

UCML AGM & Plenary 2020

10 July 2020, 10am

Via Teams



UCML ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

MINUTES

Nb Reports can be found at <https://university-council-modern-languages.org/2020/06/12/ucml-summer-plenary-2020/>

Initials: see Attendance List. Other acronyms:

AGS	Association for German Studies
AHA	Arts & Humanities Alliance
AULC	Association of University Language Centres
ECA	Early Career Academics
FCO	Foreign & Commonwealth Office
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
IMLR	Institute of Modern Languages Research
ITI	Institute of Translation & Interpreting
LAGB	Linguistics Association of Great Britain
ML	Languages
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly (Northern Ireland)
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
OfS	Office for Students
OWRI	AHRC Open World Research Initiative
REF	Research Excellence Framework
RiL	Routes into Languages
SHAPE	Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts for People & the Economy
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths
TEFL	Teaching English as a Foreign Language
TESOL	Teaching English as a Second Language
UCAS	Universities & Colleges Admissions Service
UG	Undergraduate
UKRI	UK Research & Innovation
UUK	Universities UK

1. Welcome, apologies & announcements

The following Exec members had sent apologies:

Sarah Bowskill and El Mustapha Lahlali.

1.a New Exec members since last AGM

A warm welcome was extended to James Illingworth (Leicester/DMU) who joined as Project Coordinator in February, Marcela Cazzoli (Durham) who joined as Hon Sec. in March, Emma Cayley (Leeds) who joined as VC Comms also in March, Sharon Jones (Stranmillis) who will join as NI rep. and Marina Rabadán Gómez (Liverpool) who will join as IWLT rep., both at the end of July.

1.b Proposed update to Standing Orders

Prior to the meeting the UCML Standing Orders had been circulated with the following amendments made in track changes:

- Proposal of new member of Executive Committee: Early Career Academics representative.
- HEFCE updated to OfS.
- Admin Assistant job title updated to Project Coordinator to reflect expanded role.

Discussion: It was felt a space for early career voices at highest levels of UCML was strongly needed. DH asked about definition of ECA. JD commented that the term should be deliberately capacious in light of the current job market. For the ECA Mentoring Scheme (§5d below) those asked to offer mentoring to ECA colleagues are generally 5+ years post-viva, but again this is flexible. 51 votes in favour. Amendments accepted.

2. Minutes of last meetings

2.ab UCML Executive Meeting of 3 April 2020

2.a Accuracy & approval

No amendments.

2.b Matters arising

§2.b VW will add Gender Action paragraph to website as soon as possible. Printing of banners and flyers has been impacted by COVID-19 but will be ready for next in-person events.

Action: VW and JI

§4 Ongoing but will be taken forward by VW

§5.iv JI was thanked for his work on the website. JI noted that in all of 2019 website had 820 unique visitors, but thus far in 2020 has had 11,009.

§10.ii HO notes that the Lusophone survey has been updated and she will circulate the most recent version with UCML Exec as a model for other language areas.

Action: HO

§12.iii LG updates that a lot has been done in community languages for England and work through private agencies. JD notes that in addition to commercial translators a lot of NGOs are working on this. There is also a lot of campaigning ongoing around deaf and hard-of-hearing.

§15.i Connecting Library ML subject group with ML associations

Action: JI and CG

2.cd UCML Plenary Business Meeting of 17 January 2020

2.c. Accuracy & approval

No amendments.

2.d Matters arising

§4.a.iii OGC gave a presentation to colleagues in English Studies but nothing heard since. OGC offered to get back in touch with relevant associations and possibly invite to a plenary. It was suggested AHA might be worth contacting too.

Action: OGC

§4.c.ii Raised by JD, but not felt to be a challenge by CF and SB as REF panels will call on expert reviewers on a case-by-case basis, but both said that if any particular challenges emerged they would be happy to keep the conversation going.

§6.b.iii Erasmus+ letter of support sent to UK Government. Standard response received acknowledging concerns and reiterating UK government policy position.

3. Chair's report

3.a *Erasmus+*: CG has been very active around Erasmus engaging with colleagues in the UK and devolved nations.

3.b *SHAPE*: CG notes that SHAPE has not been conceived as a competitor to STEM, but that the initiative seeks to acknowledge and reinforce the vital and positive contribution of arts, humanities and social science research.

3.c *Year Abroad*: this will be addressed more fully in a workshop in the afternoon of the Plenary, but CG expressed thanks to colleagues across the sector for the support the Special Interest Group had received.

3.d *Small Grants*: CG reminded colleagues that the next deadline for the small grants scheme was the 17 July and encouraged colleagues to apply.

3.e *British Council*: at the end of CG's report, colleagues unreservedly expressed full support for the British Council. CG acknowledge that Vicky Gough was present at the AGM and reinforced the importance of the strong UCML-British Council relationship.

