

Item 5: VC Research

- i. *Promoting research in modern languages, literatures, cultures and societies, linguistics and language teaching*

Along with our Executive Translation and Interpreting representative, Begoña Rodríguez de Céspedes, I spoke at the Institute of Translation and Interpreting Research Network event in June 2020. This focused on ‘How Research Impacts upon the Translation and Interpreting Professions’.

- ii. *Representing UCML’s membership on strategic matters of research*

In consultation with Chair Claire Gorrara, I responded to the UKRI Open Access Review in May 2020 on behalf of UCML.

I represented UCML at the IMLR Advisory Council, and at the AMLUK meeting (both June 2020). The creation of the UCML AMLUK Special Interest Group was discussed, in preparation for the session at this afternoon’s Plenary.

- iii. *Liaison and consultation on research and REF issues and strategies*

UCML is keen to achieve a more diverse, inclusive research culture. The next round of nominations to REF panels is now open, with a deadline of 7 September 2020. Member associations and individuals are encouraged to send nominations for Panel D (25 - Area Studies; and 26 - Modern Languages and Linguistics) to J.Drugan@uea.ac.uk as soon as possible so that we can do our best to cover different languages and achieve a balanced submission. Details of the ‘contextual data’ (age, disability, ethnicity and gender) for the existing panel members can be checked here before making nominations: <https://www.ref.ac.uk/about/contextual-data/>

- iv. *Representing agendas related to post graduate and early career research*

As proposed at the last AGM, the January 2020 UCML Plenary was devoted to Early Career Academics in Modern Languages. Hosted by the British Academy, we listened to presentations and had lively discussions on issues including funding challenges, the research ‘pipeline’, increasing casualization, and precarity. We thank all members, departments and subject associations who funded a postgraduate or early career academic to attend the event.

Various initiatives have developed from this event, and will be outlined this afternoon during the Early Career Academic SIG. In particular, we encourage

established academics to contribute to the flexible Mentoring Scheme which will be launched this afternoon (brief presentation).

Contact email for potential mentors: ecasn.contact@gmail.com

Jo Drugan, July 2020