



Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences

Sefydliad Gwyddorau Mathemategol a Chyfrifiannol Cymru

Partner Institutions: Aberystwyth University, Bangor University, Cardiff University, University of Glamorgan, Swansea University

Director:	Professor Terry J Lyons FRS FRSE
Administrator:	Stephen Williamson
Outreach Coordinator:	Alison Braddock

Minutes of WIMCS RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING held at 1.30pm on Monday 5th July 2010 at Swansea

Chair: Prof Terry Lyons

Secretary: Stephen Williamson

Attendees: Prof Vass Mavron, Aberystwyth; Prof Russell Davies, Cardiff; Prof David Evans, Cardiff; Prof Paul Harper, Cardiff; Prof Tim Phillips, Cardiff; Prof Ron Wiltshire, Glamorgan; Prof Niels Jacob, Swansea; Prof Vitali Liskevich, Swansea; Prof Ken Morgan, Swansea

Apologies: Prof Gennady Mishuris, Aberystwyth, Prof Alan Shore, Bangor, Prof Eugene Lytvynov, Swansea

1. Minutes of previous meeting (14th December 2009) were accepted and apologies noted.
2. Re: Previous Minutes
 - 2 (1) (ii) it was clarified that FEC of sharing WIMCS office space would be payable by HE STEM.
 - 2(a) TL advised he had been in contact with [REDACTED], Smiths Institute, who is generally very supportive, and would be happy to work with WIMCS where there was industrial involvement.
3. Items from the Chair
 - a) Committee Business agreed since last meeting - Agenda items 3.1 – noted.
 - b) [REDACTED] – His contract had been extended by Director for 3 months. He would be leaving Cardiff and starting at Chester on 1st August. TL on behalf of the RC requested thanks to him and to all the other Fellows who have contributed to WIMCS be minuted.
 - c) [REDACTED] – TL explained that Cardiff Physics had last Autumn extended his contract for a further year without reference to WIMCS as they believed that as there would be funding remaining after [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] current contracts were completed they could do this. This only came to light when they requested a

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further 3 months extension to allow [REDACTED] to return to the UK after going abroad in the Summer. As a decision was needed quickly, and as from [REDACTED] reports there was evidence that his research was proceeding well, TL had agreed. A retrospective proposal request had now been received, and EL as Stochastics Cluster Co-ordinator would be asked to formally review it. EL

It was raised that [REDACTED], Cardiff Astronomy, is someone WIMCS should engage with. He uses quite a lot of probability. In particular he should be invited to give a talk. EL

It was also raised that WIMCS should contact [REDACTED] Strategic Development, Research and Commercial Division Cardiff TL

d) Appointments etc

- (i) [REDACTED], Aberystwyth, appointed from April 2010.
- (ii) [REDACTED], Cardiff appointed from August 2010 for 1 yr not 2 yrs due to work permit delays. 1 yr funding therefore remains.

(iii) Replacement of [REDACTED]: DE was asked to leave the room for this item as it involved him.

RD explained that the current funding climate meant that it was not possible to directly replace the [REDACTED] position of [REDACTED].

Instead he proposed that the money that became available should be used to

- 1) Pay the salary of DE (who was already a WIMCS Professor) until at least October 2011 – current WIMCS funding end date.
- 2) Use the funding that would become available from this together with the funding resulting from [REDACTED] appointment for 1yr (originally 2) to contribute to appointing 3 “WIMCS” positions

- a) a readership in Analysis
- b) a lectureship in Analysis
- c) a lectureship in Biofluids Modelling

He was keen that the appointments particularly the readership should have a reduced teaching load and hoped this would be possible.

TL noted that appointment should follow normal WIMCS procedures.

RW asked if the interests of Analysis Cluster were same as Cardiff Maths

VL noted the challenge in making the appointments that could bring Analysis together across the partners, but felt this was an important goal.

RD agreed that it was important to have a fit but that excellence was essential.

TL summarised the general view that RD should proceed as he had outlined, that all the positions should be WIMCS, and that it should be made clear that the appointees a) b) would need to work with VL and engage with the Analysis Cluster and c) with the Computational Modelling Cluster.

- (iv) Fellowship in Engineering, Swansea (2 years).

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NJ advised that the proposal to make this a permanent appointment in mathematics had not been approved.

