

Minutes of Joint Annual General Meeting of The University of Edinburgh Computing Society and The University of Edinburgh Artificial Intelligence Society

Held at the Pear Tree House, West Nicholson Street, Edinburgh on Wednesday 7th May 2003.

In attendance: David Weigl, Rupert Hair, Mark Sutherland, James Addison, Eric Skea, Andrew Wiseman, Paul A J Hamilton (Chair), Mark A Miles, Kate Ho, Michael Eng, Thomas Figg, Martin Ling, Hendrik Little, David McIntosh, Justin Hayes, Nicholas Wolverson.

The meeting was convened at 15:30.

Paul A J Hamilton welcomed those in attendance and apologised for the late arrival of the outgoing committee.

1 Explanation of Proposed Merger

Paul A J Hamilton introduced the motion to merge The University of Edinburgh Computing Society (hereinafter referred to as CompSoc) and The University Artificial Intelligence Society (hereinafter referred to as AISoc) in line with changes in the structure of the University of Edinburgh in recent years, in particular the formation of the Division (latterly School) of Informatics, encompassing the original Departments of Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science.

In order for the merger to be completed, a number of constitutional amendments were voted upon, described in the following section.

2 Constitutional Amendments

The original constitutions of AISoc and CompSoc were presented (A transcript of these is provided as respective appendices A and B to these minutes). As a template for the new merged society, a revised constitution consisting of the union of the clauses of the two original constitutions (kindly provided by Mark A Miles) was also presented, and a transcript can be found in Appendix C.

2.1 Name of Society

It was noted by all that a name for the new society must be agreed on. It was proposed that “The University of Edinburgh Computing and Artificial Intelligence Society” will be the name of the new society, reflecting its’ diversified origins, and this may be abbreviated to “CompSoc”. This was voted on as follows:

Votes For: 10 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Therefore, the motion was passed unanimously.

2.2 Amendments to original AIsoc Aims

It was proposed that the paragraph ‘providing opportunities for members to experience commercial programming through the “AIsoc Company”’ should be deleted from the new constitution, as the AIsoc Company has been dormant for a number of years.

Additionally, all references to ‘AI’ or ‘Artificial Intelligence’ in the AIsoc clauses should be amended to ‘Informatics’, to reflect the newly Informaticised base of the society.

These amendments were passed without opposition.

2.3 Cascaded Learning Scheme

Paul A J Hamilton and Thomas Figg explained the AIsoc cascade scheme. In discussions with the School of Informatics, it was hoped that the AIsoc cascade scheme can be reinstated, but expanded in remit to cover the whole of Informatics teaching. Paul A J Hamilton proposed that (the new) CompSoc would operate the Informatics cascade scheme from hereon, and that this should be reflected in the constitution of the new society.

At this point, the chair was co-opted by Martin Ling.

This was debated on at considerable length, and it was decided that due to the current uncertainty surrounding the project, that the Cascade scheme should not be explicitly mentioned in the constitution of the new society, but that there should be reference to the liaison between CompSoc and the School of Informatics with the possible outcome of a cascaded learning scheme.

Therefore, it was proposed that the word ‘possible’ should be removed from the clause ‘To provide assistance with computer-related problems, including possible

support for study’ (which originated from the original CompSoc constitution). This was voted upon as follows:

Votes For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

Following from this, the proposal to remove the clause ‘to provide support to the School of Artificial Intelligence in the form of the Cascaded Learning Scheme’ was voted upon as follows:

Votes For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

Both of these motions were passed. Further Cascade discussion is reserved for later in the meeting (see Section 7).

2.4 Further Amendments to original clauses

A number of further amendments to constitutional clauses were presented as follows:

The clause ‘to provide a range of services to the alumni of the society, including an alumni database’ is to be deleted.

The clause ‘The President, Secretary and Treasurer of the society shall be matriculated students of Edinburgh University and shall be subject to annual election.’ supersedes the clause ‘All office bearers shall be matriculated students of Edinburgh University and shall be subject to annual election.’

The clause relating to the quorum of a General Meeting is altered such that a meeting is quorate even if the existing committee of the society is absent; namely, that the text “(including the President, Secretary, and treasurer)” is removed from the constitution.

All of these amendments were passed by the meeting unanimously.

