

UCML Executive Committee

Friday 2 November 2018 12.30 – 16.00
Monnet Room, Europe House
32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU



Exec Members (alphabetical order of surname; *inset /italic = absent*)

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Sarah Bowskill | N. Ireland | SB |
| Caroline Campbell | IWLP | CEC |
| <i>Joe Carson</i> | <i>Scotland</i> | JC |
| Ana de Medeiros | VC Communications | AdM |
| Connor Doak | Slavonic & EE | CD |
| <i>Joanna Drugan</i> | <i>T&I</i> | JD |
| Federico Faloppa | Linguistics | FF |
| Allyson Fiddler | Germanic & Low countries | AF |
| Olga Gomez-Cash | Hon Treasurer | OGC |
| Claire Gorrara | Chair | CG |
| Derek Hird | E. Asian | DH |
| René Koglbauer | Schools Liaison | RK |
| <i>Par Kumaraswami</i> | <i>Hispanic</i> | PK |
| El Mustapha Lahlali | Middle Eastern studies | ML |
| <i>Imogen Long</i> | <i>French</i> | IL |
| <i>Carole MacDiarmid</i> | <i>ELT</i> | CMacD |
| <i>Hilary Owen</i> | <i>Lusophone</i> | HO |
| Giuliana Pieri | Italian | GP |
| Elena Polisca | VC Education | EP |
| <i>Julian Preece</i> | <i>VC Research</i> | JP |
| Naomi Segal | Hon Secretary | NS |
| Claire St John Eve | Admin Assistant | CSJE |
| <i>Frances Weightman</i> | <i>Area Studies</i> | FW |
| Liz Wren-Owens | Wales | LWO |

Reports for this meeting can be found at <https://ucml.ac.uk/2018/10/23/ucml-executive-committee-meeting-4/>

MINUTES

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from JC, JD, PK, IL, CMacD, HO, JP & FW. After a *tour de table*, new Exec member El Mustapha Lahlali was warmly welcomed.

2 Minutes of recent meetings

2.ab **Executive Committee meeting of 20 April 2018**

NS noted that several corrections & Matters arising had already been raised at the AGM & appeared in those minutes; see below, §2.d.

2.a Accuracy and approval

§3.i Neil Kenny is Chair of the BA LAG, not Jocelyn Wyburd.

§10.k 3 amendments:

§10 k ii. CEC encouraged colleagues to make their HEI aware of the survey and perhaps take responsibility for responding to it.

§10k iii Participation in UNILANG is being developed through workshops: to encourage more universities to become accredited through the UNILANG scheme.

§10k iv Mark Critchley, Director of the centre for Foreign Language Study, Durham University, has led the Languages Learning Framework project which maps ...

2.b Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- §2.b-2.d Celtic Studies: they have been asked in the past and never followed up; **Action: CG & LWO** to try again.
- §2.b-10.j Biennial UCML-AULC conference proposed for Hull in 2019 or 2020: this could not be pursued in the absence of IL. **Action: CEC** to chase up with AULC & IL (*see also below, §10.k*)
- §9.iii Feedback is still invited for the *Routes Cymru* school governors' leaflet. **Action:** SB to put colleague Ian Collins in touch with CG.
- §10.b The link to the AUPHF event had not yet been put up on the website. New HoSs might find it especially useful; it was agreed to add it to the current Newsletter: **Action: AdM & CSJE**.
- §10.d PK had raised the question of the gender pay-gap; there was a discussion of whether this is within UCML's remit. There is a national gender pay audit of large organisations (including HEIs) but MLs would not be specified. This might come up in the survey CG had sent out to UCML member organisations. Meantime it was decided to see whether the AUPHF professorial pay survey still runs & if so whether it can be extended; **Action: CG**.
- §10.e Potential overlap btw Lusophone & Area Studies; in absence of HO & FW, nothing reported.
- §10.j The Salzburg statement to be uploaded to the website; **Action: AdM**. This can now be found on <https://ucml.ac.uk/2018/11/15/salzburg-global-fellows-call-for-multilingualism-and-language-rights-to-be-valued-protected-and-promoted/>
- §10.k UNILANG: AdM explained that this has been developing for a few years with support from BA: it accredits the results of students who do MLs but not as a degree: the HEI can be declared as a Unilang provider.
- §12 AOB discussion on severity of marking + other language-learning issues: now in RK's remit (*and see §10.n below*).

