

## MINUTES

### EXEC MEMBERS (alphabetical order of surname; *apols italics/inset*)

Nicola Bermingham	Hispanic	NB
<i>Joe Carson</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>JC</i>
Emma Cayley	VC Communications	EC
Marcela Cazzoli	Hon. Secretary	MAC
<i>Alexander Ding</i>	<i>ELT</i>	<i>AD</i>
Connor Doak	Slavonic & EE	CD
<i>Jo Drugan</i>	<i>VC Research</i>	<i>JD</i>
Federico Faloppa	Linguistics	FF
Allyson Fiddler	Germanic & Low Countries	AF
Luís Gomes	Lusophone	LG
Olga Gomez-Cash	Hon. Treasurer	OGC
Claire Gorrara	Chair	CG
Derek Hird	East Asian	DH
James Illingworth	Project Co-ordinator	JI
<i>Sharon Jones</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>SJ</i>
René Koglbauer	Schools Liaison	RK
Emmanuelle Labeau	French	EL
El Mustapha Lahlali	Middle Eastern studies	ML
Liam Lewis	Early Career Academics	LL
Marina Rabadán-Gómez	IWLP	MRG
Begoña Rodriguez	T&I	BR
Gigliola Sulis	Italian	GS
Frances Weightman	Area Studies	FW
Liz Wren-Owens	Wales	LWO
Vicky Wright	VC Education	VW

### Other acronyms

ATC	Association of Translation Companies
AHA	Arts & Humanities Alliance
APPG	All-Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages
AULC	Association of University Language Communities
CIoL	Chartered Institute of Linguists
CLIE	Committee for Linguistics in Education
CLIL	Content and Language Integrated Learning
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
DAAD	Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
EBacc	English Baccalaureate
ECA	Early Career Academic
IMLR	Institute of Modern Languages Research
ML	Modern Languages
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PGR	Postgraduate Researcher

SHAPE	Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts for People and the Economy
SIG	Special Interest Group
UCAS	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
UCU	University and College Union
UKRI	UK Research & Innovation
YA	Year Abroad

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence (5 mins)

CG

Apologies were received from Joe Carson, Alexander Ding, Jo Drugan, and Sharon Jones.

Luís Gomes was welcomed to the UCML Executive Committee as the new representative for Lusophone Studies.

### 2. Minutes (5 mins)

Executive Committee meeting of 4 December 2020

CG

2.a Accuracy and approval  
*No amendments were noted.*

2.b Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

§2.d.4.a.iii *AHA*: Needs to be chased with JD.

§5.d *UKRI Lobbying around PhD Funding*: A letter was sent to UKRI and a response received.

§5.e *UCML Internships*: no developments here yet but JD and RK to take forward.

**Action: JD and RK to discuss how we might develop internships.**

§6.a *ECA Social Media*: LL updates that ECA social media accounts are in development.

§8.d *Closer collaboration with subject associations*: This has not been acted upon yet but will be taken forward by JI in the coming months.

**Action: JI to liaise with subject association members to discuss collaboration**

§10.d.ii *Graduate outcomes*: CG will take this up at the next SHAPE meeting in June.

**Action: CG to raise graduate outcomes in ML at the next SHAPE meeting**

§13 *Language Posts*: Much work has been undertaken here. Many German departments hoping to appoint to DAAD posts have had a series of meetings with HR, German Embassy and DAAD, but little progress due to as yet undecided nature on visa routes post-Brexit for these posts. EC has convened a meeting in May that will address this question.

Business Meeting of 15 January 2021

CG

2.c Accuracy and approval  
*No amendments were noted.*

2.d Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

§3.f.ii *Joint conference:* Small sub-group to take this forward with colleagues at AULC and IMLR.

**Action: JI, EC and MAC to convene a small sub-group to work on a future joint conference**

### Discussion of Officer's Reports (30 mins)

#### 3. Chair's Report

CG

3.a *Turing:* CG met with Sir Steve Smith who was keen for ML to work with Turing Scheme as much as possible. He made it clear that if this did not work there was no plan B so there was an imperative for ML to engage with Turing. A Turing webinar on 22 March was organised by UCML with Professor Colin Riordan that was well attended. On Tuesday Tonia Antoniazzi MP (APPG Vice Chair) will ask a question on the Turing Scheme in parliament. They have asked UCML for feeling on the ground around Turing in HE so colleagues are welcome to send comments to JI by Monday morning that can be taken forward.

**Action: ALL to consider comments on Turing to send to JI by noon 19 April**

3.b *MOOCs:* this has been a successful collaboration and it may be worth thinking about providing a MOOC offer in the next academic session. CD suggests we look at student numbers partaking in the previous MOOCs to discern how viable this would be.

#### 4. Report of Vice Chair Languages & Intercultural Education

VW

4.a *UCAS End of cycle report:* There are 'catastrophe' stats that suggest significant drops in Linguistics, European languages and non-European languages. This is seemingly verified when we examine top-level data, but VW notes that these subject level groupings hide the diversity of what is happening on the ground.

4.b *UCML Survey:* VW is working through the final survey questions at the moment and the report is coming together. If colleagues would like particular aspects drawn out of the Survey, please do contact JI and VW and we'll try to work this into the narrative.

4.c *Gender Action:* This project has raised questions around gender in languages. VW has looked through UCAS data on gender and it does reveal a continued dominance of women in ML, though the pattern appears different in Chinese and Japanese, and more substantial research here may be worthwhile.

4.d *GCSE MFL Content Review:* what points should UCML include in its response to the content review which VW is preparing? Deadline is 19 May, but if colleagues have ideas please send them to VW by 23 April. Note this is just for England, and very focused on the EBacc. CG and LWO point out that Wales is following a very different approach. RK encouraged all to respond as volume is the important thing, and that no response will be considered a 'yes'.