2.5 Equal Opportunities

Martin Ling described the new CompSoc proposed equal opportunities policy and code of practice, drafted in accordance with EUSA requirements. A copy is provided in Appendix E.

The amendment to the constitution was proposed as follows: to insert ‘The Society shall maintain an Equal Opportunities Policy and Code of Practice, in accordance with EUSA requirements. Any amendments to the said Policy and Code will require to be voted on at a General Meeting of the Society.’

Both the draft equal opportunities policy and the constitutional amendment were passed unanimously.

2.6 Amendments to committee posts

In accordance with the modification of society aims and activities originating from AIsoc as reflected in the constitutional amendments in earlier in the meeting, it was proposed to delete the following clauses from the constitution:

- In addition to the President, Secretary and Treasurer positions, which must be filled by three different individuals, each of the following positions should be filled by matriculated or non-matriculated alumni members. A single member may hold more than one of the following positions.
 - Interest Group Co-ordinators, one per group, responsible for running and advertising their group and maintainance of its resources, web-based or otherwise.
 - Web Page Manager, responsible for maintaining and updating the society website. This includes co-ordinating web resources produced by the different areas of the society and maintaining the overall standard of the site.
 - First Year Liaison Officer, responsible for making the society known to first year students and organising events targeting them, at least one of which should be held before the third week of the first term.
 - MSc Liaison Officer, responsible for making the society known to MSc students and organising events targeting them, at least one of which should be held before the third week of the first term.
 - “AIsoc Company” Liaison Officer, responsible within the society for promoting awareness of the activities organised by the “AIsoc Company” as well as advertising the available opportunities to society members.
 - Alumni Liaison Officer, responsible for maintaining an up to date public alumni database, allowing previous members to update their information. It should be possible to query the database to obtain information on alumni, including their academic and professional interests, and their positions held within the society. The Alumni Liaison Officer is also responsible for organising the alumni events, and should act as the society’s contact to its previous members.

- Cascaded Learning Scheme Co-ordinator, responsible in liaison with the Cascaded Learning Scheme Organiser (a member of staff at the School of Artificial Intelligence), for the selection and renewal of “cascaders”. The Cascaded Learning Scheme Co-ordinator is also responsible for advertising the Scheme in the School of Artificial Intelligence, and for maintaining the Scheme’s webpage as well as the cascade, `signin` and `signout` scripts running on the School of AI machines.

This was approved unanimously.

3 Vote on new constitution and merger of societies

Accordingly, the amended and merged constitution was presented (a copy is provided in Appendix D) and approved.

The motion to merge the Edinburgh University Artificial Intelligence Society and the University of Edinburgh Computing Society into the University of Edinburgh Computing and Artificial Intelligence Society, with the approved constitution in Appendix D was presented and approved by the meeting.

4 Election of new office bearers

4.1 Treasurer

Nominations for the post of society Treasurer were called.

Mark Sutherland was nominated by Kate Ho and seconded by Mark Miles. The nomination was subsequently withdrawn.

Thomas Figg was nominated by Paul A J Hamilton and seconded by Nicholas Wolverson.

There were no other nominations.

Therefore, Thomas Figg was returned unopposed as society Treasurer.

4.2 Secretary

Nominations for the post of society Secretary were called.

Paul A J Hamilton was nominated by Martin Ling and seconded by Thomas Figg.
There were no other nominations.
Therefore, Paul A J Hamilton was returned unopposed as society Secretary.

4.3 President

Nominations for the post of society President were called.
Martin Ling was nominated by Paul A J Hamilton and seconded by Thomas Figg.
David Weigl was nominated by Kate Ho and seconded by Michael Eng.
A ballot was conducted by the raising of hands. The results were as follows:

Martin Ling For: 8
David Weigl For: 4

Therefore, Martin Ling was returned as President.

4.4 Communications Officer

Nominations for the post of society Communications Officer were called.
Nicholas Wolverson was nominated by himself and seconded by Paul A J Hamilton.
There were no other nominations.
Therefore, Nicholas Wolverson was returned unopposed as society Communications Officer.

