

HoDoMS

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE UK

Confirmed minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11:00 on Friday 8 January 2016 at De Morgan House, London

Present:

Cathy Hobbs (CH)	<i>Chair</i>
Peter Clarkson (PC)	<i>Vice-Chair</i>
Mary McAlinden (MM)	<i>Secretary</i>
Paul Harper (PRH)	ORSoc
Peter Hydon (PEH)	
Jan van den Heuvel (JVH)	

In attendance:

Stephen Huggett (SH)	LMS
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Apologies:

David Arrowsmith (DA)	<i>Immediate past chair, IMA</i>
Fordyce Davidson (FD)	
Ian Dryden (ID)	RSS
Dugald Duncan (DD)	<i>Treasurer</i>
Kevin Golden (KG)	
Lindsay Walsh (LW)	LMS
Eddie Wilson (EW)	

Chair

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	Preliminaries	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.	Apologies for absence	
	These are noted above.	
2.	Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 11 September 2015	
	The minutes of the September 2015 meeting were approved subject to one minor correction.	
3.	Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda	
	<p>It was reported that no further progress had been made on getting other signatories on to the HoDoMS bank account.</p> <p>The long standing action to investigate what CMS was doing on collecting facts about Mathematical Sciences which would be useful to Heads had not been followed up. It was agreed to close this action.</p> <p>Information on the next HoDoMS conference has been placed on the website.</p> <p>Membership matters outstanding from the last meeting are all completed.</p> <p>The action to send a letter to the HEA was superseded by events (see item 5.)</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be useful to send out information about the EPSRC Newsletter via the HoDoMS list.</p>	Action CH
4.	Chair's communications report	
	<p>The Committee discussed the proposed Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) at length. The discussion revealed many issues, one of which was the key importance of any framework recognising that effective teaching methods vary substantially across disciplines. As an example approaches to teaching within the Mathematical Sciences of necessity differ considerably from those used in more discursive subjects in the Social Sciences and Humanities. In general HoDoMS does not have the capacity to respond to the multitude of sector consultations. However the Committee felt that the TEF was so important that a nil-response would not be in the interests of Departments in the Mathematical Sciences. It was agreed that a response in the form of a short letter (one page) would be prepared.</p> <p>The current financial arrangements for HoDoMS were discussed at length. With reference to a draft paper, the options of HoDoMS changing its status to either that of a Charity or a Company Limited by Guarantee were explored. It was agreed that more work would be done to produce a paper for consideration at the HoDoMS conference. Committee members were asked to send suggestions for further input to the paper, in particular to enhance the explanations of the the rationale for considering such options and their value.</p>	<p>Action CH</p> <p>Action All</p>

	<p>It was decided that an executive summary would be helpful and MM agreed to draft one.</p> <p>It was decided that the paper should be circulated via the HoDoMS list once the conference bookings had closed.</p>	<p>Action MM</p> <p>Action CH</p>
5.	Induction Course for New Lecturers	
	<p>The Chair reported that she and Duncan Lawson from the IMA had met with two representatives from the Higher Education Academy (HEA) in November regarding the provision of an induction course for new lecturers in the Mathematical Sciences. The meeting was very positive with the outcome that the HEA has agreed to run a two day discipline specific course in September for new lecturers in the Mathematical Sciences. The HEA agreed to manage the administrative side of the course while the disciplinary expertise on content, suitable speakers and approaches to delivery would be provided by a HoDoMS nominee from within the Mathematical Sciences discipline. At the meeting it was decided that MM would be the HoDoMS nominee and that the Chair will communicate this information to the HEA.</p> <p>The HEA representatives have accepted an invitation to present at the HoDoMS conference in April.</p>	Action CH
6.	Conference Planning	
	<p>A key theme of the conference this year will be the TEF. The Chair gave an update on speakers who had agreed to contribute to the conference. It was felt that the research focus needed to be strengthened. Various speakers/organisations for the remaining sessions were proposed. The Chair agreed to take these forward.</p> <p>It was decided that there would be no increase to the annual subscription or to the conference registration fees. Conference registration and subscription arrangements will be posted soon.</p>	<p>Action CH</p> <p>Action CH/DD</p>
7.	Succession Planning	
	<p>It was noted that DD would be stepping down as Treasurer and the terms of election of KG, EW and PC are due to end in April 2016. PC indicated his willingness to stand for another term. The Chair agreed to email the Committee asking for volunteers to take over the role of Treasurer. KG and EW, who were not present, will be contacted separately outside the meeting regarding their membership of the Committee.</p>	Action CH