**Action: ALL to consider comments to be included in UCML's response by April**

23

**5. Report of Vice Chair Research**

JD

*No report received.***6. Report of Vice Chair External Engagement & Communications**

EC

6.a EC alerted colleagues to a recent article in *University Business* around admissions statistics where EC is quoted extensively around ML admissions (and follows recent articles by Andrea Wilczynski on Wonkhe and Kate Astbury in *THE* that address the misleading nature of UCAS statistics).

6.b *UKRI ODA Cuts*: EC is writing a letter to UKRI on this issue on behalf of UCML. Colleagues in subject areas particularly affected by this would be welcome to contribute.

**Action: All to feed into EC on content for her UCML letter****7. Hon. Secretary's Report**

MAC

7.a *Representative Profiles*: MAC has worked on amending these to encourage more active roles for our representatives that encourage a two-way approach to UCML, with representatives reporting from their constituents but also reporting back to them.

7.b *CIoL*: CG and MAC met with John Worne, CEO of CIoL which was a very positive discussion and will hopefully lead to a much closer collaboration and some new and fruitful initiatives.

**8. Hon. Treasurer's Report**

OGC

OGC reminded the Executive that at the Business Meeting a new subscription model for smaller units (language centres, for instance) was approved, charging £50 for an annual fee instead of the usual £200. This needs to be added to the website.

**Action: JI and OGC to update subscription webpage****9. National reports (10 mins)**

9.a Northern Ireland

SJ

9.b Scotland

JC

9.c Wales

LWO

The news of a new Welsh international mobility scheme was welcomed.

**10. Reports from other Executive members (30 mins)**

10.a Area studies

FW

There is concern around the inability to access language training and in-country fieldwork for new PGRs under Covid meaning students are stalled in their research progress. The community was interested in ways UCML could support here or offer methods of best practice. CG pledged we would think about this going forward and suggests FW sends any further details to JI.

**Action: FW to send details of the issue to JI.**

10.b French studies

EL

10.c Germanic/Low countries studies

AF

10.d Hispanic studies

NB

AHA shared online space for subject areas to share information and documentation. Is there something UCML can do here or a model they can replicate?

**Action: NB to follow up with JI.**

10.e	Lusophone studies	LG
10.f	Italian studies	GS
10.g	Middle Eastern studies	ML
10.h	East Asian studies	DH

DH drew attention to the current pressures faced by colleagues working on Chinese Studies from Chinese authorities, including sanctioning of academics in Britain and beyond. DH thanked UCML for voicing support for colleagues in these situations.

10.i	Slavonic & East European studies	CD
10.j	Linguistics	FF
10.k	IWLP	MRG

10.k.i CIOl looking to give accreditation to teaching experience in less-widely taught languages.

10.k.ii Language departments and centres on different mailing lists are becoming increasingly concerned about precarious employment situations of colleagues on IWLPs and beyond. This is becoming particularly problematic for visa applications in terms of thresholds making it difficult to find trained teachers for certain languages.

**Action: MRG to send details to CG and JI to forward to APPG**

10.l	English Language Teaching	AD
10.m	Translation & Interpreting	BR

10.m.i UK universities part of Masters in Translation told overnight that they were no longer part of the programme due to the UK's withdrawal from the EU. CG asks BR to get in contact with CG, JI and EC to see how UCML can support.

**Action: BR to forward details to CG, JI and EC.**

10.m.ii BR drew attention to an event in May launching a report by ATC and Aston Business School that reflects the importance of languages to businesses.

10.n	Schools Liaison	RK
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10.n.i Staff working with first years should be aware that components on drama/literature/film have been dropped in a number of places from A-levels due to Covid.

10.n.ii In England there is a change in initial teacher training and CPD and we need to keep an eye on this for subject-specific CPD.

10.o	Early Career Academics	LL
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**11. [Headline Findings from UCAS Granularity Project \(15 mins\)](#) CG/JI**

**12. [Advance planning of Plenary Workshop of 9 July 2021 \(15 mins\)](#) ALL**

Proposed theme: what/where next for modern languages? Including an overview for schools (primary/secondary) and then Nicola McLelland, Katrin Kohl who might talk about next steps for ML. EL proposes incorporating links between these two approaches by bringing in the widening participation issue. CG also wonders if it could be worth including small grants partners who have included widening participation in their projects. LWO mentions a previously UCML-funded event in Wales on the languages

pipeline that involved teachers talking about what knowledge students come to HE from A-level with. There may also be opportunities to involve colleagues in CLIL and CLIE.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session</u>
10.00-11.30	AGM
11.30-13.00	Lunch
13.00-16.30	Workshop theme/suggestions

**12. Update on SIGs (5 mins) CG**

**13. Any Other Business (5 mins) all**

- 13.i *Languages at Aston*: A petition opposing cuts of modern languages at Aston has been started by UCU. EL encourages colleagues to contact learned societies to write letters of support. The cuts remain a proposal, so wide support may yet change the direction of travel. The consultation will end on 10 May.

**Action: EL to send a brief to JI with details and who to contact for circulation to the Exec**

- 13.ii CG will be stepping down from the UCML Executive Committee in July at the AGM. Nominations for the role of Chair will be sought in due course alongside nominations for a number of other roles.

- 13.iii FW proposes we ensure we include breaks in future meetings, which was agreed.

**14. Future dates all**

<u>date</u>	<u>event</u>	<u>venue</u>
9 July	Summer Plenary (AGM)	online/zoom
12 November	Executive Committee	??
14 January	Winter Plenary	??
29 April	Executive Committee	??