4.5 Social Secretary

Nominations for the post of society Social Secretary were called.
Mark Miles was nominated by himself and seconded by Martin Ling.
Michael Eng was nominated by Kate Ho and seconded by Mark Miles.
Mark Miles and Michael Eng agreed to hold the position jointly.
Therefore, Mark Miles and Michael Eng jointly were returned as society Social Secretaries.

5 Merger of Bank Accounts and Assets

ACTION: Thomas Figg agreed to handle the paperwork relating to merging the societies' accounts.

6 Notification of EUSA

ACTION: Paul A J Hamilton agreed to handle the paperwork relating to merging the societies' records with EUSA.

7 Cascaded Learning Scheme

Paul A J Hamilton outlined the proposed Cascaded Learning Scheme, following from his earlier discussions with the School of Informatics.

In light of its' newly non-constitutional requirement, it was proposed that a 'steering committee' be set up as a 'focus group' to discuss the viability and details of implementation, if any, of a Cascaded Learning Scheme to be run within the School of Informatics.

A mailing list will be set up to facilitate this discussion.

8 Discussion of projects

Nicholas Wolverson provided a brief resumé of the EARWIG project. This project shall be shelved (for now).

9 Close

There was no other business.

The meeting was closed at 17:30.

A AISoc Constitution

Edinburgh University Artificial Intelligence Society CONSTITUTION

November 4, 2002

The name of the society shall be ‘Edinburgh University Artificial Intelligence Society’ or ‘AISoc’.

Aims of the society

To help members gain experience and knowledge of work in Artificial Intelligence by:

- holding special interest group meetings to provide members with a platform for discussion and an opportunity to learn new skills
- holding informal seminars with workers and researchers in Artificial Intelligence from industry or other academic institutions
- allowing members to have access to various AI programming tools in order to gain experience in using them to solve AI-related problems
- providing opportunities for members to experience commercial programming through the “AISoc Company”
- to provide a range of services to the alumni of the society, including an alumni database
- to provide support to the School of Artificial Intelligence in the form of the Cascaded Learning Scheme.

Compulsory clauses

- Membership shall be open to all matriculated students of Edinburgh University.

- Membership shall be at least 75% matriculated students of Edinburgh University.
- All members who are not matriculated students of Edinburgh University shall pay twice the annual subscription paid by students, which shall in turn be the minimal amount required to be an official EUSA society.
- The President, Secretary and Treasurer of the society shall be matriculated students of Edinburgh University.
- All office-bearers shall be subject to election annually.
- All members shall receive at least 14 days written notification of the Annual General Meeting and of elections not held at the AGM.
- The society's cheques shall require two signatories: one must be Treasurer and the other President or Secretary.
- Constitutional amendments shall require a two-thirds majority at a General Meeting open to all members, 14 days notice of which shall be given. The quorum of such a General Meeting shall be 10 members including the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Individual clauses

- In addition to the President, Secretary and Treasurer positions, which must be filled by three different individuals, each of the following positions should be filled by matriculated or non-matriculated alumni members. A single member may hold more than one of the following positions.
 - Interest Group Co-ordinators, one per group, responsible for running and advertising their group and maintenance of its resources, web-based or otherwise.
 - Web Page Manager, responsible for maintaining and updating the society website. This includes co-ordinating web resources produced by the different areas of the society and maintaining the overall standard of the site.
 - First Year Liaison Officer, responsible for making the society known to first year students and organising events targeting them, at least one of which should be held before the third week of the first term.

- MSc Liaison Officer, responsible for making the society known to MSc students and organising events targeting them, at least one of which should be held before the third week of the first term.
 - “AIsoc Company” Liaison Officer, responsible within the society for promoting awareness of the activities organised by the “AIsoc Company” as well as advertising the available opportunities to society members.
 - Alumni Liaison Officer, responsible for maintaining an up to date public alumni database, allowing previous members to update their information. It should be possible to query the database to obtain information on alumni, including their academic and professional interests, and their positions held within the society. The Alumni Liaison Officer is also responsible for organising the alumni events, and should act as the society’s contact to its previous members.
 - Cascaded Learning Scheme Co-ordinator, responsible in liaison with the Cascaded Learning Scheme Organiser (a member of staff at the School of Artificial Intelligence), for the selection and renewal of “cascaders”. The Cascaded Learning Scheme Co-ordinator is also responsible for advertising the Scheme in the School of Artificial Intelligence, and for maintaining the Scheme’s webpage as well as the cascade, signin and signout scripts running on the School of AI machines.
- Non-matriculated members can only vote in an election if they are alumni of the society.
 - The procedure at any committee election shall be as follows:
 - Any member of the society may stand for any position advertised. A list of the available positions will be distributed along with written notification of the election.
 - Votes shall be cast by the raising of hands, unless any member requests otherwise, in which case votes shall be cast by secret ballot.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF these presents on these pages are subscribed by the Executive Committee this _____ the _____ of _____, _____ Common Era.