2.cd AGM of 29 June 2018

2.c Accuracy and approval

No corrections.

2.d Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- §2-12c Good news stories in August at same time as results. EP wrote a report about improving results. We could collaborate with Vicky Gough to encourage positive messages. **Action: AdM**.
- §4a Inclusion of Scottish Highers data; EP pointed out that these are included in UK data. On the question of disaggregating Wales & NI, SB said this might be useful as it is a different awarding body; likewise Scotland's different syllabus could highlight differences; **Action: EP, JC & SB**.

3 Chair's Report

CG

CG amplified her report. She has been working on policy intervention, strategic planning and advocacy on the value of languages; she is on the BA LAG & other key strategic fora. She has given a paper in language activism – making the case for ML rather than defending it. She will be giving a paper in East Anglia & offered to share stats with Exec colleagues; **Action: CG**. Re NI: the LAG is including the nations in its proposed Languages Strategy.

4 Report of Vice Chair Languages & Intercultural Education

EP

EP amplified her report. The UCAS data project is progressing: they are contacting UCAS this week to get hard data. Re inclusion of Linguistics: she is working with FF to put questions together. The languages mapping article is finished, and will be published on the website this afternoon. Thanks to Carlos Montoro and Inma Alvarez for this; **Action: AdM** to retweet.

EP also suggested having a prominent section on the website for UCML publications such as these; this was agreed; **Action: EP/AdM, CSJE**.

Finally, EP has joined AdvanceHE (successor to the HEA) but was surprised to see UCML was not listed as one of the bodies they are consulting; it was agreed that they should add us now: **Action: EP**.

5 Report of Vice Chair Research

JP

In the absence of JP, some points were discussed. The Exec agreed with his concern re the current configuration of REF UoAs 26 & 25, in relation to non-European MLs. DH welcomed JP's response to AHRC but was also concerned re the assessors: all the specialists for criteria and assessments were in European MLs; NS added that BCLA has also raised this issue. It was agreed that this should be raised at the upcoming Plenary,

following a pre-Plenary communication to Charles Forsdick & Susan Hodgett (**Action: JP**) and that we should make a recommendation direct to REF; **Action: CG**.

OGC reminded colleagues we had discussed IWLP being the focus of an upcoming Plenary, perhaps in summer 2019.

6 Report of Vice Chair External Communication & Engagement **AdM**

AdM amplified her report. The Newsletter is now live, with four main areas; see <https://ucml.ac.uk/ucml-quarterly-newsletter/>. Each item includes an opportunity to comment. It was agreed that this is a good way to foster dialogue, more secure & easier access than Twitter; it also requires no running costs. **Action: CSJE** to fix links (*now done*). OGC suggested that tweeting each article would be a good way to get the word out; AF suggested Exec members could start the comments ball rolling; **Action: Colleagues** to comment.

7 Hon. Secretary's Report **NS**

NS amplified her report. One amendment to the Exec turnover list: JP is now stopping in 2019 – after Plenary, NS will advertise these six roles; **Action: NS**. NS gave out the credentials for accessing the UCML mailbox (go to <http://owa.bbk.ac.uk>. username is the email address ucml@bbk.ac.uk and password as given at meeting).

