

UCML Winter Plenary 2020

Friday 17 January 2020 10.00–16.00

The Reading Room, British Academy,
10–11 Carlton House Terrace,
London SW1Y 5AH



BUSINESS MEETING

Item 4a Chair's Report

1. *Policy intervention*

Continued lobbying and intervention to respond to severe grading at GCSE and A level and the reform of the GCSE curriculum. Following meetings with Ofqual in July, I am continuing to advocate for reforms to the current English MFL GCSE with colleagues from Oxford and Reading. A meeting will take place on 14 January 2020 to review the situation for GCSE and A levels languages in England as there was acknowledgement of grading severity with GCSE French and German in the summer. A small group has now been commissioned by UK Government to review the content of MFL GCSEs in England (I am not a member) to report back with recommendations in early 2020.

2. *Strategic planning and development*

Transfer of Routes into Languages form OfS to UCML. I have been working with the VC Education to complete the Deed of Transfer and to sign off transfer of Routes to UCML before Christmas. This has involved collating the historic and current online and social media channels of the Routes networks to ensure that the Deed of Transfer is complete in terms of intellectual property rights. This should be finalised in the coming months.

3. *National representation and/or support*

- 16 December: Representation at the 'Strategic Forum for the Humanities', British Academy. This group has thus far met episodically but is considering a more organised approach and remit in response to the shifting national context for HE and the Humanities.
- Acting as a critical reader for the UCML/Language Acts and World Making Survey of Language Provision in HE

4. *Nottingham Trent University:* I spoke with the Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, on 29 October concerning the review of modern languages programmes, offering support from UCML for any ongoing process of reconfiguration or review.

5. *Plenary workshop organisation:* working in collaboration with Jo Drugan, VC research, on the programme and speakers for the Early Career Academic workshop on 17 January 2020, including careers advisors and trainers, ECA colleagues and industry professionals.