B CompSoc Constitution

CONSTITUTION UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH C O M P S O C

The name of the Society shall be “CompSoc” being a short form for either “Computer Society” or “Computing Society”.

The aims of the Society shall be as follows:–

- To provide a forum for members to discuss issues relating to computer science and computing in general;
- To facilitate social interaction amongst people with a common interest in computer-related issues, by means of methods including, but not limited to, inebriation;
- To provide assistance with computer-related problems, including possible support for study;
- To promote liaison between the local academic and business communities, with regard to fostering future employment opportunities;
- To promote the use of Open-Source code and the creation of bug-free software in a responsible environment where functionality is considered fundamentally superior to profitability;
- To generate a free-trade environment for the exchange of hardware, software, and miscellaneous computer-related merchandise; and
- Membership shall be open to all matriculated students of Edinburgh University.
- Membership shall be at least seventy-five percent (75%) matriculated students of Edinburgh University.
- All members who are not matriculated students of Edinburgh University shall pay at least twice the annual subscription paid by students.
- The membership year shall be the duration of the Academic year.

- The Society shall elect an Executive Committee, consisting of a President, Secretary and Treasurer. Committee members in-ordinary may also be elected at a General Meeting or co-opted by the Committee.
- All office bearers shall be matriculated students of Edinburgh University and shall be subject to annual election.
- All members must receive at least fourteen (14) days written notification of the Annual General Meeting and of elections not held at the AGM.
- The society's cheques must require two signatories; one must be the Treasurer and the other President or Secretary.
- Constitutional amendments shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority at a General Meeting open to all members, fourteen (14) days notice of which shall be given.
- The quorum of such a General Meeting shall be no less than one-third (1/3) of the members fourteen (14) days prior to such a meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF these presents typewritten on this and the preceding page are subscribed by the said Executive Committee elected Wednesday this Nineteenth Day of April, Two Thousand Common Era.

Mark A Miles
President

Michael Eng
Secretary

Simon Brown
Treasurer

Edinburgh, 19 April, 2000

C Draft Merged Constitution

CONSTITUTION

[_____
_____]

The name of the Society shall be “[_____]”
or “[_____]”.

Aims of the Society

The aims of the Society shall be as follows —

- To provide a forum for members to discuss issues relating to computer science and computing in general;
- To facilitate social interaction amongst people with a common interest in computer-related issues, by means of methods including, but not limited to, inebriation;
- To provide assistance with computer-related problems, including possible support for study;
- To promote liaison between the local academic and business communities, with regard to fostering future employment opportunities;
- To promote the use of Open-Source code and the creation of bug-free software in a responsible environment where functionality is considered fundamentally superior to profitability;
- To generate a free-trade environment for the exchange of hardware, software, and miscellaneous computer-related merchandise; and To help members gain experience and knowledge of work in Artificial Intelligence by:
 - holding special interest group meetings to provide members with a platform for discussion and an opportunity to learn new skills
 - holding informal seminars with workers and researchers in Artificial Intelligence from industry or other academic institutions

- allowing members to have access to various AI programming tools in order to gain experience in using them to solve AI-related problems
- providing opportunities for members to experience commercial programming through the “AIsoc Company”
- to provide a range of services to the alumni of the society, including an alumni database
- to provide support to the School of Artificial Intelligence in the form of the Cascaded Learning Scheme.

Compulsory Clauses

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The quorum of such a General Meeting shall be no less than (one-third (1/3) of the members / 10 members) (including the President, Secretary and Treasurer) fourteen (14) days prior to such a meeting.

The Society shall maintain an Equal Opportunities Policy and Code of Practice, in accordance with EUSA requirements. Any amendments to the said Policy and Code will require to be voted on at a General Meeting of the Society.