TL asked the RC to consider whether WIMCS should request permission from HEFCW to vire some of this funding to support the positions of the Outreach Co-ordinator where the funding expired in November 2010 and maybe the WIMCS Administrator where funding may expire in Summer 2011 given that HEFCW funding continued only till 31st October 2011.

DE asked if any of eg HE STEM overheads were coming to WIMCS.

TL advised that none at the current time and he intended to raise the issue again at the EC Meeting on 7th July. He had discussed the Engineering Position with Prof J Bonet, Swansea Engineering. Prof Bonet's view was that funds allocated to support research positions should wherever possible be used accordingly. TL advised that normally he supported this view, and it was with reluctance that he was asking the RC to agree that if no other funding was available then he should ask HEFCW if the funds needed (at the moment it seems as if £14k for Outreach Co-ordinator is needed) could be vired.

The RC agreed.

(v) Maths and Health Facilitator, Cardiff

RD advised interviews had taken place the previous week, and [REDACTED], a statistics graduate, who had been working at GE Aircraft Engine Services for 10 yrs, had been appointed for 3 years – first year funded by WIMCS.

e) Funding Requests

- (i) [REDACTED] – it was agreed to sponsor the air fares of 4 named individuals at up to £300 each. WIMCS sponsorship must be mentioned.
- (ii) [REDACTED] – it was agreed that this would be paid for by CM cluster
- (iii) [REDACTED] - £300 – agreed
- (iv) [REDACTED] - £400 – agreed.

f) Update on Recent Initiatives

- (i) LMS Invited Lecturer – Although the numbers attending [REDACTED], Minnesota, 's lectures could have been greater, they had been well received by those who did. TL thanked Swansea for hosting them.
- (ii) Isaac Newton
KM confirmed arrangements for 2011 Meeting
TL advised that DE had agreed to make a proposal in Noncommutative Geometry for 2012.
- (iii) Health
PH confirmed successful launch of hmc2 attended by nearly 100. He was in discussion with WORD (now NISCHR) about joint funding.
The meeting with WAG was going ahead on 29th July with presentations from TL, PH and [REDACTED].
- (iv) Leverhulme

- [REDACTED], Cardiff 's proposal has reached the second round.
[REDACTED], Swansea has agreed to make the next proposal.
- (v) Outreach
DCELLS had recently announced that WIMCS proposal for Further Maths Support for Schools in Wales would be funded (£430k)
 - (vi) HE STEM
Alison Braddock is appointed Regional Director and 2 more appointments are expected to be made in July.
 - (vii) National Science Academy (NSA)
TL explained that that it was something that he had not sought, and felt it was something of an honour to have received it, but it fitted very well with the other WIMCS Outreach activities. The Director understands he has the support of Prof Richard Davies and Prof Iwan Davies at Swansea, and he would be having further dialogue with [REDACTED], WAG and [REDACTED] to formulate plans.

NJ emphasised that Pure Maths was critical, and that there was a real need for a Graduate School in Analysis or Stochastics.

4. Sustainability

TL's Sustainability Document

TL thanked those who had made comments. The slightly negative phrasing in the sentences was entirely accidental.

(Corrected version attached)

In the discussion the following points were made:

WIMCS was well placed to make a holistic case. It must celebrate successes, and quality should not be sacrificed for the sake of quantity. It must take account of likely changes such as probability of fewer HEIs in Wales in the future and the amalgamation of Schools eg Cardiff and Swansea Physics. It was mentioned that as a result some groups eg Theoretical Physicists at Swansea might prefer to be part of Mathematics.

5. HEFCW Strategic targets

Targets include a) Visitor Research Programmes b) Advanced Fellowships c) Funding raised d) Individual Visitors

An audit of what has been achieved is needed

SW

5. Brochure

TL thanked all those who had put input in so far, but it was agreed that the proposed brochure required more work.

RD/RW/SW agreed to meet to work on this

SW

6. International Review of Mathematics

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TL advised that WIMCS had been invited to present on behalf of the Welsh Institutions in December. He would ask SW to write to the Heads of Schools to get 1 representative from each on a working group. SW

TL said a key decision was whether to have individual Institutional submissions or a single WIMCS submission.

7. WIMCS Annual Meeting

Agreed that this would be from 20th-22nd December at Cardiff RD/SW

8. The meeting closed at about 5pm. No date has been set for next meeting.