Re venues for future meetings: Europe House is booked for the January Plenary but if after that it is unavailable, the next meetings can be at KCL, through AdM; **Action: NS/AdM**. Re holding meetings outside London: Manchester had been discussed & now Leeds & Lancaster were suggested, as there are Exec members at all these HEIs. Possible meetings to be held there in 2019: July Plenary or November Exec; **Action: CG/Exec members**.

8 Hon. Treasurer's Report **OGC**

OGC amplified her report. Finances are buoyant; since the report, another £1000 subs have been received. She & CSJE have set up a good system for both invoicing and expenses.

- a. OGC suggested we should find a way of spending some of the income, as it is stable and has hitherto only been used for meetings expenses. For instance, we have given small amounts to UCMLS for activities, which are used very well. We might offer similar support to NI & Wales; it was decided to allocate £300–500 to the nations: **Action: OGC + JC/SB/LWO**. Other suggestions were made. AdM: we could link a competition with the launch of Routes into Languages [RiL] to bid for up to £1000 if they do activities to help support RiL; NS suggested a research bursary scheme for students/ECRs; GP suggested running an event (*cf.* MLA) specifically on research, as this seems less visible in UCML, or funds could be allocated for smaller research-specific events; AF suggested something connecting HE/schools following the survey; OGC suggested something like the old Subject Centre. It was agreed to await the outcome of the survey & decide on expenditure priorities then.
- b. Re other uses of the current account, NS pointed out that we may need to pay for venues again in future; RK notes costs of Chair's [& other SG members'] expenses representing UCML. OGC was asked to clarify recent & potential use of contingency funds; **Action: OGC**.

9 National reports

9.a Northern Ireland **SB**

SB amplified her report. She asked how we can gather data which build the case for change, eg take-up of ML + other subject joint degrees: how are these credited? Are they 'hidden' delivery of ML? EP said this could be done, though complicated; AdM gave the example of an AULC survey which may provide some, & the Reading University review of ML which looks at how ML depts & IWLP can work together: FF said this will be complete by end of December. CG suggested we create a survey to maximise this kind of data; **Action: CG/EP**.

9.b Scotland **JC**

In the absence of JC, no points were raised.

9.c Wales **LWO**

LWO amplified her report. On the positive side: the student report is going up on the Wales webpage; research events happening at Swansea; re the Languages trends report – baseline stats are not encouraging, but the decline is halted in German, which is positive. Also, activities are seen positively by schools, lots of participation. On the negative side, the number of schools where 1 in 10 pupils or fewer study ML is

increasing, also languages are less available. MFL is seen as a difficult choice, new exam regs are contributing to this. There are negative attitudes to languages post-Brexit, and senior management are not supporting MFL. One area for growth is structures which incorporate English, Welsh and other languages. Urgency is needed however. Finally, LWO noted that the *Languages Trends Wales* report suggests that Global Futures' priorities do not always map onto broader education policies, such as the promotion of STEM as a main focus.

10 Reports from other Executive members

NB In the absence of JD, PK, IL, CMacD, HO & FW, items 10a, 10b, 10d, 10e, 10l & 10m were not discussed (*notes under 10d & 10e had been received by NS by email on 1 November*). The minutes under items 10d & 10e refer to discussion taken around the table.

10.a Area studies FW

10.b French studies IL

10.c Germanic/Low countries studies AF

AF amplified her report. She highlighted the excellent ALCS tracking exercise for 2017/18. Re the AHRC-UK German call, it is not live yet but a good development. AF suggested we should find analogous associations abroad eg in Europe, to help build positive messages. NS referred to an organisation, the European Language Council, on which Mike Kelly was active in the 2000s: CEL/ELC (<http://www.celelc.org/>); there is also CercleS (<http://www.cercles.org/>). It was also agreed that we might contact similar organisations in the English-speaking world. **Action: AdM & CSJE** to do some research on this.

10.d Hispanic studies PK

In the absence of PK, the following points were noted.

