



Annual Council Meeting 2024 – Minutes
Tuesday 18 June 2024; University of Western Australia

Attendees:	See Table 1 below
Apologies:	See Table 1 below
Item	Description
1	<p>Welcome and president’s report: Simeon Simoff</p> <p>The president reported on what ACDICT had achieved over the past year.</p>
2	<p>ACM resolutions: Simeon Simoff</p> <p>A number of motions were considered and voted upon. As required by the constitution, those regarding amendments to the constitution had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting, as shown on the pages following these minutes.</p> <p>Motion 2.1: That for the year 2024 alone, any institution be accepted as a member as of the date that it pays the subscription. Carried nem con</p> <p><i>It had been noted that according to the constitution, member institutions were required to pay the annual subscription within the first three months of the financial year. Only 16 institutions had met this deadline in 2024, and therefore only those 16 institutions were members and were able to vote on this motion. The outcome meant that a further 11 institutions were accepted as members and were able to vote on the subsequent motions.</i></p> <p>Motion 2.2: To amend the constitution with the effect that annual membership is automatically extended three months into the subsequent year, and that an institution becomes a member upon payment of the annual subscription. Carried nem con</p> <p>Motion 2.3: To amend the constitution to adjust the start of the financial year. Lost nem con</p> <p><i>While changing the financial year to start on 1 July might make it easier for some institutions to pay within the first three months, it was noted that this would put ACDICT out of synch with most member institutions, an inconvenience that was unnecessary in view of the changes accepted in motion 2.2. Further suggestions included sending invoices late in the preceding year, and checking in advance to be sure that invoices were being sent to the most appropriate email address.</i></p> <p>Motion 2.4: To amend the constitution to permit institutions from New Zealand to join ACDICT, including changing the council’s name from Australian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology to Australasian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology. Carried nem con</p> <p>Motion 2.5: To amend the constitution to permit online attendance at the ACM, including when nominated for election to the executive. Carried nem con</p>



	<p>Motion 2.6: To ratify the president's recommendation regarding the appointment, duties, term of office, and pay rate of an executive officer.</p> <p>Carried nem con</p> <p><i>In discussion of this motion, it was agreed that this responsibility should be devolved from the council to the executive, which would require an amendment to the constitution at the next council meeting.</i></p>
3	<p>Meeting of minds: Simeon Simoff</p> <p>Simeon Simoff as president of ACDICT, Rachel Cardell-Olivar as president of CORE, and Simon as a member of the executive of the Australasian chapter of SIGCSE, discussed how these bodies might collaborate on matters that concern them all. The main focus of the discussion was Australasian Computer Science Week (ACSW), and in particular the Australasian Computing Education Conference (ACE).</p> <p>ACSW is run by CORE. It appears that interest is waning in most of its constituent conferences, and it is not clear whether it remains viable. ACE has long been the biggest of the constituent conferences, and many people wish to see ACE continue.</p> <p>There was some discussion of the reasons for the decline in interest, and of alternative models that might help, such as pairing each conference presentation with a journal publication, but no firm agreement was reached.</p> <p>Specifically for next year, CORE and ACDICT agreed to co-fund ACSW 2025, with some conditions such as success in enlisting other conferences besides ACE. If ACSW 2025 does proceed, both CORE and ACDICT will try to persuade their members to send early-career and teaching-focused academics as part of their staff development.</p> <p>Further into the future, if that model proves unsuccessful, there was a suggestion that a way might be sought of combining ACE with the ALTA forum, with some attendance subsidised by ACDICT membership fees.</p>
4	<p>Updates from member institutions</p> <p>The delegates of member institutions were invited to take up to three minutes each to inform the meeting of developments and points of interest at their universities. Matters most often mentioned were upper-level staff changes at the universities, staffing levels and student numbers, and changes in degree offerings; some delegates also took up a suggestion that they explain their approach regarding teaching-focused positions.</p>
5	<p>Election of executive: Simon</p> <p>At the close of nominations for positions on the executive, there were two nominations for deputy president: Paul Haskell-Dowland (Edith Cowan University) and Anna Shillabeer (Charles Sturt University). Anna Shillabeer was elected to the position.</p> <p>There were six nominations for the three ordinary member positions on the executive: Paul Haskell-Dowland (Edith Cowan University), Jim Hogan (Queensland University of Technology), Raina Mason (Southern Cross University), Will Billingsley (University of New England), and Trina Myers (Deakin University). Trina Myers, Will Billingsley, and Jim Hogan were elected to the positions.</p> <p>Along with the usual progression of the president and deputy president, the executive is now: President: Stewart Von Itzstein (University of South Australia)</p>



