

HoDoMS

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE UK

Confirmed minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 11:00 on Friday 13 January 2017 at De Morgan House, Russell Square, London

Present:

Cathy Hobbs (CH)	<i>Chair</i>
Peter Clarkson (PC)	<i>Vice-Chair</i>
Mary McAlinden (MM)	<i>Secretary</i>
Eddie Wilson (EW)	<i>Treasurer</i>
David Arrowsmith (DA)	<i>Immediate past Chair, IMA</i>
Kevin Golden (KG)	
Peter Hydon (PEH)	
Matthias Maischak (MMai)	

In attendance:

Lindsay Walsh	LMS
---------------	-----

Apologies:

Ian Dryden (ID)	RSS
Paul Harper (PRH)	ORSoc
Jan van den Heuvel (JVH)	
Stephen Huggett (SH)	LMS
Jeff Waldock (JW)	

Chair

Dr Catherine Hobbs
Engineering Design &
Mathematics
University of West of England
Frenchay Campus
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1QY

Tel: 0117 32 83231

Email:
Catherine.Hobbs@uwe.ac.uk

Vice-Chair

Prof. Peter Clarkson
School of Mathematics
Cornwallis Building
University of Kent
Canterbury
Kent
CT2 7NF

Tel: 01227 82 7781

Email:
P.A.Clarkson@kent.ac.uk

Secretary

Dr Mary McAlinden
Department of 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. Eddie Wilson
Department of Engineering
Mathematics
University of Bristol
Merchant Venturers Building
Woodland Road
Bristol
BS8 1UB

Tel: 0117 331 5606

Email:
r.e.wilson@bristol.ac.uk

	Preliminaries	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.	Apologies for absence	
	These are noted above.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting on 9 September 2016	
	The minutes of the September 2016 meeting were approved.	
3.	Matters arising not otherwise covered on the agenda	
	<p>It was established that the Secretary would need a list of people to be emailed for future AGM communications while the Treasurer would need a list of contacts for subscriptions.</p> <p>CH reported that she had reviewed the list of organisations for which HoDoMS had regular watching briefs and that it had seemed fit for purpose.</p> <p>All other actions were either completed or superseded by events.</p>	Action CH
4.	Chair's communications report	
	<p>The Chair reported that the LMS had very kindly agreed to manage the HoDoMS JISCMail list on behalf of the Chair.</p> <p>Following discussions with the Head of Mathematics at the University of Leicester CH had written to the Leicester's University Council. The Head of Department was very appreciative of the efforts of HoDoMS on behalf of his Department and had written to thank Heads for their support.</p> <p>Arising from the discussion above it was noted that the HoDoMS website did not have a statement which actively encouraged Heads to contact the Committee if they needed support with challenging matters. It was felt that such a statement could be particularly useful for new Heads. MM agreed to draft a short paragraph. It was agreed that a few words about this matter would be useful to include in the Chair's introductory comments at the conference.</p> <p>It was agreed that the amount of traffic through the HoDoMS list in recent months had been reasonable.</p> <p>CH brought up the matter of Tests for Mathematics Undergraduate Admissions (TMUA) which are being used by a few universities. The Committee had very limited information about the matter but it was known that there was a meeting on 26 January to which some individuals/institutions had been invited. It was agreed that CH would send out an email through the HoDoMS list to find out who was attending the</p>	<p>Action MM</p> <p>Action CH</p> <p>Action CH</p>

	<p>meeting. It was agreed that this was an area that HoDoMS should monitor through other committee involvement.</p> <p>Other matters covered in the Chair's report are included under the relevant sections under other agenda items.</p>	
5.	Review of the induction course for new lecturers	
	<p>MM gave an overview of the first joint HoDoMS/HEA Induction Course for New Lecturers which had run from 15-16 September 2016 at the University of Greenwich. The HEA had handled bookings, speakers' accommodation and payment of their expenses. The remainder of the event organisation, including the development of the academic programme had been done by MM, acting on behalf of HoDoMS. The event was attended by 25 new lecturers from Universities in England and Scotland and feedback on the event from the attendees was very positive. Feedback from Committee members who had sent staff to the event was also very good.</p> <p>The Chair reported that following the event she had send an email through the HoDoMS list to canvas Heads on their views of the course. In particular she had asked Heads whether they felt that the course was too expensive, due to the HEA pricing, and their thoughts about having such a course, perhaps at a lower cost, without HEA involvement. Most responses indicated that the value of the course to new lecturers outweighed the value of HEA involvement/accreditation.</p> <p>Following a discussion about whether or not to run the course again the Committee agreed to wait and see if/what the HEA would offer in the coming year. It was agreed that a similar type of course should run again in 2018, and that this should be communicated to members of HoDoMS. There was a consensus that HoDoMS should not give a commitment to running the course at this point, but that the Committee would be better to wait and see if any comparable offerings emerged from the HEA over the next year.</p> <p>The Committee thanked MM for all her work in making the course happen in 2016.</p>	Action CH
6.	Conference planning	
	<p>It was noted that the venue had been booked. A brief update on the conference planning was given. This included a list of speakers who had accepted invitations to present at the conference. The Committee discussed options for the few remaining slots as well as backup measures to mitigate against possible speaker cancellations at the last minute.</p>	

