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Examination of FME accounts 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

At the AGM of Formal Methods Europe (FME) held on 3 April 2019 in London I was appointed as one of the financial examiners charged with scrutinizing the accounts for the financial years 2019 and 2020. Formerly a member of academic staff at Loughborough University, I am now a Visiting Fellow. I am also currently the Treasurer of BCS-FACS (the Formal Aspects of Computing Science specialist group of the British Computer Society), a group which I helped found and of which I have previously been Chairman and Secretary. I have been an 'ordinary' member of FME for several years. It has now become customary for FME and (BCS) FACS to hold joint meetings periodically.

As was the case last year, I see no point in repeating the actual figures from the bank accounts and the cashbook. I have cross checked the various financial documents supplied and all entries tally.

The Caronavirus pandemic has seriously curtailed the scope of FME meetings. Indeed, globally, most conferences and technical meetings have become 'virtual' (online) rather than person to person events. This has had serious consequences for the financing and planning of such events.

At FACS, following the recommendation of the BCS, we have anticipated that expenditure for the next financial year will be based on the outline budget agreed for the previous year. Obviously this will almost certainly be wrong, but it is the best we can do even though it might well require adjustment for inflation if/when we get back to 'normal'. I presume that FME will do something similar. Although the outlook is uncertain, I have no doubt that the officers of the society will act prudently and that the current surpluses will adequately see FME through the next few years; until the world has, hopefully, recovered from the pandemic.

In summary, I am happy to support the treasurers accounts for presentation at the FME 2021 AGM.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D J Cooke".

Dr John Cooke