8.	Watching briefs/items for note	
	<p>Reports</p> <p>JMC (CH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Professor Paul Glaister has taken over as the new Chair of JMC. (b) The opportunity for Departments to bid for funding to run Mathematics degrees incorporating a teaching route was noted. <p>ACME (MM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) In November 2015 ACME published a new report on Initial Teacher Education: <i>Beginning teaching: best in class?</i>. (b) In December 2015 ACME hosted a roundtable on the Ofqual consultation on A-level Mathematics and Further Mathematics. (c) ACME is currently undertaking work on the professional development learner journey for teachers. <p>CMS (LW)</p> <p>There was no report.</p> <p>GPS/Athena SWAN (PC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Three more Mathematical Sciences Departments have gained Athena SWAN awards. (b) In the autumn two further workshops took place, one on unconscious bias and another one for those aiming for silver awards. A further workshop is planned and will take place at Cambridge. (c) The gender balance of applicants for EPSRC Fellowships remains an issue, although figures for the most recent round of applications are not yet available. There is a need for Heads to encourage more women to apply. <p>EPSRC (EW)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The most recent Newsletter was circulated for information. <p>IMA (DA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) In recent months the IMA has responded to the HEFCE survey on quality assurance in higher education. (b) The IMA is in the final stages of preparation of consultation responses on (i) the Ofqual consultation on A-level Mathematics/Further Mathematics; (ii) the Department for Education consultation on calculators; (iii) the BIS Green Paper on the TEF. <p>LMS (KG, PC and SH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The LMS is also completing consultation responses on the BIS TEF consultation and the Ofqual consultation on A-level Mathematics/Further Mathematics. 	

	<p>(b) The LMS 2015 summer school was a success and a similar summer school will be running in 2016. Fees may need to rise if the school is to continue beyond 2016. The Committee agreed to send a letter to the LMS supporting the continuation of the summer school.</p> <p>(c) A new consultation on off-site provision has just been published which may impact on outreach activities.</p> <p>(d) Reports of the REF Impact survey are being prepared and one will be designed to be particularly useful for members of HoDoMS. The LMS is very grateful to members of HoDoMS for input to the work.</p> <p>(e) The LMS Research Committee hopes to obtain information regarding the allocation of Doctoral Training Programmes.</p> <p>RSS (ID)</p> <p>(a) Informal feedback from the RSS Academic Affairs group was positive about recent discussions between HoDoMS and the HEA on the induction course for new lecturers.</p> <p>(b) Five RSS Fellows have been appointed to roles in the Alan Turing Institute.</p> <p>(c) The RSS new free e-student membership category now has over 1200 members.</p> <p>ORSoc(PRH)</p> <p>(a) A joint EPSRC/ORSoc Theme Day took place in September 2015 regarding how best to support the EPSRC/OR portfolio.</p> <p>(b) A series of events on analytics have been organised. Future events will consider: big data technology; data science methods and tools; and data visualisation.</p> <p>UUK (PEH)</p> <p>(a) Universities UK have released a new report, <i>Supply and Demand for Higher Level Skills</i>, which highlights the shortage of adequately-skilled graduates. Although recruitment to STEM degree programmes is healthy, many STEM graduates are not taking up jobs that use their technical skills.</p> <p>(b) UUK has prepared a series of short briefing papers on key topics.</p> <p>EMS (SH)</p> <p>(a) Applications for membership can be made via the IMA, the LMS or directly and gives free access to zbMATH.</p> <p>(b) The next EMS Council meeting will be in Berlin in July 2016.</p> <p>EPC (CH)</p> <p>(a) The EPC is currently working on a response to the BIS TEF consultation.</p> <p>Additional items for note (FD)</p> <p>(a) Heads of Department in Scotland met in the autumn to discuss</p>	<p>Action CH</p>
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	improving engagement with the Scottish Funding Council. (b) The Scottish Mathematical Sciences Training Centre (SMTC) will cease to be funded by EPSRC from September 2016	
9.	Any other business	
	It was noted that Ruth Kaufmann, President of the ORSoc, was awarded an OBE in the recent New Year's Honours list.	
10.	Date of next meeting:	
	The next meeting will be on Friday 22 April 2016 at the University of Birmingham, following the end of the conference.	
	The meeting closed at 14:35.	