

# UCML AGM & Plenary 2019

## 5 July 2019

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



Following coffee at 10 am the AGM began at 10.30 am

## UCML ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

### MINUTES

*NB Reports can be found at <https://ucml.ac.uk/2019/05/28/ucml-summer-plenary-2019-surviving-and-thriving-developing-a-toolkit-for-languages-in-difficult-times/>*

**Initials: see Attendance list in Appendix A. Other acronyms:**

AGS	Association of German Studies
APPG	All-Party Parliamentary Group (on languages)
AULC	Association of University Language Centres
AUPHF	Association of University Professors & Heads of French
BA	British Academy
DfE	Department for Education
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HoD	Head of Department
HoS	Head of School
IMLR	Institute of Modern Languages Research
JH	joint honours
ML	languages
OfS	Office for Students
OWRI	AHRC Open World Research Initiative
RiL	Routes into Languages
SH	single honours
UCAS	Universities & Colleges Admission Service
UG	Undergraduate
UKRI	UK Research & Innovation

## **1 Welcome, apologies & announcements**

**CG**

*The following Exec members had sent apologies:*

Sarah Bowskill, Federico Faloppa, Allyson Fiddler, Derek Hird, René Koglbauer, El Mustapha Lahlali, Carole MacDiarmid, Hilary Owen, Claire St John Eve, Gigliola Sulis.

### **1.a New Exec members since last AGM**

A warm welcome to new Exec members Alexander Ding, Jo Drugan, Begoña Rodríguez de Céspedes, Gigliola Sulis & Vicky Wright (those present were introduced).

### **1.b Proposed update to Standing Orders**

Prior to the meeting the UCML Standing Orders had been circulated with proposed amendments in track-changes. After these had been explained the amendments were accepted *nem con*.

## 2 Minutes of last meetings

CG

### 2.ab UCML Executive meeting of 26 April 2019

§8.ii 2.a Accuracy & approval  
OGS → OGC

#### 2.b Matters arising, not elsewhere on the Agenda

##### *Matters arising*

§2b CG had met Mark Critchley: they are developing plans for a joint workshop and other activities.

14b Derek Hird & Hilary Owen had urged support for ML colleagues suffering restrictions around the world.

##### *Main agenda*

4iii The website will soon be moved to a freestanding state; this will allow direct editorial access for Officers & representatives of the nations.

10.iii SIGs will be developed (*see also §1.b SOs amendments*).

10.m.i JD will invite the chair of the ATC to the next Exec meeting in November 2019.

### 2.cd UCML Plenary Business Meeting of 18 Jan 2019

2.c Accuracy & approval  
No issues were reported.

2.d Matters arising, not elsewhere on the Agenda  
§6.c A conference is being held on the 'languages pipeline in Wales..

## 3 Chair's report

CG

- 3.i With others in government & academic life, she is working proactively, with a multilingual approach, on the new curriculum in Wales 3-16. Differences from England are increasing.
- 3.ii She has been working with Fiona Waye on transferring RiL via a deed of transfer to UCML for ownership & governance. The legal process of transfer has been funded by OfS & the University of Aston.
- 3.iii AMLUK is an MLA-style grouping of leaders in UK ML.
- 3.iv Severe grading at GCSE: CG will speak at AGS & AUPHF. She is also going with Katrin Kohl, Neil Kenny & Suzanne Graham of Reading University to discuss with OfQual. There is now national visibility for the problem & Ofqual are in listening mode. The DfE is investing in ML in schools, eg the National Centre for Excellence for Languages Pedagogy. Other aspects highlighted in discussion: JC had been involved in discussions in Scotland: there is concern about the lack of international benchmarking; the question of native speakers; the need to uncouple discussion from STEM; problem of traditional language approaches (RA) as opposed to emphasising intercultural competence; Ofqual's unawareness of language teaching on the ground today, above all number of contact hours; BH: following a workshop in Jan comparing French & German, Ofqual asked them to report back. In conclusion it was agreed to invite Ofqual to a discussion at the Jan 2020 Plenary; **Action: CG.**

## 4 Report of Vice-chair Languages & Intercultural Education

EP

- 4.i The granularity project: the BA will continue supporting this. UCAS only publishes SH data; JH is more common, yet JH data are not published. We have to pay to obtain the raw data for the last 8y. JC: in Scotland exit figures are counted rather than entry. OGC: in Lancaster we are discussing with senior management how to simplify procedures in order to resist this confusion: issues of scale are not good for ML. There was a discussion about HEIs demanding cosmetic changes, eg 'simplification' of degrees (eg at KCL

pathways replacing separate degrees), which does not lessen choice or work for staff & students; or 'curriculum transformation' which changes name of degree outcome, though not the degree.

