

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

## UCML ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

### Item 3 Chair's report

#### 1. *Policy intervention*

**Meeting with Kirsty Williams, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Wales, 3 June 2019** on languages and the new curriculum in Wales, together with Tonia Antoniazzi, MP for Gower and Vice Chair of the APPG for Modern Languages. This meeting was convened in the context of the steep decline in take up of modern languages at GCSE all A level in Wales. The meeting allowed for discussion of the Welsh Government's ambitions for languages in the new curriculum, due for roll-out from 2022, and an emerging commitment to supporting international languages in the primary sector.

**Meeting with Qualifications Wales, 31 May 2019** to discuss severe grading at GCSE and support for GCSE languages in Wales with Tonia Antoniazzi, MP for Gower and Vice Chair of the APPG for Modern Languages. This meeting was convened following complaints about the reading and listening assessment for GCSE French (WJEC) submitted by teachers in Wales to the Global Futures Steering Group and the 4 education consortia leads. The discussion allows for review of the examinations undertaken and an initial dialogue on the language qualifications being developed for the new curriculum.

#### 2. *Strategic planning and development*

**Ongoing development on the transfer of Routes into Languages from OfS to UCML.** Following continued liaison with Fiona Waye (UUKi) and colleagues at UUK and OfS, a deed of transfer is currently being prepared to ensure that the Routes project can join UCML and be governed via a designated sub-committee. This legal process is being funded via UUKi. The Standing Orders of UCML have been amended and it is expected that the process will be completed by the summer. I wish to record here my gratitude to Fiona Waye for her unstinting support for the Routes networks during this protracted transfer process.

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

- Joined the **AHRC Creative Multilingualism Project Steering Group** (replacing Prof Michael Gratzke) and attended a meeting on 24 May 2019
- Attended the **AMLUK meeting in London**, 27 June 2019 as UCML Chair

#### 4. *National representation and support*

Supported a **campaign and signed a letter on severe grading** at A level and GCSE led by Prof Katrin Kohl and published in *The Guardian* in May.

### Looking Forward

- a. **Meeting with Ofqual** to discuss severe grading as part of a group led by Prof Katrin Kohn, scheduled for 11 July 2019.