4. Report of Vice-chair Languages & Intercultural Education

4.a *UCAS Applications 2020*: News that more UG apps than last year is welcome but must be taken cautiously as there is still a drop in applications to ML subjects.

4.b *UCAS ML data project (2012-2019)*: VW gave an overview of preliminary findings, pointing to an increase in applications for ML combinations with Business Studies over the period. OGC noted that at Lancaster Business Studies combinations with ML had recently dipped with Social Sciences on the rise and would be interested to see if this was a local phenomenon or a national trend.

VW noted that regional differences across the six-year period of the analysis would be explored. VW stated that three data sets had been removed from the overall UCAS data (Linguistics, Celtic Studies, and TEFL/TESOL), and that the analysis of these sub-sets would form the basis of short internships for final year UG students with UCML over the summer of 2020. MSh commented that LAGB would be interested in the Linguistics data. JC drew attention to a report in the *Guardian's* Scottish edition that depicted political concerns around the loss of Scottish Gaelic.

- 4.c *Language Trends England 2020*: the British Council report highlighted the fact that the introduction of the EBacc had not led to an uptake in ML subjects, as ML components had stagnated at 46% of EBaccs awarded.
- 4.d *National Languages Strategy*: CC noted that AULC was disappointed not to have been involved in the discussions that fed into the report. CG drew attention to the British Academy webinar on 20 July that would discuss the report, and stated that the British Academy had tried hard to gather as much cross-sector material as possible as they compiled the report. They would value the input of more partners as the report's recommendations are taken forward.

5. Report of Vice-chair Research

- 5.a *ITI research network*: JD drew attention to a new research network established by ITI aimed to support any researchers in Translation and Interpreting in whatever way they can.
- 5.b *Open Access*: JD reported she had raised concerns around differing international requirements around Open Access and colleagues who do not write in English or work on less-widely spoken languages for the UKRI Open Access Review.
- 5.c *REF Nominations*: New deadline for nominations for Panel D will be 7 September 2020, but panels had asked for nominations to be made as soon as possible so that the panels can have as diverse a membership as possible, which is made easier by earlier nomination. JD asked for self-nominations to be sent to her. **Action: JD**
- 5.d *Early Career Academics*: supporting ECA colleagues has been JD's main focus in her UCML role to date. There would be an afternoon Plenary workshop on the ECA SIG, but JD presented on the newly launched mentoring scheme. Different types of mentoring could be done at different stages and the role of mentor is not intended to be too onerous. JD called on anyone who felt they would be able to provide support (of one of two kinds: *ad hoc* support for something specific e.g. conference paper, grant application; or more substantial year-long mentoring) to get in touch.

6. Report of Vice-chair Engagement & External Communications

- 6.a *Social Media*: UCML Twitter following has massively increased in 2020, up to 4,097 at the time of the AGM, and around half that again for Facebook. CG thanked EC for so effectively creating buzz around UCML on social media, especially in relation to UCML's British Council campaign.

- 6.b *National Languages Strategy*: EC attended the pre-launch briefing on behalf of UCML and is in touch with NK and JC who are keen for UCML to take forward some of the report's recommendations in collaboration with the British Academy, British Council and UUK.

7. Hon. Secretary's report

- 7.a *New Exec Members*: Four new members joined the committee since January's Winter Business Meeting.
- 7.b *Hispanic Studies Rep*: the call for nominations for a new representative for Hispanic Studies is open, with a view to a new rep taking up the role on 31 August 2020.
- 7.c *Upcoming UCML Meetings*: MC noted that given the current public health crisis UCML meetings and events would be held virtually.

8. Hon. Treasurer's report

- 8.a *Flexible Subscriptions*: new arrangements have been put in place for UCML to be mindful of smaller/challenged departments where the UCML membership fee might be prohibitive. These institutions are encouraged to contact OGC and their requests would be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 8.b *Regional Allocation*: OGC reminded colleagues in devolved nations that UCML has a regional allocation of £500 for each nation and encouraged Northern Ireland and Scotland to make use of these funds.
- 8.c *OWRI Donation*: OWRI were thanked for their generous donation of £5,000 to UCML, which is the largest donation on record.
- 8.d *UCML Expenses*: OGC noted that since meetings of the Executive and Steering Group had been virtual since March, UCML had been able to make substantial savings that would allow funds to be used elsewhere.
- 8.e *Year Abroad Support*: CG suggested to colleagues that some of the funds currently in the UCML account could be put towards opening MOOCs for UG students due to be abroad in the academic year 2020-21. These MOOCs would support intercultural awareness and form part of the virtual mobility resources being collated by UCML. Colleagues were in agreement that this would be a welcome initiative.

9. National reports

9.a Northern Ireland

No report received.

