

UCML Executive Committee

Friday 12 November 2021 10am-12pm

Via MS Teams



Item 6: Report of Vice Chair External Engagement & Communications

Handover

I had a handover meeting with Emma Cayley as previous Vice-Chair External Engagement and Communication at the end of September, as I took up the role from 30 September. We discussed strategic use of the Twitter account and other social media. It was suggested that I would take over as liaison for the ECA SIG group, alongside external relations (details tbc).

Communication

In terms of communication approach, the recent steering group meeting saw a further conversation on a proactive communications approach, with all areas/groups within UCML being invited to send pitches and Twitter content (including about external representation or events). This includes advertising of internal and external advocacy/language matters, including also a focus on research.

ECA SIG

I had an initial meeting with the chairs of the ECA SIG on 25 October. We discussed current plans and priorities and following on from the conversations at the steering group, I mentioned some of the current DDFC initiatives for possible collaboration or synergies.

An ECA SIG meeting took place on 5 November. The PG bursaries proposal prepared by Liz Wren-Owens as incoming Vice-Chair research was presented for discussion. The proposal was well received, and Liam will report back on comments and suggestions for the SIG.

Beside these meetings I liaised on initial feedback on the ECA/senior staff survey prepared by the SIG chairs. This is being presented to the Executive for feedback/approval.

External relations

The British Council has announced the 2022-23 round of applications for the Language Assistants programme, to be promoted via the UCML social media accounts and/or newsletter.

I attended the EASSH general meeting on 4 November. The focus was on interdisciplinary collaborations (in particular the EU Horizon programmes) but there was a steer from the membership to also discuss the broader issue of representation and recruitment of SHAPE disciplines, which will hopefully be followed up on. There was also a query about future collaboration with the UK.