panel.</p> <p>TEF (MM)</p> <p>A detailed update on TEF had been given at the conference by MM.</p>	
15.	Any other business	
	<p>With reference to the nature of the working relationships being played out in the prevailing political climate, the Chair drew attention to the importance of the HoDoMS Committee and community continuing to work with mutual respect for all.</p> <p>PA reported that Professor Paul Glendinning (ICMS) and Professor David Abrahams (INI) had been added to the HoDoMS list to facilitate more effective information communication.</p> <p>The Treasurer's report had been given at the Annual General Meeting the previous evening and a more detailed breakdown of finances was presented to the meeting for consideration. The HoDoMS finances are healthy.</p>	
16.	Date of next meeting:	
	<p>The next meeting was scheduled for 11 September 2019 in Reading following the Course for Heads. It was agreed that this meeting would be a Committee meeting only (and not a combined Committee/Board Meeting)</p>	

	and would be chaired by the Vice-Chair in the Chair's absence. PA agreed to send through notes for the meeting.	
	The meeting closed at 15:50	

Signed: Professor Philip Aston
Chair and Director

Date: 9 January 2020