

UCML AGM & Plenary 2021

9 July 2021

Via Teams



UCML ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

MINUTES

Nb Reports can be found at <https://university-council-modern-languages.org/2021/06/16/ucml-summer-plenary-2021-modern-languages-the-bigger-picture/>

Initials: see Attendance List. Other acronyms:

AHA	Arts & Humanities Alliance
AHRC	Arts & Humanities Research Council
ALCS	Association for Low Countries Studies
AMLUK	Alliance of Modern Languages, Area Studies and Linguistics Subject Associations UK
ASCL	Association of School and College Leaders
AULC	Association of University Language Communities in the UK & Ireland
BERA	British Educational Research Association
CCEA	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations & Assessment
CIoL	Chartered Institute of Linguists
CLIL	Content-Language Integrated Learning
ECA	Early Career Academics
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
ILAS	Institute of Latin American Studies
IMLR	Institute of Modern Languages Research
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IWLP	Institution-Wide Language Programme
ML	Languages
OFS	Office for Students
OWRI	AHRC Open World Research Initiative
RiL	Routes into Languages
SHAPE	Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts for People & the Economy
UCAS	Universities & Colleges Admissions Service

1. Welcome, apologies & announcements

The following Exec members had sent apologies:

Jo Drugan, Federico Faloppa, Gigliola Sulis and René Koglbauer.

1.a New Exec members since last AGM

A warm welcome was extended to Marián Arribas-Tomé (UEA) who joins us as Hon. Treasurer, Binhua Wang (Leeds) who joins us as the East Asian Studies representative, Ed Welch (Aberdeen) who joins us as Scotland representative, and Ursula Lanvers (York) who joins us as Linguistics Representative, all taking up their posts at the end of July. Luís Gomes was also welcomed to the Executive, having taken up the role of Lusophone Studies representative in February 2021.

Emma Cayley, the current Vice-Chair for Communications and External Engagement, will take on the role of Chair at the end of July.

Warm thanks were extended to Claire Gorrara, who stands down as Chair at the end of the month and for her vital role in reinvigorating UCML as an organisation and her service to the ML community. Thanks were also extended to Olga Gomez-Cash, who has served as Hon. Treasurer for the past four years, and to Federico Faloppa, Derek Hird, and Joe Carson for their service to UCML and the community.

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:

- Amendment to the dates from which new Executive Committee roles take effect.
- Removal of reference to attendance/catering fees for non-members attending UCML events.
- Subject associations and cultural organisations listed under Executive representative roles have been updated.

Discussion: OGC noted that some of the subject associations listed in the Standing Orders are no longer UCML members, and we may wish to think about how we engage with these.

Amendments accepted *nem con*.

2. Minutes of last meetings

2.ab UCML Executive Meeting of 16 April 2021

2.a Accuracy & approval

No amendments were noted.

2.b Matters arising

§2b.5e *UCML Internships*: JD and RK to look into it.

Action: JD and RK to report on this at next Executive Committee meeting

§2b.8d *Working with subject associations*: JI suggests this be taken up with AMLUK. Agreed by CBU agreed to bring this to the next AMLUK meeting.

Action: JI and MAC to liaise with CBU

§2b.10d *Graduate outcomes*: CG took this issue to SHAPE. There is a SHAPE endeavour to look at graduate outcomes in all SHAPE subjects to combat negative stories around grad outcomes in the humanities.

§2b.3fi *Joint conference*: This will be taken forward with a view to being held in 2022. MAC has discussed this with MC and CBU, and a potential symposium asking OWRI about work they've done and how that has changed framework around ML looks like a good way forward.

§8 *Subscription webpage*: this has been updated.

§10.a *Area Studies Training*: Follow up with FW.

Action: JI to follow up with FW

§10.d *AHA online spaces*: NB followed up with JI, and it seems that the new UCML Team does this work, with subject representatives able to then keep communication channels open.

§10.k.ii *Precarity in IWLP*: Follow up with MRG. MC suggests this is a university rather than policy issue and he'll raise it with strategic committee.

Action: JI to follow up with MRG

§10.m.i *Euromasters in Translation*: BRG circulated details to JI and CG. It appears that there was no way of reversing this decision.

§13.i *Aston closures*: Brief on the situation sent by EL and circulated among the Executive. UCML wrote a letter in response and CG met senior figures at Aston. Sadly the ML programme will close, but Languages for All will remain, along with the Masters in Translation (albeit under review). See §3.iv below.

2.cd UCML Plenary Business Meeting of 15 January 2021

2.c Accuracy & approval

No amendments were noted.

2.d Matters arising

§2b.9ai *BERA Contact*: BERA are now in contact with UCML and will take forward conversations with EC. SJ notes a policy event will be organised through BERA on languages and she will circulate details once these are known.