Individual clauses

In addition to the President, Secretary and Treasurer positions, which must be filled by three different individuals, each of the following positions should be filled by matriculated or non-matriculated alumni members. A single member may hold more than one of the following positions.

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Non-matriculated members can only vote in an election if they are alumni of the society.

The procedure at any committee election shall be as follows:

- Any member of the society may stand for any position advertised. A list of the available positions will be distributed along with written notification of the election.
- Votes shall be cast by the raising of hands, unless any member requests otherwise, in which case votes shall be cast by secret ballot.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF these presents typewritten on this and the preceding five pages are subscribed by the said Executive Committee elected Wednesday this Seventh day of May, Two Thousand and Three Common Era.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

07 MAY 2003

D New Constitution

CONSTITUTION COMPSOC

The name of the Society shall be “CompSoc” or “The University of Edinburgh Computing and Artificial Intelligence Society”.

The aims of the Society shall be as follows —

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- To facilitate social interaction amongst people with a common interest in computer-related issues, by means of methods including, but not limited to, inebriation;
- To provide assistance with computer-related problems, including support for study;
- To promote liaison between the local academic and business communities, with regard to fostering future employment opportunities;
- To promote the use of Open-Source code and the creation of bug-free software in a responsible environment where functionality is considered fundamentally superior to profitability;
- To generate a free-trade environment for the exchange of hardware, software, and miscellaneous computer-related merchandise; and To help members gain experience and knowledge of work in Informatics by:
 - holding special interest group meetings to provide members with a platform for discussion and an opportunity to learn new skills.
 - holding informal seminars with workers and researchers in Informatics from industry or other academic institutions.
 - allowing members to have access to various Informatics-related programming tools in order to gain experience in using them to solve related problems.

Membership shall be open to all matriculated students of Edinburgh University.

Membership shall be made up of at least seventy-five percent (75%) matriculated students of Edinburgh University.

All members who are not matriculated students of Edinburgh University shall pay at least twice the annual subscription paid by students, which shall in turn be the minimal amount required to be an official EUSA society.

The membership year shall be the duration of the Academic year.

The Society shall elect an Executive Committee, consisting of a President, Secretary and Treasurer. Committee members in-ordinary may also be elected at a General Meeting or co-opted by the Committee.

The President, Secretary and Treasurer of the society shall be matriculated students of Edinburgh University and shall be subject to annual election.

All members must receive at least fourteen (14) days written notification of the Annual General Meeting and of elections not held at the AGM.

The society's cheques must require two signatories; one must be the Treasurer and the other President or Secretary.

Constitutional amendments shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority at a General Meeting open to all members, fourteen (14) days notice of which shall be given.

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The Society shall maintain an Equal Opportunities Policy and Code of Practice, in accordance with EUSA requirements. Any amendments to the said Policy and Code will require to be voted on at a General Meeting of the Society.

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- Votes shall be cast by the raising of hands, unless any member requests otherwise, in which case votes shall be cast by secret ballot.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF these presents typewritten on this and the preceding five pages are subscribed by the said Executive Committee elected Wednesday

this Seventh day of May, Two Thousand and Three Common Era.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

07 MAY 2003

E CompSoc Equal Opportunities Policy and Code of Practice

- i. CompSoc believes that discrimination or harassment, direct or indirect, based on any irrelevant distinction such as gender, age, race, sexual orientation or taxonomy is detrimental to CompSoc, EUSA and wider society, and will not be tolerated.
- ii. Section (i) above includes reference to discrimination on such grounds as: big- or little-endianism; choice of editor, Linux distribution, window manager or object manipulation environment; VAX versus PDP; free or open-source software; free as in speech or beer; and who really invented the computer and/or internet.
- iii. However, CompSoc reserves the inalienable right to argue about such matters as described in section (ii) above, yea, even unto the Last Trump.
- iv. CompSoc also reserves the right to slander mercilessly anyone known to use willingly any Microsoft or AOL product or service. This right is reserved due to the specification of “irrelevant distinction” in section (i) above. Such persons will not be discriminated against, just harrassed.
- v. CompSoc reserves the right to add entities to the lists in sections (ii) and (iv) above as it sees fit, to be voted on at any General Meeting of the society.