	<p>Deputy president: Anna Shillabeer (Charles Sturt University)</p> <p>Immediate past president: Simeon Simoff (Western Sydney University)</p> <p>Ordinary members: Will Billingsley (University of New England)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Jim Hogan (Queensland University of Technology)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Trina Myers (Deakin University)</p>
	<p>Round table: Trina Myers</p> <p>There was an open discussion on teaching-focused positions. Seed questions included what departments are doing, what teaching-focused academics might require, such as a community of practice, what the legal constraints might be on such positions. Concern was expressed that aspiring academics are being pushed into the possible dead-end of a teaching-focused position, and, correspondingly, that some people might just be 'squatting' in these positions until they can successfully apply for teaching + research positions. There was a call for advocacy to remove the stereotype of teaching specialists as second-rate academics who cannot do research.</p> <p>There was support for a suggestion that ACDICT might undertake a project to further examine the situation.</p>
6	<p>Introduction, incoming president: Stewart Von Itzstein</p> <p>The incoming president introduced himself and put forward some ideas as to what ACDICT might aim to achieve in the next year.</p>
7	<p>Treasurer's report: Will Billingsley</p> <p>The audited financial report for 2023 was presented and accepted. Carried nem con</p> <p>An unchanged subscription rate of \$3500 + GST was proposed for 2025 membership. Carried nem con</p> <p>It was suggested that ACDICT should consider raising its subscription in the near future.</p> <p>A subscription of NZ\$3500 was proposed for any New Zealand institutions that join. Carried nem con</p> <p>It was suggested that to help reduce transaction fees, ACDICT consider opening a New Zealand bank account to hold New Zealand subscriptions and pay New Zealand expenses.</p> <p>A budget was proposed for the 2025 financial year. Discussion focused once more on the steps being taken to reduce the balance to 1½-2 years' income. It was proposed as an amendment that the \$75,000 allocated for ALTA grants be split into \$50,000 for grants and \$25,000 for discretionary funding to be used by the executive on new initiatives, including the shared funding of ACE. The budget was accepted by the meeting with this amendment. Carried nem con</p>
8	<p>Other business – general discussion</p> <p>The new executive undertook to promulgate the next call for expressions of interest in ALTA grants within three months.</p>



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF DEANS OF
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

It was suggested that ACDICT set up a messaging forum, using software such as Slack or Discord, in which its members could create channels for discussion of various topics of common interest.

It was noted that, probably for many members, student-staff ratios are among the highest in the university, making computing a 'teaching cash cow'. ACDICT might consider surveying members to form a broad picture that members might subsequently be able to use in discussion with their own universities.

Meeting closed 5pm

Minute taker:	Simon, ACDICT executive officer
Signed:	
Name:	Stewart Von Itzstein, ACDICT President
Date:	



Table 1: Member universities and ACM delegates

Member university	Representative
The University of Adelaide	
University of Canberra	Girija Chetty
Central Queensland University	Srimannarayana Grandhi
Charles Darwin University	Cat Kutay
Charles Sturt University	Anna Shillabeer (<i>ACDICT executive member</i>)
Curtin University of Technology	Tele Tan
Deakin University	Trina Myers (<i>ACDICT immediate past president</i>)
Edith Cowan University	Paul Haskell-Dowland
Flinders University	Carl Mooney
James Cook University	
La Trobe University	Eric Pardede
Macquarie University	Gaurav Gupta
Monash University	Ann Nicholson
Murdoch University	<i>Apologies – Dave Parry</i>
The University of Newcastle	
Queensland University of Technology	Jim Hogan
RMIT University	Karin Verspoor
Southern Cross University	Raina Mason (<i>ACDICT executive member – online</i>)
Swinburne University of Technology	Caslon Chua
University of Tasmania	Nicole Herbert
The University of New England	Will Billingsley (<i>ACDICT treasurer</i>)
University of South Australia	Stewart Von Itzstein (<i>ACDICT deputy president</i>)
University of Southern Queensland	<i>Apologies – Robert Sang</i>
University of Technology Sydney	Paul Kennedy
The University of Western Australia	Mark Reynolds
University of Wollongong	
Western Sydney University	Simeon Simoff (<i>ACDICT president</i>)



Annual Council Meeting 2024

Proposed amendments to constitution regarding ACDICT membership

Clause 2 of ACDICT's constitution stipulates that a member university is "a university that has paid its annual subscription or, within the first three months of the financial year, has paid the previous year's subscription".

Clause 9 stipulates that "The annual subscription shall be paid within three months of the start of the financial year."

Clause 11 stipulates that "Universities that have failed to renew their subscription within three months of the start of the financial year shall not:

- a. Have a representative elected to hold office or membership of the executive,
- b. Be entitled to vote on matters of council,
- c. Be chosen in a role for which an ACDICT representative has been requested,
- d. Be listed in any application for funding or sponsorship organised by ACDICT."

ACDICT's financial year begins on 1 January, so to be eligible under clause 11, institutions must pay by 31 March. However, aware of the general inactivity in many universities during January, ACDICT has recently been sending invoices in February; this year, on 5 February, leaving members just seven weeks in which to attain membership and meet the requirement of clause 11.