- Two major conferences (ACIS, WISPS) are upcoming (see Lusophone report), plus the annual conference of AHGBI, to be held in April 2019 at the University of Durham.
- Despite the decline in UG recruitment 2018-19, Spanish has fared relatively well; but there are concerns about VR or CR schemes to be introduced to address this decline, with implications for Hispanic Studies staff (Reading is one example).
- A new journal (University of Liverpool) has been created: *The Bulletin of Contemporary Hispanic Studies*; General Editor: Dr Diana Cullell.

10.e Lusophone studies HO

In the absence of HO, her suggestion of a minute in solidarity with Brazilian colleagues, following the recent presidential election, was raised and deferred to AOB.

10.f Italian studies GP

GP amplified her report. The new Chair of SIS, Simon Gilson, had raised a number of priorities; research was a high one (see response to AHRC). She is keen for UCML to lead the way in this & suggested a ML-wide research event; **Action: CG, GP & Exec.**

10.g Middle Eastern studies ML

ML amplified his report. ME studies have grown in strength and scope. The Arabic mapping project, supported by the BA, gives an insight into numbers of teaching colleagues & students at undergrad and postgrad level, though there were some difficulties in obtaining eg funding info. CD asked if the Arabic mapping project could be linked to our website; **Action: AdM/CSJE.**

10.h East Asian studies DH

DH amplified his report. Korean Studies have recently joined: when paid up they should be listed on <https://ucml.ac.uk/subject-associations/> **Action: CSJE.** Re Chinese Studies, DH asked whether UCML can support the development of member association journals, given that both BACS and BAJS (and no doubt others) see them as key vehicles for promoting research and related activities, such as supporting ECRs: **Action: CG & SG** for future discussions.

10.i Slavonic & East European studies CD

CD amplified his report. He agreed that there is an impression that UCML does not cover research, & felt it would be good to raise its profile (*cf.* the upcoming REF Workshop).

In mapping the state of SEE in HE degrees, he is looking at the challenges facing the 16 HEIs that offer it: numbers are stable, although some students are concerned about going to Russia for YA. He had asked for colleagues' views on the requirement for students taking Russian *ab initio* to have an A level ML at grade E+, which appeared to be a barrier to recruitment; should this be changed to a GCSE requirement? They had responded that this would be difficult & would prefer no requirement.

In discussion, many Exec members said their HEI had dropped the A level requirement and this increases the pool, with a positive effect on widening participation to pupils to whom A levels are less available, though often a GCSE is required; AdM pointed out that heritage-language speakers already have proven ability in languages but this is often not sufficiently appreciated, even by them, because of lack of formal evidence. It was agreed to gather information; **Action: CG/EP/CSJE** to raise *ab initio* MLs via a feature in the Newsletter before the Plenary.

10.j Linguistics FF

FF amplified his report. He is working with EP on adding Linguistics to the mapping project. Linguistics could be a selling-point for ML in schools, as a bridge between ML-related areas; he has just launched a competition for multilingualism in schools. Some of the budget (as suggested by OGC) could go to this – engaging with schools and students, eg an occasional small prize for designing a new campaign. Re RiL: we should not just replicate what has been done, but launch something new that could be effective for UCML.

10.k IWLP (including the UCML/AULC report) CEC

CEC amplified her report. Members are encouraged to get their IWLP colleagues to respond to the annual AULC-UCML survey by the deadline of 23 Nov. NS asked whether progress has been made on the proposed AULC-UCML conference at Hull in 2019 or 2020? CEC will re-contact IL; **Action: CEC/IL**.

10.l English Language Teaching CMacD

10.m Translation & Interpreting JD

10.n Schools Liaison RK

RK amplified his report. The Centre of Excellence for ML involves hubs based in 9 schools across the country – a lot of potential RiL activity will go through this; a fuller report next Exec. CG pointed out that this just covers England, and that there are parts of England without a hub school; there is potential for RiL to work with these. RK highlighted that they are struggling to get UK colleagues involved with the *Language Learning Journal*.