NI Minister for Education, Peter Weir MLA, was contacted regarding the British Council campaign and sent a response reaffirming NI support for the British Council.

9.b Scotland

- 9.b.i *British Council*: FCO response to Professor Sally Mapstone (Principal and Vice-Chancellor of St Andrews) was disappointing.
- 9.b.ii *German at Dundee*: JC noted the threat to German Studies at Dundee and colleagues in German were invited to write to Professor Jim Livesey to express

support for retaining German in the UG curriculum. AF drew attention to a student petition that has been started in support of German at Dundee and encouraged colleagues to sign it.

- 9.b.iii *Erasmus+*: CG thanked JC for ongoing proactive support in campaigning for Erasmus+.

9.c Wales

- 9.c.i LWO noted that Working with Translation MOOC has been really popular during the COVID-19 crisis at Cardiff and would doubtless be a good addition to the virtual mobility offer.
- 9.c.ii RiL and MFL Mentoring Cymru are very active in the generation of virtual resources and digitised support for Welsh schools.

10. Any other business

- 1.0a MSh drew attention to discrepancies in the way universities recognise languages in admissions cycles. Of particular concern is the non-recognition of community languages. CG proposed that a small group be convened to take this forward as a new UCML campaigning area.

Action: VW and JI

- 10.b CBU mentioned the 'Translating Cultures' event on transforming the curriculum on 28 July. JI to put in news function of UCML website.

Action: JI.

ATTENDANCE LIST (66)

Surname	First Name	Initials	Member Organisation
Abbott	Helen	HA	Birmingham
Archer	Leona	LA	Surrey
Astbury	Kate	KA	Warwick
Barbour	Catherine	CBa	Surrey
Barkanyi	Zsuzsanna	ZB	Open University
Bermingham	Nicola	NB	AHGBI
Burdett	Charles	CBu	Durham
Campbell	Caroline	CC	Leeds/UCML
Carlini-Versini	Dominique	DCV	Durham
Carson	Joe	JC	St Andrews/UCMLS
Cayley	Emma	EC	Leeds/UCML
Cazzoli	Marcela	MC	Durham/UCML
Chabert	Catherine	CaC	Cardiff
Cherino	Cristina	CrC	Lincoln
Columbu	Alessandro	AC	Westminster
Cotgrove	Louis	LC	AGS
Crahay	Géraldine	GC	Durham
Devaux	Jérôme	JD	Open University
Doak	Connor	CD	Bristol/UCML

Drugan	Jo	JD	UEA/UCML
Faloppa	Federico	FF	Reading/UCML
Fiddler	Allyson	AF	Lancaster/UCML
Finch-Race	Dan	DFR	Bristol
Forcer	Stephen	SF	Glasgow
Forsdick	Charles	CF	Liverpool
Garcia Villanueva	Eneida	EGV	Glasgow
Gomes	Luís	LG	Glasgow
Gomez-Cash	Olga	OGC	Lancaster/UCML
Gong	Jodie	JG	Bristol
Gorrara	Claire	CG	Cardiff/UCML
Gough	Vicky	VG	British Council
Harris	Ashley	AH	QUB
Heiser	Sarah	SH	Open University
Hill	Irène	IH	Oxford Brookes
Hird	Derek	DH	Lancaster/UCML
Ho	Mavis	MH	Glasgow
Illingworth	James	JI	Leicester/DMU/UCML
James	Kaite	KJ	DAAD
Jones	Sharon	SJ	Stranmillis UC/UCML
Kehoe	Kevin	KK	QMUL
Khamam	Ruba	RK	Leeds
Labeau	Emmanuelle	EL	Aston/UCML
Littler	Margaret	ML	Manchester/AGS
Lopez	Elia Lorena	ELL	York
Owen	Hilary	HO	Manchester/Exec
Polisca	Elena	EP	Lancaster
Potter	Hilary	HP	Newcastle
Rabadán-Gomez	Marina	MRG	Liverpool/UCML
Rodríguez	Begoña	BR	Portsmouth/UCML
Sas	Christine	CS	UCL
Saunders	Anna	AS	Liverpool
Scott	Hannah	HS	Nottingham
Sheehan	Michelle	MSh	UEA/LAGB
Soler Montes	Carlos	CSM	Edinburgh
Spunta	Marina	MSp	Leicester
Stollhans	Sascha	SS	Lancaster
Sulis	Gigliola	GS	Leeds/UCML
Taylor	Claire	CT	Liverpool
Vialleton	Elodie	EV	Open University
Wang	Liang	LW	QUB
Weiss-Sussex	Godela	GWS	IMLR
Wells	Naomi	NW	IMLR
Wharton	Steve	SW	Bath/ASMCF
Wilczynski	Andrea	AW	Newcastle
Wren-Owens	Liz	LWO	Cardiff/UCML
Wright	Vicky	VW	Southampton/UCML