Sixteen institutions paid their subscription by 31 March 2024, and so are members according to the constitution:

University of Canberra	Queensland University of Technology
Charles Darwin University	RMIT University
Central Queensland University	Southern Cross University
James Cook University	University of Tasmania
La Trobe University	The University of New England
Macquarie University	University of Southern Queensland
Monash University	University of Technology Sydney
The University of Newcastle	University of Wollongong

Institutions that paid their subscription after 31 March are technically not members of ACDICT.

Motion 2.1 (to be voted on only by the sixteen institutions listed above)

That for the year 2024 alone, any institution be accepted as a member as of the date that it pays the subscription.

The ACDICT executive recommends that members vote Yes to motion 2.1.

Motion 2.2 (to be voted on by all members according to the outcome of Motion 2.1)

That clauses 2, 9, and 11 of the constitution be amended as follows.

In clause 2, to replace the words

“**Member university**” refers to a university that has paid its annual subscription or, within the first three months of the financial year, has paid the previous year’s subscription;

with the words

“**Member university**” is a university that has paid its subscription for the current financial year; to facilitate continuity, membership shall extend into the first three months of the following financial year;

In clause 9, to replace the words

The annual subscription shall be paid within three months of the start of the financial year.

with the words

The annual subscription shall normally be paid within three months of the start of the financial year.

In clause 11, to replace the words

Universities that have failed to renew their subscription within three months of the start of the financial year shall not

with the words

Universities that have not paid the current subscription shall not

The ACDICT executive recommends that members vote Yes to motion 2.2.



Annual Council Meeting 2024

Proposed amendment to constitution regarding financial year

ACDICT's financial year begins on 1 January. Because of the general inactivity in many universities during January, ACDICT has recently been sending invoices in February; this year, on 5 February. There is an expectation that subscriptions will be paid within the first three months of the financial year, but many members have difficulty meeting that expectation.

The ACDICT executive considers that members will find it easier to pay subscriptions within three months of the start of the financial year if that year begins on 1 July.

The treasurer's report will accommodate either possible outcome of this motion.

Motion 2.3 (to be voted on by all members according to the outcome of Motion 2.1)

That clause 2 of the constitution be amended as follows.

In clause 2, to replace the words

“**Financial year**” begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December

with the words

“**Financial year**” begins on 1 July and ends on 30 June

The ACDICT executive recommends that members vote Yes to motion 2.3.



Annual Council Meeting 2024

Proposed amendments to constitution to extend membership to New Zealand universities

ACDICT is currently an association of Australian universities. The executive would like to open membership to New Zealand universities. To enable that, amendments are required to the name of the association and to several points in the constitution.

Motion 2.4 (to be voted on by all members according to the outcome of Motion 2.1)

- That membership be open to New Zealand universities that offer ICT degrees;
- That the name of the association be changed to Australasian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology;
- That the title and clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the constitution be amended as follows.

In the title, to replace the words

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF DEANS OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

with the words

AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF DEANS OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
TECHNOLOGY

In clause 2, to replace the words

The name of the association shall be “The Australian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology”

with the words

The name of the association shall be “The Australasian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology”

In clause 2, to replace the words

“**Council**” means the Australian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology

with the words

“**Council**” means the Australasian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology

In clause 2, to replace the words

any other senior position of direct responsibility for ICT in an Australian university

with the words

any other senior position of direct responsibility for ICT in an Australian or New Zealand university

In clause 2, to replace the words

“University” refers to an Australian university

with the words

“University” refers to a university in Australia or New Zealand

In clause 3, to replace the words

on behalf of Australian universities

with the words

on behalf of Australian and New Zealand universities

In clause 4, to replace the words

To monitor the state of computing education in Australia

with the words

To monitor the state of computing education in Australia and New Zealand

The ACDICT executive recommends that members vote Yes to motion 2.4.



Annual Council Meeting 2024

Proposed amendment to constitution regarding ACM

In recent years ACDICT's ACM has been held on a single day (or less), in conjunction with the ALTA forum. These two meetings are intended for different groups of people, but many members rationalise the financial and human cost by sending the same person to both.

A member has suggested that the ACM could reasonably be conducted as a hybrid or fully online meeting. To facilitate this, the constitution would require two amendments: a clarification and an alteration.

Motion 2.5 (to be voted on by all members according to the outcome of Motion 2.1)

- That the Annual Council Meeting may be conducted either in person or online;
- That if the Annual Council Meeting is conducted in person, members will be permitted to attend online;
- That clauses 6 and 7 of the constitution be amended as follows.

In clause 6, to replace the words

The ACM will occur in a venue to be recommended to council by the executive.

with the words

The ACM will be conducted either online or in a venue to be recommended to council by the executive. If the ACM is conducted in a physical venue, members will be permitted to attend online, and arrangements will be made to facilitate this.

In clause 7, to replace the words

Any council member standing for election at the annual council meeting must be present in person.

with the words

Any council member standing for election at the annual council meeting must be present either in person or online.

The ACDICT executive recommends that members vote Yes to motion 2.5.