NS raised the issue of severe marking, discussed at the last Exec; we were to take it further but have not done so yet. RK said that in 2017 OFQUAL reduced the A level grades for ML (top 1%) for England, to account for native students; GSCE may also be adjusted soon. CG has asked Katrin Kohl to report to her on her communications with OFQUAL following a joint letter on behalf of HE ML associations (including UCML).

The meeting continued after a 10-minute break.

11 Preparation of Plenary Workshop of 18 Jan 2019 **CG**

There was general welcome for the REF 2021 element, with thanks to JP, as a good way to reinforce the research side of UCML. NS pointed out that UCML had always been very active pre- and post-RAE/REF, cf. the REF response survey in 2014-15. Re the Policy element, AdM raised the BA's initiation of the Gladstone Institute, funded by the Wolfson Foundation: this is £10 million for HSS; we should ask Neil Kenny to discuss this; **Action: CG**.

AdM also pointed out that AHRC funding for doctoral schemes has not been favourable to ML. Will BA balance this shortfall by specifically supporting postdoc/ECRs? **Action: CG & JP** to ask speakers Neil Kenny & Wendy Ayres-Bennett to mention ECR programmes for linguists.

It was agreed to go ahead with this programme, and publicise as soon as names are secured & breakdown of papers finalised; **Action: NS**.

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Session</u> |
|-------------|--|
| 10.00-10.30 | Registration and coffee |
| 10.30-12.00 | Business Meeting |
| 12.00-13.00 | Lunch (provided) |
| 13.00-16.30 | Workshops: <i>Planning the Future: Research & Policy</i> |

See below

Workshop: *Planning the Future: Research & Policy*

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 13.00 – 14.30 | <i>REF2021 update</i> |
| Prof Charles Forsdick | Chair, REF2021 UoA 26: MLL |
| Prof Susan Hodgett | Chair, REF2021 UoA 25: Area Studies |
| 2 x 15m presentations, + 1h Q&A | |
| 14.30 – 15.00 | tea-break |
| 15.00 – 16.30 | <i>Working with UK government and policy-makers</i> |
| Prof Wendy Ayres-Bennett | OWRI Lead, Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies) |
| Prof Janice Carruthers | AHRC Leadership Fellow, ML |
| Prof Neil Kenny | BA, Lead Fellow for Languages |
| Bernardette Holmes | AHRC Leadership Fellow, Language Consultant |
| 10-15m presentations, + 30m Q&A | |

12 UCML proposed ownership of Routes into Languages **CG**

Fiona Waye had submitted a proposal about UCML taking ownership of RiL. This had been through review and discussion by SG & was now open for Exec to consider. The following aspects were discussed.

Sustainability

RK raised some points re 'dormant aspects': with no funding available, would we be taking on activities which are declining and not sustainable? CG said that ways & means had not been discussed yet but OWRI bids may support the Student Ambassador programme in the short/medium term; Manchester, Wales & Newcastle are all active. There is a RiL directors network, which is keen to be managed. EP noted that we have also discussed charging a small fee to be part of the network; this too could be decided by the sub-cttee. In Scotland & Wales SCILT & CILT Cymru do similar things, funded by the governments, but these could be brought under the RiL umbrella.

Name

OGC suggested changing the name to *Routes into Languages and Cultures*. This would broaden the remit and be a clearer lead-in to HE ML study. CG said that the logo etc was currently RiL, but once the brand has been transferred it could be altered by a decision of the sub-committee. CD raised doubts re the proposed name-change: the language aspect might be subsumed by 'culture'; AdM agreed: naming culture and language separately suggests they are separate.

Governance

RK asked whether the sub-committee will include people who are not on the Exec. CG replied that the VC Education will chair it and they will decide on its terms of reference & membership. UCML is the steward, which ensures the ethos is sustained & financial stability is assured, rather than just keeping everything the same.

