

Chair's Report

1. *Policy intervention*

Continued lobbying and intervention. A meeting took place on 26 February between ML colleagues Ofqual and the DfE to respond to severe grading at GCSE and A level and the reform of the GCSE curriculum. The meeting reviewed severe grading and assessment at GCSE and A level. An additional paper had been prepared on community/home language and their place in the language curriculum. A small group has been commissioned by UK Government to review the content of MFL GCSEs in England. This has yet to report back.

Erasmus+: Following the Winter Plenary, I sent a letter of concern to the new Universities Minister Michelle Donelan, co-signed by the Chairs of the University Council of General and Applied Linguistics, the British Association of Applied Linguistics and the Committee for Linguistics in Education and the Association of University Language Communities (AULC). I have received no response and have sought support or alternate channels via UUKi. I have also raised the matter of the status of *lecteur/lectrice* positions in the UK with UUKi to see if we can support lobbying support for this community of colleagues who will be impacted by a hard Brexit.

2. *Strategic planning and development*

Transfer of Routes into Languages from OfS to UCML. I have sent the final documents to the legal advisor supporting the Deed of Transfer and hope for this to be completed imminently.

3. *National representation and/or support*

Languages at the University of Sunderland: I sent a letter of concern, co-signed by Mark Critchley of AULC, to the Vice Chancellor of Sunderland University, Professor David Bell, and to the local/regional press; no one at the Guardian or the BBC wished to write a feature on this matter when contacted. Prof Bell responded on 21 February.

4. *Pre-U Qualifications (Chinese):* I wrote a letter of concern to Ofqual, with the support of Derek Hird. Ofqual responded that I should contact Cambridge Assessment International Education (relevant examination board). I did so and received a response, stating that they would not reconsider withdrawal of Pre-U Qualifications.

5. *UCML small grants scheme:* The sub-committee met on 14 February and assessed 8 applications of which 5 were supported (available on the website) Additional support of £5,000 (for this year only) has been provided by one of the OWRI project, Cross-Language Dynamics: Reshaping Community, for which we are most grateful.

6. *Response to Coronavirus:* we have been working as a UCML team to support the community during the current coronavirus outbreak. We have created a resource sharing page on the UCML front page and are seeking to collate views on how colleagues are supporting students on the year abroad to share with all. My warm thanks to our new colleague James for his amazing support.