**Minutes of the BCS IRSG AGM
26th November 2015
BCS Central London Office, The Davidson Building**

**Present**
Dyaa Albakour [DA], Ingo Frommholz [IF], Udo Kruschwitz [UK] (Minutes), Andrew MacFarlane [AM], Stefan Rüger [SR], Tony Russell-Rose [TRR], John Tait [JT],

**Apologies**
Nicola Ferro [NF], Ayse Göker [AG], Michael Oakes [MO], Max Wilson [MW]

**1.  Welcome from the Chair**
The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2.  Minutes of the previous AGM meeting**
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

**3. Committee Members' Report**

*3.1 Chair*

The chair briefly outlined the events which the IRSG was involved in throughout the current year. The two main events were, as in previous years, ECIR and Search Solutions. ECIR 2015 took place in Vienna and Search Solutions 2015 as always in London at the BCS Central London Office.

IRSG was also involved in IiiX 2015, ESSIR 2015, FDIA 2015 (which was organised as part of ESSIR) and SIGIR 2015.

Many people continue to be involved in producing Informer, the quarterly online newsletter of the IRSG. The chair thanked in particular, TRR, AM, UK as well as Gabriella Kazai (GK, new co-editor) and Frank Hopfgartner (new book editor). Since publication of the latest issue in October there have been 1,447 page views (1,257 unique page views), and the most popular story in the October issue was "News IR is calling" by GK.

The sixth annual Karen Spärck Jones (KSJ) award will be announced next week. The winner will be invited to give a keynote talk at ECIR 2015. Ryen White (Microsoft Research) was the 2014 award winner who gave an excellent talk at ECIR 2015.

The chair thanked Microsoft Research for continuing sponsorship of the award.

The IRSG is also represented on the panel of the prestigious Tony Kent Strix award and the 2015 winner is Peter Ingwersen (Royal School of Library and Information Science, Copenhagen). The first annual Tony Kent Strix Award lecture was given by last year's winner, Susan Dumais (Microsoft Research) in London.

The chair thanked Google for sponsorship of the award.

ECIR 2015 was held in Vienna. The conference was very successful with over 230 registrations (slightly down on the previous year).

There were 288 submissions in total, the details are as follows:

- 190 full papers submitted (up 30%, acceptance rate 23%)

- 103 short papers submitted (down 20%, acceptance rate 38%)

- 12 demonstrations submitted (down 50%, acceptance rate 58%)

54% of the submissions were from Europe, 18% from Asia, 17% from North and South America, 5% from Australasia, 6% from North Africa and the Middle East (breakdown by region as well as acceptance rates are broadly in line with last year).

ECIR 2016 will be held in Padua and ECIR 2017 in Aberdeen. A strong bid to host ECIR 2017 was also received from Grenoble. A call for hosting ECIR 2018 will go out in the summer.

An issue was raised in the discussion regarding ECIR this year. There appeared to be a substantially smaller number of submissions to the short paper track possibly linked to the fact that short and full papers were due on the same day. The Call for Bids to host ECIR 2018 will take this into account and the bid will ask the organisers to have different submission deadlines.

The chair set out his priorities for the next year which are in line with last year's priorities:

- Make the operation of the committee more transparent (he still wants to progress on this)

- Further improve democratic accountability (electronic elections were introduced last year as part of this process)

- Better mobilise the group's resources towards supporting the community

- Hold one or two more committee meetings elsewhere in the UK.

TRR suggested that a joint meeting could be held with the BCS Interaction Group. It was suggested that he puts this in a proposal and submits it to the committee. AM reported that Judi Vernau (ISKO) is keen to organise another joint IRSG-ISKO event.

*Action UK*: specify in the Call for Bids to host ECIR 2018 that deadlines for short papers and full papers do not coincide.

*3.2 Treasurer*

The treasurer presented the finances for the financial year September 2014 - August 2015. Total income was £11,218 and total expenditure £11,899 (in addition to a budget of £2,122) which gives an overall balance of £1,441 for 2014/2015.

The income was the profit made at Search Solutions 2014 (£7,878), EuroHCIR 2014 (£840) and Microsoft's sponsorship of the KSJ award (£2,500). Expenses were broken down as KSJ award expenses (£1,046), sponsorship of events (£500), travel expenses (£693), catering (£889), payments to tutors at Search Solutions 2014 (£1,200) and support for conferences and seminars (£6,118 which was largely student support at ECIR 2015).

**4. Elections to fill vacancies on the committee**
Electronic elections were held for two vacancies on the committee (for AM and MW who had been elected for the two-year period 2013-2015). Only BCS members who joined the IRSG were eligible to vote but any IRSG member or BCS member were eligible to stand and nominate. An online voting process was implemented and emails sent out via the BCS.

 Candidates were asked to submit a statement and required to have one IRSG/BCS member to nominate and another one to second the application. Five applications were received. No additional votes were received from BCS members attending the AGM. The total votes received for the candidates were as follows:

- Andrew MacFarlane: 26
- Max Wilson: 13
- Frank Hopfgartner: 9
- Haiming Liu: 7
- Ingemar Cox: 17

The chair congratulated Andrew MacFarlane and Ingemar Cox as duly elected members of the IRSG committee for the term 2015-2017. He also recorded his thanks to MW for serving on the committee. The chair also thanked Frank Hopfgartner and Haiming Liu for standing as candidates and expressed his hope that they will stand again.

The other members of the committee are JT (Chair), UK (Secretary), IF (Treasurer), MO (Membership Secretary), DA, TRR, AG, Maarten de Rijke, SR, Emine Yilmaz, Andi Rauber and NF, all of whom have been elected to serve on the committee for another year (until 2016) apart from NF whose term ends in two years (2017).

It was suggested to include information about the attendance record of committee members at IRSG committee meetings in future elections.

*Action JT*: table an agenda item at the next IRSG meeting to discuss the inclusion of attendance record of committee members at IRSG committee meetings in future elections.

**5. AOB**
There was no other business.

## 6. Actions arising from the Meeting

| Action Number | Action | Action on |
|---|---|---|
| AGM 15.01 | Specify in the Call for Bids to host ECIR 2018 that deadlines for short papers and full papers do not coincide. | UK |
| AGM 15.02 | Table an agenda item at the next IRSG meeting to discuss the inclusion of attendance record of committee members at IRSG committee meetings in future elections. | JT |