Following a show of hands, it was agreed to recommend this to the January Plenary Business Meeting, to go forward for approval to the AGM in July (to be presented by EP as VC Education / Chair of RiL sub-committee); **Action: NS & EP** to add to Agenda.

13 Gender in Language learning **AdM**

AdM amplified her paper. There is insufficient work on gender bias in school subjects, eg too few girls in physics & boys in ML; this is often unconscious but pervasive on the part of teachers. A series of projects had exposed the extent of the problem around the UK. The proposed 'gender badge' system – similar to Athena Swan in HE – will start in London schools, using £10K grant from London mayor; after that the project will go nationwide. It will be up to individual schools to decide which activities they do. They have already had interest from 100 schools in London. Schools/HEIs can come up with projects which are relevant and they will be supported.

The British Council wants to work with this group and are bringing in both national and European bodies. The website has just been launched: <https://www.genderaction.co.uk/> The hope is that the London project will be successful, then regions will see the value & fund similar political funding. No resources from UCML are involved. We could see at 6/12 months how it is fitting in with our aims as an organisation.

AF raised the problem of timetabling in Secondary Schools: she suggested that it was often difficult to combine an A-level language with some subjects, such as Sciences (e.g. Physics). They were often scheduled

in the same 'block' of time and produced clashes. A broader, bacc-type of qualification would positively foster a broader range of subjects for school leavers. A government consultation on 14-19 education had concluded (2003) in favour of International Baccalaureate-type qualifications but the findings were not favoured by the government and A-levels had continued to be the qualification of choice.

AdM said one of the projects had looked at timetabling, and they will find schools that have effectively changed, and learn best practice. NS asked whether this would help increase ML uptake overall; AdM said it might but the main aim was to ensure students can do the subjects they want. DH asked about 'celebrity patrons': a number are being considered. DH noted that Chinese is different, with a preponderance of boys; this has been attributed to the 'buccaneering spirit' for business abroad; the proportion of women is increasing, however.

It was agreed that UCML should support this activity and may invite somebody from the project to speak at next June's Plenary: **Action: AdM & CG.**

14 Any Other Business

There were three items:

- a. On the survey: CG will report at the January Plenary.
- b. A request had come from HO on behalf of ABIL to make a statement about Brazil (see 10.e above). There was a full discussion. Some colleagues felt that UCML's mission was not to make political statements except as related to language policy, and that there are currently too many countries where academics are under threat to be able to speak on them all. Others felt that the matter is urgent, given that colleagues' offices are being invaded in Brazil; or eg research grants interfered with in various countries; or raised more general issues such as gender discrimination and freedom of expression in universities.

SB argued that Brazil is a special case, as AHRC and the BA have signed agreements for grants, which have direct relation to UCML's remit in promoting international collaboration. UCML might approach the AHRC, using Brazil as an example but talking about wider principles and values to the AHRC, who are involved in many countries. It was agreed that because this could set a precedent, in the first instance CG would draw colleagues' attention to the UCML Constitution (*see <https://ucml.ac.uk/constitution-and-standing-orders/>*) to see whether this sort of action falls under the remit; **Action: CG** to alert Exec members to the Constitution & collate responses.

- c. How can we best show that we are a research- as well as education-focused body? NS clarified that UCML is a lobbying organisation, focused on policy matters in relation to both research & education in ML. We can stress this when advertising the VC research role in January. Also continue discussion on a future ML-wide research-focused event; *see above, §10.f.*

15 Dates of next meetings (2019)

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|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Fri 18 January | Winter Plenary | Churchill Room, Europe House |
| • <i>Fri 22 March</i> | <i>Spring Steering Group</i> | <i>by slack</i> |
| • Fri 26 April | Spring Exec | KCL? <i>tbc</i> Action: NS/AdM |
| • Fri 5 July | Summer Plenary & AGM | KCL? <i>tbc</i> Action: NS/AdM |