7.	Financial status of HoDoMS	
	<p>It was reported that EW was still not a signatory to the HoDoMS bank account. The Treasurer reported that he had been unwell and that this had caused a delay in some payments, including Committee members' expenses.</p> <p>CH and EW reported on progress with the move of HoDoMS to a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). The quotations for the annual services of an accountant to produce annual accounts and for the services of a solicitor to carry out the legal work surrounding the set up the CLG, were estimated at £1K and £2K respectively. (The solicitor's costs would be based on the number of hours worked, so there was some measure of uncertainty associated with this cost.) The Committee agreed that this was a necessary investment and that the previous AGM had authorised the Committee to take the move to a CLG forward.</p> <p>To initiate the legal process the solicitor required names and personal details of the proposed Directors of the CLG. It was agreed that these should be the Chair, the Treasurer, the Secretary plus some other Committee members. KG and PC agreed to be Directors. All were asked to provide the relevant information to the solicitor directly while EW agreed to take the matter forward with the solicitor.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to work towards obtaining final agreement for the change to a CLG from members at the AGM at the April 2017 conference.</p> <p>MM flagged up that the website version of the HoDoMS Constitution did not reflect some of the more recent updates. It was agreed that she would seek out the most up-to-date version in preparation for the AGM.</p> <p>CH reported that the LMS had agreed to allow HoDoMS to use De Morgan House as a company address. She noted that there was a small point of detail to be sorted out regarding the way in which this had been described in the draft LMS Memorandum of Understanding and that she would take this forward with the LMS Executive Secretary.</p>	<p>Action CH, EW, MM, KG, PC</p> <p>Action MM</p> <p>Action CH</p>
8.	Succession planning	
	CH reminded the Committee that her term as Chair was due to end in April 2016 and that a nomination for a new Chair would be needed before April.	
9.	Watching briefs/items for note	
	<p>Reports</p> <p>JMC (CH)</p> <p>(a) At the request of JMC, CH had emailed the HoDoMS list to find out about links between Departments and the Maths Hubs. This had</p>	

revealed that there were many such links and the information had been passed on to JMC.

ACME (MM)

- (a) In recent months there have been discussions regarding the governance of ACME which was originally set up jointly by the Royal Society and the JMC. The outcome of this was that ACME would become a committee of the Royal Society. A call had been put out for additional new members and the committee size was being increased.
- (b) The report of the ACME Expert Panel entitled *Professional learning for all teachers of mathematics* was published in December 2016.

CMS (LW)

- (a) LW thanked HoDoMS on behalf of CMS for sending out the communications regarding DTPs. CMS will compare the results it has obtained with those from the EPSRC survey.
- (b) CMS, along with JMC and other mathematical organisations, has been involved in the discussions regarding ACME.
- (c) CMS will be hosting a reception on 22 February 2017 at the House of Commons. During the event Sir Adrian Smith will be speaking about the Smith Review.

GPS/Athena SWAN (PC)

- (a) A GPS workshop took place in October 2016 and two more events are planned in 2017. These will focus on the new format of Athena SWAN applications and will take place in Edinburgh and London.
- (b) The GPS has been setting up a mentoring scheme for Departments.
- (c) The LMS Women in Mathematics was awarded the Royal Society's Athena prize for increasing gender diversity in mathematics.

EPSRC (EW)

- (a) It was reported that there was currently an EPSRC call regarding new approaches to data science.

IMA (DA)

- (a) DA reported that Michael Grove had officially taken over as Education Secretary at the IMA.
- (b) The IMA had been involved, along with other mathematical organisations, in discussions regarding ACME.

LMS (KG/PC)

- (a) The LMS summer schools have continued to receive very positive feedback.
- (b) The LMS Education Committee has been discussing the diversity of teacher training routes and the use of university entrance tests.

	<p>(c) The LMS Research Committee will be preparing a response to the Research Funding Councils' consultation on REF 2021 which followed the Stern Review. It was agreed that HoDoMS would not be preparing a response to the review but that it could provide relevant information regarding HR related matters which could be useful to professional bodies preparing their responses. It was agreed that PC would circulate the consultation to Committee members and lead on collecting the relevant information.</p> <p>RSS (ID)</p> <p>(a) The RSS will be setting up a Data Science section to act as a professional body for data scientists in the UK.</p> <p>(b) The RSS has lobbied for the continuation of A-level and AS-level Statistics. One awarding body will develop a new qualification in this area.</p> <p>ORSoc(PRH)</p> <p>(a) PH has been appointed to the Committee of the EPSRC/KTN Review of Knowledge Exchange in the Mathematical Sciences chaired by Professor Philip Bond.</p> <p>UUK (PEH)</p> <p>(a) It was reported that that there was very little STEM related activity to report.</p> <p>(b) UUK has been active in putting forward University concerns regarding Brexit and has been proposing amendments to the Higher Education and Research Bill.</p> <p>(c) The UK has been added to the nations involved in the BEC.AR scheme. Universities UK International (UUKi) is administering the scheme which is a scholarship programme for Argentine students wishing to study in other countries.</p> <p>EMS (SH) There was no report.</p> <p>EPC (CH) There was nothing to report.</p>	Action PC
10.	Any other business	
	PH noted that this was CH's last meeting in the Chair and proposed thanks to her and particularly highlighted her effectiveness at chairing the meetings. This was endorsed unanimously by all present.	
11.	Date of next meeting:	
	The next meeting will be on Friday 28 April 2017 at the University of Birmingham Conference Centre.	

	The meeting closed at 14:00.	
--	------------------------------	--