

UCML AGM & Plenary 2019
5 July 2019



King's College London, Waterloo Campus
James Clerk Maxwell Bldg, basement room 18

UCML ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

Item 5 VC Research report

I have attended meetings of the AHRC Modern Languages Advisory Group (12 June) and the IMLR Advisory Council (27 June) on behalf of UCML and have some news.

OWRI is soon entering its final year.

- There will be a final pan-project conference in September 2020.
- Follow-on funding of some sort for the four projects is anticipated.
- In conjunction with the AHRC lead fellow for Modern Languages, Janice Carruthers (Belfast), the four projects are sponsoring **undergraduate ML ambassadors** to work with year 11 classes to increase A level uptake in 20 schools (4 per project, plus Janice) in 5 regions led by the PIs' universities: Cambridge, KCL, Manchester, Oxford (plus Belfast). The results will be evaluated by Teresa Tinsley and it is hoped that the project will be rolled out across the whole of the UK and be funded on a sustainable basis. Funders are being sought. Involvement by UCML was mentioned. The languages are French, German, Irish and Spanish. All 20 schools are in the state sector and one in each region qualifies as disadvantaged according to the usual measure of free-school meal entitlement.
- Katrin Kohl's campaign against **severe grading at A level** in ML is also attached to OWRI. I recommended that this be highlighted when she made her next high-profile intervention. She has told me that she is making some progress but a satisfactory settlement is still far off.
- All four projects have been very busy. Questions were raised about sustainability and the hard research elements in each project, as opposed to impact and engagement which were highlighted in the project reports.
- Neil Kenny, the British Academy lead fellow for Modern Languages, is working on **a national strategy for Modern Languages**.

The **AHRC** has published a strategic plan. There is no hypothecated funding for ML, after both OWRI and Translating Cultures, though if funding from UKRI increases---and this may happen--- then some of the proposals regarding languages could be looked at again.

The director of the **IMLR** Catherine Davies is definitely stepping down on 31 December and expects a successor to be appointed during the autumn. A job ad will be published in due course.

Julian Preece

28 June 2019