- 4.ii The Annual Survey, conducted together with the *Language Acts* OWRI & AULC: the deadline next is Monday 8 July. This year's topics: (a) where languages sit within the HEI; (b) Brexit issues (eg year abroad); (c) the existence of an institutional language policy in the HEI. Everyone is reminded to prompt their HoD/HoS to complete & return the survey. It will be published in September.
- 4.iii EP is still working with OneHE to incorporate RiL.
- 4.iv The upcoming UCAS releases will appear next week; admissions are divided by subject.
- 4.v British Council *Languages Trends in England*: there is a worry about uptake at A levels, parents' attitude to languages as not needed post-Brexit. CG: this is a class issue: families who have never been abroad; OGC: it is also geographical; thus the most disadvantaged lose the chance to study ML. European news outlets have reported on this. This may be creating allies for us; we should invite European colleagues, & the British Council to a future AGM; **Action: CG.**

## 5 Report of Vice-chair Research JP

- 5.i At the end of his term, JP is pleased to note that UCML is well established as an organisation concerned & involved with research matters; it is important to work closely with the Subject Associations.
- 5.ii On severe grading (*see also above §3.iv*): Katrin Kohl had intervened citing research sponsored by her OWRI project. The four OWRI's have been very successful but sustainability is unclear: there will be follow-on funding but not at the same level. This depends on UKRI allocations.
- 5.iii AHRC still do not get enough applications in ML – but we do have a high success rate @ 30-40%. AHRC also has a scheme for 'future research leaders', 7y role: more MLs shd apply.
- 5.iv Janice Carruthers is funding a School Ambassadors Scheme in England, linked to the regions where the OWRI projects are active. Initially 1y, it will be evaluated by Teresa Tinsley, then hopefully rolled out.
- 5.v IMLR: Catherine Davies will retire as Director at the end of December – her post will be advertised in the autumn.

## 6 Report of Vice-chair Engagement & External Communication AdM

- 6.i There were more stats than usual in the report – a lot of stories on ML at the moment – & we have received many comments, published by colleagues (twitter, facebook etc); thanks to OGC for fixing typos. We want to cover as many languages as possible – contributions invited, send AdM an email.
- 6.ii Gender Action: UCML is a founding partner. Currently it only covers London but already schools outside London are contacting us to join in. There's a website, & colleagues from Gender Action will be invited to come to the next Exec meeting in November.

## 7 Hon Secretary's report NS

- 7.i NS thanked retiring members of Exec & welcomed new members. More will be sought for French (from 31 Jan 2020); Northern Ireland, IWLP, VC Communications & Hon. Secretary (all from 31 July 2020).
- 7.ii Updated dates of forthcoming meetings:

Steering Group	11 Oct 2019
Exec	8 Nov 2019
Winter Plenary	17 January 2020

**8****Hon Treasurer's report****OGC**

- 8.i The updated subs method is working very effectively. Payment has been streamlined by the 2-year scheme.
- 8.ii UCML finances are in a good state: income exceeds expenditure. The spring Exec meeting is now regularly held outside London: cost is lower because of cheaper hospitality.
- 8.iii OGC represented UCML at an APPG mtg focused on Cultural Institutes (Goethe Institut, Institut français, Cervantes etc); these do a lot to support ML, though many of their initiatives are very southern. HEIs need to be brokers between Institutes & secondary schools.
- 8.iv UCML Small Grants Scheme (*see Appendix B below*). Spread the word & do apply: staff, PGRs or PGTs. The initiative was welcomed. DFR: it's a good idea to include childcare cover etc & also support lone scholars.

**9****National reports****9.a Northern Ireland****SB**

In the absence of SB, there was no discussion.

**9.b Scotland****JC**

- 9.b.i The Scottish government has given one more year of funding for the 2+1 scheme: £3m.
- 9.b.ii JC gave a presentation in Feb to ML teachers: Gap between school and HE for students. Planned conference in 2020 to look at the shape of ML & what it means to study ML.
- 9.b.iii Clashes between schools and HE – languages meant to be taken to S3 but many schools are dropping it after S2 because of lack of funding.
- 9.b.iv The gap between Scotland and the rest of the UK could be growing. CG: but the example of Scotland is good for Wales & other nations to cite when bidding for funding.

**9.c Wales****LWO**

- 9.c.i The MFL Mentoring scheme is going from strength to strength.
- 9.c.ii Bangor: good news – most ML jobs safeguarded.
- 9.c.iii Wales will also be looking at transitions between school & HE: this will be the focus of the first UCML Wales symposium on 13 September 2019.

**Any Other Business****CG**

Warm thanks and a presentation were given to our two departing Officers, Elena Polisca & Julian Preece.