§2B.11 *UCML PowerPoint*: PowerPoint created by JI and CG for presentation of UCML to UKALTA has been adapted for use by subject representatives wishing to present UCML to their constituents, and has been circulated to representatives. It is also uploaded to the UCML Team.

3. Chair's report

3.i *Strategic Committee for Languages in Higher Education*: Jointly chaired with Neil Kenny new committee to support the British Academy-sponsored 'Towards a National Strategy for Languages' policy project. Issue of heritage languages and A levels has been raised for discussion. Thanks to MS for raising this initially.

3.ii *UCML Publications*: British Academy-UCML report on UCAS data and UCML/AULC survey of language provision are now published. They reinforce the need to move away from a story of loss and crisis to one of change and diversification for languages in HE.

3.iii *AHRC*: Janice Carruthers is leading four workshops on the future of languages research to inform future AHRC strategy. CG reported positively on her experience of taking part in one workshop.

3.iv *Aston*: CG expressed great respect for colleagues at Aston and solidarity with the situation there. We can only hope that the retention of Languages for All and Masters in Translation will result in a return of languages in the long term. Thanks especially expressed to EL for her leading role in CLIL and the pioneering role of Aston in Routes.

3.v *Erasmus*: CG reported on a meeting with the Coimbra group that colleagues in Europe were quite perplexed by the current situation in the UK and the differences between the four UK devolved nations/jurisdictions. SJ updated that Erasmus conversations in Northern Ireland had stalled in part due to change in ministerial changes. In Wales, a new programme (International Learning Exchange Programme) is being developed to fill the gaps between Turing and Erasmus has been implemented. JI and MAC to follow up in Scotland after the recent election.

Action: JI and MAC to bring this to the new Scotland Representative

3.vi *Sheffield*: CS of ALCS expressed concern that the reconfiguration of languages is dangerous for Dutch, as one of only two universities teaching Dutch in the UK. There is a clear emphasis on 'strategic' languages which is worrying for Dutch. CG encouraged colleagues at Sheffield to contact EC and JI if concerned.

4. Report of Vice-chair Languages & Intercultural Education

- 4.i *Survey*: VW drew attention to the key findings of the UCML-AULC survey, but commented that it was humbling to read the creative and imaginative ways colleagues had dealt with the pandemic and with the disruptions of Brexit.
- 4.ii *RiL*: UCML will contact the institutions who expressed in the Survey that they would be interested in getting more involved in RiL activities, looking again at the local networks. A meeting around IPR for RiL identified that the IPR belongs to the sector rather than HEFCE/OfS as was previously believed. Southampton is happy to continue as proprietors of the website and RiL logo.
- 4.iii *National Centre for CLIL*: VW thanked EL for the work Aston has done here and hoped this could continue, and offered UCML support to maintain and develop. EL reports that the CLIL network will continue next year at the very least.
- 4.iv *Gender*: VW looked through UCAS JACS3 codes comparing gender of applicants and the results are stark. Proposed a UCML research project to take this forward.

5. Report of Vice-chair Research

No report received.

6. Report of Vice-chair Engagement & External Communications

- 6.i *ECA SIG*: EC drew attention to the new UCML ECA SIG twitter feed and encouraged colleagues to get involved.
- 6.ii *JISC list*: UCML has launched a new discussion list and EC encouraged colleagues to join it.
- 6.iii *British Council*: EC informed colleagues that the British Council threat is ongoing, with redundancies recently announced. If colleagues wanted to make suggestions/comments/take action around this situation, they should email JI and EC in the first instance.

7. Hon. Secretary's report

- 7.i *Elections*: MAC extended thanks to outgoing representatives and welcomed the new representatives to their roles.
- 7.ii *AMLUK*: MAC drew attention to the expanding role of AMLUK and plans to increase activities.
- 7.iii *CIoL*: Exciting discussions ongoing between UCML and CIoL, and colleagues should keep an eye out for future developments.

8. Hon. Treasurer's report

- 8.i *UCML's Evolution*: OGC's report reflected on what has changed, and she drew attention to the change in the nature of UCML expenses processes. This is evidence of how professionalised UCML has become. She also commented on the way that money is now spent and how this has evolved: we are now less focused solely on maintaining core UCML activities; funds are rather re-invested in the sector, and this is a welcome change.
- 8.ii *Accounts*: OGC reported on the healthy UCML accounts, but cautioned that we need to spend more of the money as we are approaching an annual turnover that would require UCML to be audited.

