

HoDoMS

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE UK

Confirmed minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 13:30 on Friday 28 April 2017 at Lucas House, Birmingham Conference Centre

Present:

Philip Aston (PA)	<i>Chair</i>
Mary McAlinden (MM)	<i>Secretary</i>
Cathy Hobbs (CH)	<i>Immediate past Chair</i>
Ruth Fairclough (RF)	
Kevin Golden (KG)	
Michael Grove (MG)	IMA
Stephen Langdon (SL)	
Matthias Maischak (MMai)	
Jeff Waldock (JW)	
Anke Wiese (AW)	

Apologies:

Peter Clarkson (PC)	<i>Vice-Chair</i>
Ian Dryden (ID)	RSS
Paul Harper (PH)	ORSoc
Stephen Huggett (SH)	LMS
Jan van den Heuvel (JVH)	<i>Treasurer</i>
Lindsay Walsh (LW)	LMS

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	Preliminaries	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. The meeting was the first for the new Chair Philip Aston, new members Ruth Fairclough, Anke Wiese, Stephen Langdon and Michael Grove (IMA co-opted representative). Thanks were extended to outgoing members of the Committee: Eddie Wilson, Peter Hydon and David Arrowsmith. While Ian Dryden had not stood for re-election to the Committee it was noted that he was still co-opted to the Committee as the RSS representative. Cathy Hobbs replaced David Arrowsmith as the Immediate past Chair.	
1.	Apologies for absence	
	These are noted above.	
2.	Minutes of the meeting on 13 January 2017	
	The minutes of the January 2017 meeting were approved.	
3.	Matters arising not otherwise covered on the agenda	
	<p>It was noted that the annual subscriptions for the current year had not been requested from Departments yet and that this was a matter requiring attention.</p> <p>During the conference CH had reminded HoDs that they could contact the HoDoMS Committee if they had a difficult issue with which they needed help. The drafting of a suitable statement for the website about this matter remained outstanding.</p> <p>It was reported that CH had found out more about universities using Tests for Mathematics Undergraduate Admissions (TMUAs). These included Cambridge, Durham and Bath. While departments are clearly free to adopt their own admissions processes it was agreed that this was an area that HoDoMS might want to monitor.</p> <p>Since the last meeting MM had gone back through the AGM minutes and updated the HoDoMS Constitution to incorporate the most recent changes (agreed in 2011). The Constitution on the website had subsequently been updated accordingly.</p> <p>All other actions were completed.</p>	<p>Action JVH, PA</p> <p>Action MM</p>
4.	Chair's communications report	
	This had been delivered the previous evening at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).	
5.	Conference 2017 review	
	There was a consensus that the conference had been a success with good delegate attendance and a varied mix of speakers. Some of the contributions were particularly timely. In discussing changes for future conferences the Committee thought that it would be useful to build in more time for	

	<p>discussion. This could be done by having a special discussion session, or by extending one or more of the breaks. There was agreement on the beneficial nature of the informal conversations which were an integral part of the conference. There was a suggestion that perhaps more could be done to capitalise on the expertise of attendees. It was also noticed that several of the external speakers left almost immediately after their talks and there was minimal time for discussions with them. It was also felt that it was very important that the conference should cover areas which were relevant to the diverse range of departments represented by HoDoMS.</p> <p>The Chair thanked CH and the Committee for their work in arranging the conference. It was agreed that CH would contact the speakers to thank them for their contributions, to provide them with expenses forms and to invite them to provide their presentations for the HoDoMS website.</p>	Action CH
6.	Financial status of HoDoMS	
	<p>CH had given an update on progress at the AGM the previous evening. The decision not to seek approval at the April 2017 AGM for the move to a company limited by guarantee (CLG) meant that there was now more time for refining the Articles to better meet the needs of HoDoMS. It was agreed that the Articles would be circulated to the full Committee allowing a timeframe of three weeks for comment. Comments would then be collated and considered.</p> <p>Areas for attention which came forward during the meeting included: terms of reference, the roles of the Committee and the Board, the wording around members and departments/institutions, the inclusion of the word UK and the definition of a department, as understood by HoDoMS.</p> <p>It was also suggested that it might also be timely to review the Constitution to make sure that it was allowed sufficient flexibility for HoDoMS going forward. This was agreed.</p> <p>Since PA would be taking the next steps forward CH offered to introduce him to the solicitors who had been undertaking the legal work. A similar introduction would also be needed to the person maintaining the website.</p>	<p>Action MM</p> <p>Action PA, MM</p> <p>Action CH</p>
7.	Watching briefs/items for note	
	<p>With the changes to the Committee there was a need to redistribute watching briefs. It was agreed that PA would approach JVH regarding taking on the JMC brief. The CMS brief would be shared by MG and LW, while MG would cover the IMA brief. SL would take over EPSRC while PA would take on UUK. For the other briefs no changes were necessary.</p>	

Reports**JMC (CH)**

CH reported that some JMC organisations had expressed concerns over TMUAs as they envisaged that the preparation offered for such tests would not be uniform across schools.

ACME (MM)

An update had been given at the conference which had provided information on recent developments regarding ACME.

CMS (LW)

There was no report.

GPS/Athena SWAN (PC)

An update had been given at the conference. This covered the new EDU scheme for applying for an Athena SWAN award.

EPSRC

There was no report.

IMA (MG)

At the conference MG had given an overview of the IMA's new Academic Representatives Scheme. There was nothing additional to report.

LMS (KG, PC)

The LMS had been discussing the TMUAs and the wide range of provision for teacher training. KG reminded the Committee of the LMS Education day at De Morgan House on 25 May 2017.

RSS (ID)

(a) The RSS fed into the CMS consultation response to HEFCE on the next REF. A particular concern for the RSS was the area of interdisciplinarity.

(b) The next RSS Annual Conference will be from 4-7 September in Glasgow.

ORSoc(PRH)

There was no report.

UUK

There was no report.

EMS (SH)

There was no report.

EPC (CH)

There was nothing new to report as the next meeting was not until May 2017.

8.	Any other business	
	<p>The Chair expressed his thanks to CH for all her work during her time as HoDoMS Chair, and in particular for the work done in getting so far with the move to a CLG. He also thanked others involved.</p> <p>There was some discussion of the setting up of a closed HoDoMS Committee JISMail list. It was agreed that this needed more investigation before action was taken.</p> <p>It was noted that all outstanding Committee expenses had now been paid.</p> <p>The Chair offered his reflections on areas he considered to be important for departments for the future. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the REF, impact and knowledge exchange; (ii) TEF (iii) changing student expectations linked with fees; (iv) technology in teaching; (v) changing curriculum needs in the light of A-level changes; (vi) the new data landscape; (vii) postgraduate student supervision and funding; (viii) equality and diversity and Athena SWAN; (ix) Brexit; (x) opportunities for early career researchers; (xi) cutting edge topics for future conferences. <p>He also said that he supported having a discipline specific Induction Course for New Lecturers such as the recent HoDoMS/HEA one.</p> <p>The Committee also discussed the representation of the four UK nations at the conference, and in particular noted the low attendance from Wales and Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The Chair invited members of the Committee to bring to his attention any issues that they considered relevant to HoDoMS.</p>	Action PA
9.	Date of next meeting:	
	It was agreed that MM and PA would work on dates for the next meeting and the conference and that this information would be circulated once confirmed.	Action PA, MM
	The meeting closed at 14:35.	