*The meeting ended at 12 noon, and lunch was followed by the afternoon Workshop.*

## **Plenary Workshop**

**SURVIVING AND THRIVING:  
DEVELOPING A TOOLKIT FOR LANGUAGES IN DIFFICULT TIMES**

The afternoon session for the July 2019 UCML Plenary will be an interactive workshop devoted to the topic of **Surviving and Thriving: Developing a Toolkit for Languages in Difficult Times**. The workshop will be organised around small-break out groups which will discuss thematic areas and recommendations on how language units, departments and schools can negotiate change positively and learn from the experiences of others. Colleagues who sign up to the workshop will be invited to contribute to a survey beforehand that will help structure discussions. The major outcome will be the creation of a 'toolkit' for Languages following the event which will be disseminated widely.

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## Appendix A: attendance list

<b>surname</b>	<b>first</b>	<b>member org</b>	<b>abr.</b>
Albuquerque	Renata	SOAS	RA
Bailey	Laura	Kent/LAGB	LB
Baron	Isabelle	Lancaster	IB
Bishop	Paul	Glasgow	PB
Campbell	Caroline	Leeds/Exec	CEC
Carson	Joe	St Andrews/Exec	JC
Cerdá	Yolanda	Sussex	YC
Critchley	Mark	Durham/AULC	MC
De Medeiros	Ana	KCL/Exec	AdM
Doak	Connor	Bristol/Exec	CD
Drugan	Joanna	UEA/Exec	JD
Erich	Svenja	City	SE
Finch-Race	Daniel	Bristol/SDN	DFR
Garvey	Brenda	Chester	BG
Gomez-Cash	Olga	Lancs/Exec	OGC
Gorrara	Claire	Cardiff/Exec	CG
Hackney	Belinda	Sussex	BH
Harris	Chris	Lancs	CH
Heath	Veronica	Reading	VH
Hegarty	Paul	Nottingham	PH
Hicks	Jeremy	QMUL	JH
Kumaraswami	Par	Reading/Exec	PK
Long-Levasseur	Imogen	Hull/Exec	ILL
Makarova	Olga	QMUL	OM
McCormack	Jo	NTU	JMcC
Martínez	José	Wolverhampton	JM
Melcion	Lourdes	Roehampton	LM
Page	Jeremy	Sussex	JP
Placencia	María Elena	Birkbeck	MEP
Polisca	Elena	Lancs/Exec	EP
Preece	Julian	Swansea/Exec	JP
Rodríguez de Céspedes	Begoña	Portsmouth/Exec	BRC
Segal	Naomi	Bbk/Exec	NS
Siciliano Verruccio	Enza	Reading	ESV
Wallner	Martina	Keele	MW
Wharton	Steve	Bath/ASMCF	SW
Wren-Owens	Liz	Cardiff/Exec	LWO

Wright	Vicky	Soton/Exec	VW
Wyburd	Jocelyn	Cambridge	JW

## Appendix B: UCML Small Grants scheme

**Context:** Following targeted support to UCML representative groups in the devolved regions/jurisdictions, UCML would like to make available small-scale grant funding to facilitate projects that support the languages mission and values of the organisation. Indicative projects to be supported include:

- Support for research events/workshops that relate to languages, literature and area studies
- Support for pedagogy events/workshops that relate to languages, literature and area studies
- Support for work or publications that enables impact and public engagement promoting a Languages mission and values
- Support for events that promote and develop university-school partnership for languages
- Bursaries for PGR and Early Career Researchers to attend events that relate to Languages research and/or professional development as a Languages scholar
- Bursaries to support colleagues with childcare responsibilities to attend conferences or comparable events

**Funds available:** UCML will reserve £4,000 p.a. to the scheme (September to September). It will accept bids of between £250.00 and £800.00. Matched funding from other sources is welcomed. Once the funding has been exhausted in a given cycle, no further funding will be made available in that year in order to ensure sustainability.

**Eligibility criteria:** Colleagues at UCML member HEIs or UMCL affiliated organisations, including academic and professional services colleagues, researchers and postgraduate research and postgraduate taught students.

**Decision-Making Process:** A rotating panel of 4 members of the Executive the UCML Committee will assess and adjudicate on bids submitted. Decisions will be made on a quarterly basis (September, December, March, June) and formally announced at the two Executive Committee meetings in the year.

### Criteria for Success

1. That the project supports, develops and extends the Languages mission of UCML;
2. That the project is fully accessible and available to members of UCML and the broader academic community;
3. That the project advocates for an open and inclusive approach to Languages scholarship;
4. That recipients of bursaries and awards are committed to supporting the civic mission of the organisation and partnership working with other languages stakeholders.

**Application:** a short letter of no more than 750 words, providing the following:

- Name/Institution/UCML Affiliate Organisation
- Funding project/activity (including substantiating documentation, such as conference/workshop programme, if appropriate)
- Date of activity/event
- Fit with criteria for success

**Upon receipt of an award**, successful awardees pledge to provide a short report (up to 300 words) and/or visual record for inclusion on the UCML website. They should include acknowledgement of UCML support on all outcomes and materials.