

Minutes of the BCS IRSG Committee Meeting

28 November 2017

BCS Central London Office, The Davidson Building

Present

Stefan Ruger [SR] (Chair), John Tait [JT] (Minutes), Ingo Frommholz [IF] (Treasurer), Udo Kruschwitz [UK], Haiming Liu [HL], Dyaa Albakour [DA], Andrew MacFarlane [AM]. Observing Steven Zimmerman.

Dial In

Craig McDonald [CM], Ayse Goker [AG]

1. Apologies

Ingemar Cox, Jochen Leidner, Lorraine Goeuriot [LG], Phillip Mayr-Schlegel [PMS]

2. Minutes of Previous IRSG Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017 were approved unanimously.

3. Matter arising (covered under appropriate agenda item where possible)

Actions for the previous meeting:

Sep 17.01	Upload the corrected minutes to the IRSG Web site.	Done
Sep 17.02	LG to keep and pass on a record of what worked well and what did not in organising ECIR 2018.	Ongoing – now Nov 17.02
Sep 17.03	Include short talk on IRSG in Search Solutions 2017 programme.	Ongoing – now Nov 17.03
Sep 17.04	Propose organising a Spring Meeting in Glasgow in 2018 or 2019.	Ongoing – now Nov 17.04
Sep 17.05	Contribute to IRSG Informer.	Ongoing Now Nov 17.05
Sep 17.06	Circulate call for one day workshops.	Done
Sep 17.07	Suggest other routes to progress KSJ Award Sponsorship.	Not done - unnecessary
Sep 17.08	Modify Attendance Policy as agreed by the meeting and publish on web site.	Done
Sep 17.09	Get ECIR.INFO to point to the ECIR2018 Web site.	Not Done – now with DA. Ongoing as Nov 17.06
Sep 17.10	Review submission dates for ECIR 2018 in the light of Springer Schedule.	Done
Sep 17.11	Investigate using new BCS London office Video Conferencing facilities.	Done
Sep 17.12	Compile notes and draft a letter to be sent to the consortium bidding to host ECIR 2019 in Cologne and draft another letter with feedback for the Cyprus consortium.	Done
Sep 17.13	Include an agenda item for a future committee meeting that discusses ways to make ECIR stronger.	Done – on Feb 2018 Agenda

Sep 17.14	Confirm the BCS rules in regards to who is allowed to vote and whether online voting and voting at the AGM can be combined.	Done
Sep 17.15	Organise the IRSG committee elections according to the agreed timetable.	Done
Sep 17.16	Approach Chris Bishop again to explore continued funding of the KSJ Award by Microsoft.	Progressed but still ongoing as Nov 17.01

4. Matters agreed by email

None

5. Chair's Report

The chair had just reported to the AGM.

He noted the election of Jochen Leidner, Frank Hopfgartner and Andrew Macfarlane, and thanked Ingemar Cox, Nicola Ferro and Tony Russell-Rose (who had all stepped down at the AGM) for their service.

6. KSJ Award

As noted at the AGM, the Chair has successfully negotiated a further five years of sponsorship from Microsoft Research.

Action: SR to ensure contract is signed.

UK reported that four strong nominations had been received. Five panel members (a number broadly in line with previous years) had agreed to serve, and were now rating the nominations.

7. ECIR 2018

In LR's absence the secretary presented a brief written report.

Six workshops and three tutorials were accepted. Their descriptions are (or will shortly) be found on the ECIR 2018 web site.

Submissions are still under review, but the headline statistics are: 295 submissions (10 demos, 112 short papers and 173 long papers)

Sponsorship: local grants (a few are confirmed, some are under review), SIGIR (student grants), ARIA (student grants), and Naver.

It was noted this was a significant increase on the number of papers submitted, which is a promising sign for the conference. On the whole things seemed to be going well.

8. ECIR 2019

In PMS's absence a brief written report had been provided.

The various chairs had now been appointed, and the venue had been booked. Things were progressing satisfactorily.

9. ICTIR report

CM reported ICTIR 2018 had taken place in Amsterdam in September and had been reasonably successful.

It had been agreed that ICTIR would continue with a “Fall” i.e. September-October date. The call for proposals for ICTIR 2020 was being drafted and was expected to be issued imminently – certainly no later than January.

Action CM to check issuance of 2020 call for proposals.

The chair noted that he was pleased that the potential clash of dates between ECIR and ICTIR was no longer a problem.

10. Search Solutions 2017

Tutorials: Tony Russell-Rose had kindly allowed 19 attendees at his Designing Search Tutorial (more than double the usual maximum). There were four registrations for each of the other two tutorials, meaning the programme had been an overall success.

For the main Search Solutions event (the day after the committee meeting) there had been around 70 registrations (about 50 paying) with a good mix of practitioners, academics and users and a strong programme.

11. Finance

The treasurer had just reported the current position to the AGM. He noted the group had a surplus of £38.75 for the year.

12. Informer

As ever there was an appeal for contributions from members. The next issue will be in January.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Student Member

[This item was brought forward to item 2 in the meeting].

It was noted that the committee had in the past had a student member, which was considered good practice. Steve Zimmerman of Essex University was willing to serve in this capacity. The committee therefore unanimously co-opted him as a member of the committee.

13.2 Glasgow Meeting

The committee were reminded that it had been agreed in principle to hold a meeting in Glasgow in May 2018. Relevant members need to agree dates and make arrangements well in advance if that was to go ahead.

13.3 Informer Web Site Hack

An upgrade to Wordpress had been installed to close the security loophole which had been exploited by the unfortunate hacking of the Informer site earlier in the year.

13.4 Core Exercise

CM was again thanked for his efforts which have resulted in ECIR obtaining an A-rating on the widely used Australasian CORE ranking.

One criterion under which ECIR appears comparatively weak is in the participation of leading researchers. ECIR chairs were encouraged to think about means of encouraging such people to attend. This will be an item on the February agenda.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21 February 2017 at 5pm at the BCS London office, Davidson Building, Southampton Street.

15. Actions Arising From Meeting

Action Number	Action	Action on
Nov 17.01	Ensure KSJ Award is signed by all parties	SR
Nov 17.02	LG to keep and pass on a record of what worked well and what did not in organising ECIR 2018.	LG
Nov 17.03	Include short talk on IRSG in Search Solutions 2017 programme.	UK/TRR/IF/ DA
Nov 17.04	Propose organising a Spring Meeting in Glasgow in 2018 or 2019.	CM
Nov 17.05	Contribute to IRSG Informer.	Everyone
Nov 17.06	Get ECIR.INFO to point to the ECIR2018 Web site.	DA