

HoDoMS

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE UK

Confirmed minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11:30 on Friday 11 September 2015 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>
Dugald Duncan (DD) (by Skype)	<i>Treasurer</i>
Kevin Golden (KG)	
Paul Harper (PRH)	ORSoc
Peter Hydon (PEH)	
Jan van den Heuvel (JVH)	

In attendance:

Apologies:

David Arrowsmith (DA)	<i>Immediate past chair, IMA</i>
Fordyce Davidson (FD)	
Ian Dryden (ID)	RSS
Stephen Huggett (SH)	LMS
Lindsay Walsh (LW)	LMS
Eddie Wilson (EW)	

Chair

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	Preliminaries	
	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Paul Harper who was attending for the first time.</p> <p>It was queried whether an 11:00 or an 11:30 meeting start was best for Committee members. It was agreed to email the Committee about this.</p>	Action MM
1.	Apologies for absence	
	These are noted above.	
2.	Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 14 April 2015	
	The minutes of the April 2015 meeting were approved.	
3.	Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda	
	<p>Before the meeting a link to a proposed LMS survey about the latest REF had been circulated. From the discussion and email correspondence it was suggested that it could be useful to include questions on: the positioning of OR submissions, the range of units of assessment to which departments submitted and the positioning of interdisciplinary work as well as opinions on feedback. It was also suggested that a “back button” would be useful and that circulation of the questions in pdf format would help departments to prepare submissions in advance. PC agreed to send the suggestions to the LMS.</p> <p>DD reported that no further progress had been made on getting other signatories on to the HoDoMS account. It was agreed to try and get CH added to the list of signatories.</p> <p>DD had indicated his intention to stand down as Treasurer and suggestions for a new Treasurer were requested.</p> <p>It was reported that HoDoMS had made a nomination for the Chair of JMC and had added its name to the letter send to the new government on its election in May 2015. No further communication had been received regarding the letter.</p> <p>CH reported that from her conversations with the Engineering Professors Council (EPC) she had established that they function as a Company Limited by Guarantee and employ a part-time Executive Secretary. Through the activity of the Executive Secretary the EPC had managed to grow their activity substantially. CH explained what becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee meant. It was agreed to set up a small working group (CH, DD, JVH) to investigate this further and to draft a paper for the next meeting, with a view to bringing a finalised version to the AGM in April. It was agreed that CH would set up a virtual meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that thanks had been sent to Conference speakers and that presentations (where available) were on the website.</p>	<p>Action PC</p> <p>Action DD</p> <p>Action All</p> <p>Action CH, DD, JVH</p>

	<p>Information about what CMS was doing on collecting facts about Mathematical Sciences which would be useful to Heads was still an outstanding action.</p> <p>It was noted that the 2016 Conference has been booked at the University of Birmingham for 21-22 April 2016. It was agreed that CH would put a link to this on the website later in the year.</p> <p>CH reported that it could be possible to use her University for one-off HoDoMS event bookings, thanks to the good will of colleagues.</p> <p>The extent to which all Heads were receiving information from EPSRC was unclear. It was agreed that CH would contact Philippa Hemmings about this.</p> <p>CH agreed to add PRH to the HoDoMS list.</p> <p>It was felt that it would be useful to send out an email via the HoDoMS list to ask departments to ensure that new Heads were on the HoDoMS mailing list.</p>	<p>Action EW</p> <p>Action CH</p> <p>Action CH</p> <p>Action CH</p> <p>Action CH</p>
4.	Chair's communications report	
	<p>It was noted that traffic on the HoDoMS mailing list was not felt to be excessive.</p> <p>Minor updates had been made to the HoDoMS website.</p> <p>HoDoMS will continue to respond to queries from other bodies as appropriate. However, it was felt that HoDoMS did not have the capacity to prepare individual responses to the innumerable consultations. It was felt that HoDoMS was most effective as a conduit for passing information to and from the Mathematical Sciences community.</p> <p>CH reported that her letter to the Higher Education Academy (HEA), and subsequent emails about the Induction Course for new lecturers had not received replies. Following discussions it was agreed to send a complaint about this and request a face-to-face meeting.</p>	<p>Action CH, MM</p>
5.	Conference planning	
	<p>Following discussion it was agreed that a general theme for the 2016 HoDoMS Conference would be teaching excellence, in the light of developments on the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). A number of possible speakers were proposed.</p>	
6.	Watching briefs/items for note	
	<p>In the light of attendance records, it was agreed to update the LMS representatives to Kevin Golden and Peter Clarkson.</p> <p>Reports</p> <p>JMC (JVH)</p> <p>(a) JVH attended in place of CH for the meeting. There were no specific</p>	