9. Reports from Nations and Early Career Academics

9.a Northern Ireland

- 9.a.i There has been significant recent political change in Northern Ireland, including a new First Minister, new Minister for Education and new Minister for the Economy. Representations were made to the Northern Ireland Executive and the CCEA around the announcement of change to ML assessment next year (withdrawal of oral exams), but it was made clear at a meeting with policy makers that this was a change requested by parents and educators, so is a challenging situation.
- 9.a.ii A meeting was held with current Education Minister. Discussion was positive, and a number of policy issues across the board were highlighted and the Minister has promised to take these concerns forward.

9.b Scotland: no report received

9.c Wales

- 9.c.i There are positive discussions ongoing among Welsh policy makers around languages. Feels like a potentially less challenging environment than in England at the moment.
- 9.c.ii Routes Cymru has launched a new toolkit for school governors around supporting languages in their school.
- 9.c.iii MFL Mentoring Cymru has had its funding renewed for a further year, which is welcome news.

9.d Early Career Academics

CG drew attention to the excellent programme for the ECA Symposium taking place on July 15th.

10. Small Grants Update

- 10.i CG noted that the membership of the Small Grants Sub-Committee needed to change for the 2021/22 funding round. MAC will take over as chair, and expressions of interest were invited from Executive Committee colleagues

Action: ALL to self-nominate to the small grants sub-committee

- 10.ii UCML is developing a proposal for Global South Scholarships, designed to bring scholars from the Global South either to the UK, or to facilitate interactions and exchange. Thanks were extended to GS for working on the proposal.

Action: JI to circulate the proposal with the AGM minutes.

11. Any other business

- 11.i *AMLUK*: CBu reported that subject associations are concerned about: the loss of mobility in terms of research; issues around how machine translation has impacted language assessment this year; and visa regulations for incoming language tutors. CBu is keen to interrogate further the fundamental idea of the community supported by the IMLR, emphasising that research should not be disconnected from pedagogy. In this vein, an event will take place at the IMLR with Emma Marsden, Neil Kenny and a representative from ASCL, and will discuss GCSE innovations and how the discipline moves forward. There is also a concern that community languages should not be regarded as distinct from modern languages.
- 11.ii *IMLR*: ILAS has moved into the IMLR as CLACS (Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies). Its move to the IMLR has prompted a change in how the IMLR thinks about itself, and raises the question of IMLR's own name, in particular around question of the term 'modern languages'. CBu is proposing a renaming to the Institute of Languages, Culture and Society.

ATTENDANCE LIST (42)

Surname	First Name	Initials	Member Organisation
Arens	Sarah	SA	St Andrews
Arribas-Tomé	Marián	MAT	UEA
Barkanyi	Zsuzsanna	ZB	Open University
Bermingham	Nicola	NB	Liverpool/UCML
Bishop	Paul	PB	Glasgow
Boyle	Catherine	CBo	KCL
Burdett	Charles	CBu	Durham
Carlini-Versini	Dominique	DCV	Durham
Cayley	Emma	EC	Leeds/UCML
Cazzoli	Marcela	MAC	Durham/UCML
Critchley	Mark	MC	Durham/AULC

Doak	Connor	CD	Bristol/UCML
Fiddler	Allyson	AF	Lancaster/UCML
Forcer	Stephen	SF	Glasgow
Ford	Joseph	JF	IMLR
Garcia del Rio	Carmen	CDR	Dundee
Gomes	Luís	LG	Glasgow/UCML
Gomez-Cash	Olga	OGC	Lancaster/UCML
Gorrara	Claire	CG	Cardiff/UCML
Gough	Vicky	VG	British Council
Harkness	Nigel	NH	Newcastle
Hegarty	Paul	PH	Nottingham
Hird	Derek	DH	Lancaster/UCML
Illingworth	James	JI	Leicester/UCML
Inglada	Ramon	RI	Heriot-Watt
James	Katie	KJ	DAAD
Jones	Sharon	SJ	Stranmillis UC/UCML
Ju	Youkyung	YJ	SOAS
Labeau	Emmanuelle	EL	Aston/UCML
Lewis	Liam	LL	Liverpool/UCML
McLelland	Nicola	NM	Nottingham/AGS
Rabadán-Gomez	Marina	MRG	Liverpool/UCML
Richard	Laurence	LR	Southampton
Rodríguez	Begoña	BR	Portsmouth/UCML
Sas	Christine	CS	UCL/ALCS
Schechter	Sarah	SS	Cambridge
Sheehan	Michelle	MS	UEA/LAGB
Wang	Binhua	BW	Leeds
Wharton	Steve	SW	Bath/ASMCF
Wren-Owens	Liz	LWO	Cardiff/UCML
Wright	Vicky	VW	Southampton/UCML
Wyburd	Jocelyn	JW	Cambridge