

## UCML Executive Committee

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



## UCML Chair's Report July to October 2018

### 1. *Policy intervention:*

Following consultation with the UCML Steering Group, I made a submission on behalf of UCML to the **Review of Post-16 Education and Funding: Call for Evidence** in July 2018. This made recommendations for the sustainability of the ML HE Sector and its role in the eco-system of languages provision in the UK.

Engagement with the **British Academy's Advisory Group** to support forthcoming round tables aimed at the development of a national language strategy. This follows the agreement by UUK to lead on this policy initiative in collaboration with other national bodies: (*September meeting (UUK)* : 'UUK signed a Memorandum of Agreement in August 2018 with the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Association of School and College Leaders, the British Academy and British Council to take forward a series of round table discussions designed to inform a list of recommendations aimed at shaping a UK-wide national languages strategy.')

### 2. *Strategic planning and development*

**Creation and dissemination of survey** to all UCML member organisations, HoS, AHRC Leads (OWRI) and Routes into Languages Directors. This asks for views on priority issues for UCML to address. 22 responses received as of 23 October. Analysis and outcomes will inform strategic objectives and a UCML action plan to be presented to the January 2019 plenary.

Development of a **six-monthly newsletter** in collaboration with the VC Communications to be modelled after the MLA newsletter. First issue now live. This is aimed to improve dissemination of good practice and projects from our member organisations; increase visibility for modern languages and build further our community of practice.

### 3. *Institutional support for modern language departments*

Visit and contribution to a **review of provision of modern languages** at an English University: August 2018

### 4. *National representation and support*

**Presentation and support for UCMLS at their conference in Dundee:** 'Looking Inwards and Outwards – 25 years of UCMLS'. Supported development of an action plan for the group in collaboration with stakeholders: September 2018

## 5. *Project work*

Liaison with Fiona Waye (UUKi) and discussions of a ***proposal to transfer Routes into Languages from OfS to UCML***. Actively working on this project as Routes into Languages Cymru lead until 1 August 2018. When I took up UCML Chair, project development support transferred to the VC Education. Proposal submitted to the Steering Group and to be presented to the Executive Committee.

Engagement with the ***British Council on a combined campaign to investigate the connections between gender and language study*** – ‘boys and languages’ – in collaboration with Institute of Physics who would like to take further work on ‘girls and science’. This will align with a project being developed with the Institute of Physics and the Lord Mayor of London on which UCML will act as a partner (see VC Communications).

### **Looking Forward**

1. 9 November 2018: Round table discussant at the AHRC project’s Translating Cultures and Modern Languages workshop day, British Academy, London
2. 4 December 2018: Round table discussant at a round table on devolved nations/regions and primary and secondary education, QUB, Belfast, to support the development of national language strategy
3. 6 December 2018: UEA public lecture on ‘language advocacy and activism’