items to be reported.

ACME (MM)

- (a) Professor Philip England from the University of Oxford became the new ACME Chair in May 2015.
- (b) The ACME Conference took place on 9 July 2015. The conference was entitled Mathematically Thinking and had a strong focus on problem solving through all phases of mathematical education. Speakers included the newly appointed chairs of the House of Commons Education Select Committee and the Science and Technology Select Committee.
- (c) In July 2015 the joint ACME/RSS report *Embedding Statistics at A Level* was published.

CMS (LW)

- (a) Post-meeting it was reported that the publication of the People Pipeline report is expected in October.

GPS/Athena SWAN (PC)

- (a) A workshop on unconscious bias will take place in Edinburgh in October and a further workshop will take place in London in November aimed at those aiming for Silver. It was reported that currently 34 Mathematical Sciences departments have been awarded Bronze while 3 have Silver awards.
- (b) The small number of female EPSRC Fellows was noted and it was suggested that there is scope for Heads to encourage more to apply.

EPSRC (EW)

There was no report.

IMA (DA)

There was no report.

LMS (KG and PC)

- (a) It was reported that the LMS Summer School had taken place.
- (b) A version of "Who is where in UK Maths" is being compiled.
- (c) Discussions regarding the REF had raised concerns about how Number Theory was being singled out.
- (d) The LMS survey post-REF is covered in 3. above.

RSS (ID)

- (a) David Spiegelhalter (University of Cambridge) will be the next president of the RSS, starting in January 2017.
- (b) The annual RSS conference was held in Exeter 7-10 September with over 500 attendees.

	<p>ORSoc(PRH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) This year the ORSoc was the host national OR Society for the 27th European Conference on OR (EURO2015) in Glasgow (July 12-15, 2015) with more than 2,300 delegates. (b) The YoungOR 19 Biennial Conference will take place September 22-24, Aston University. (c) The 'Impact' magazine (www.theorsociety.com/pages/impact/registration.aspx) was launched. (d) The ORSoc is currently considering a new 'Analytics' journal to complement the society's portfolio of five journals with Palgrave Macmillan. (e) Ruth Kaufmann is the President-Elect. (f) The ORSoc contributed towards sponsorship of the UKMT Summer Schools and activities at the British Science Festival. <p>UUK (PEH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Innovation charity Nesta and Universities UK have released a policy briefing, <i>Analytic Britain</i>, making recommendations on how to ensure a steady supply of suitable talent to data-driven companies. The web link is http://www.nesta.org.uk/sites/default/files/analytic_britain.pdf. (b) Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, University of Kent, has become the new UUK president. <p>EMS (SH) There was no report.</p> <p>EPC (CH) There was nothing additional to report beyond that already noted in 3.</p>	
7.	Any other business	
	<p>It was reported that <i>MSOR Connections</i> has been resurrected. It was agreed to circulate the link to the HoDoMS mailing list.</p> <p><i>Post-meeting note</i></p> <p>One of the editors pre-empted the action.</p>	Action JVH
8.	Date of next meeting:	
	The next meeting will be on Friday 8 January 2016 at De Morgan House.	
	The meeting closed at 15:00.	