

Plenary Business Meeting
Friday 18 January 2019, 10.30 – 12.00



Churchill Room, Europe House, 32 Smith Square
London SW1P 3EU

CHAIR'S REPORT

UCML Chair's Report: 24 September 2018 to 7th January 2019

1. *Policy intervention*: 4th December: Discussant at a **workshop on languages and devolved nations/regions and primary and secondary education at Queen's University Belfast**. This is one in a series of meetings being undertaken as part of a Memorandum of Agreement between UUK, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Association of School and College Leaders, the British Academy and British Council to inform a list of recommendations aimed at shaping a UK-wide national languages strategy. I will be contributing to a future workshop on universities and the UK languages' pipeline in late January.
2. *Strategic planning and development*
Completion and review of the survey to all UCML member organisations, HoS, AHRC Leads (OWRI) and Routes into Languages Directors, asking for views on priority issues for UCML to address. This will be reported on later in the agenda.
First issue of a regular **UCML online newsletter** in October with an opening story on the renewed mission of UCML to increase visibility for modern languages and to build further our community of practice.
3. *Institutional support for modern language departments*
Coordinated a campaign and Open Letter regarding the decision by the University of Hull to suspend recruitment to its Language programmes except Single Honours Chinese. This letter was posted onto the UCML website, on FaceBook and LinkedIn on 5 January. The item has received to date over 5,000 hits on twitter and supported a story on the BBC Humberside webpages. As yet, there has been no response from the University of Hull's senior leadership team. I am working with others on a concerted campaign engaging relevant media, the All Party Parliamentary Group for Languages and local businesses.
4. *National representation and support*
Presentation at the University of East Anglia on 6th December 2018: 'Languages Advocacy and Activism: The View from Wales' (PowerPoint circulated to the Executive Committee)
Presentation at the British Academy on 9th November 2018 as a discussant at the AHRC project's Transnationalising Modern Languages policy presentation and workshop day
5. *Project work*
Liaison with Elena Polisca, VC Languages and Intercultural Education, on UCML (and Routes into Languages, should it join UCML as a sub-committee group) **joining the new OneHE platform as part of its Languages and Linguistics Global Subject Centre**. This would provide greater connect with language centres and networks outside the UK.

Elena and I are also working on UCML's continued contribution to an annual survey of university language programmes published this year in collaboration with the AHRC's Language Acts and World Making project and the AULC. This has been positively received.

Looking Forward

1. 23 January 2019: **Universities UK Roundtable on The Role of Universities in the Languages Pipeline**, British Academy

Claire Gorrara, 7 January 2018