

UCML Executive Committee

Friday 12 November 2021 10am-12pm

Via MS Teams



Item 8: Hon. Treasurer's Report

12th November 2021

1. Access to accounts

We are on our way to sorting out the transfer of accounts to my name and Emma's and I am grateful to the former Treasurer for giving me updates on the accounts and for being very helpful and ready to respond to my questions, whenever needed.

2. Subscriptions

We will hopefully get in touch with universities and associations shortly, once we have access to the accounts. Seven universities have left UCML in the past year (Brunel, Huddersfield, Kingston University, Nottingham Trent, Richmond (American Int'l London), Roehampton, Sunderland). Four Subject Associations have also ceased membership.

3. Balance and setting priorities

The overall balance of our accounts is extremely healthy, and far outstrips our operational costs (as a relatively recent example from a time where these expenses were the norm, per those reported on 31st December 2019, £5,897 was spent on travel and subsistence and £1,950.04 on hospitality).

Savings account: £25, 502.61

PayPal account: £4,700

Current account: 1,134.55

Total: £31, 337.16

Looking at our finances in the past, this is an operational peak. We should use some of these monies to invest in our discipline, which will help to raise also UCML profile. In the past the Chair developed a call for bids based on the priorities that the Chair found through a survey done in 2018:

- Building a community: 'one voice for languages'
- Leading a media campaign for and about languages
- Supporting a UK Languages Strategy
- Supporting the languages pipeline from school to university
- Supporting the visibility of languages research
- Responding to current political climate and seeking opportunities for languages to thrive

Perhaps we could do a new survey and find out if priorities have changed.

Recommended by the former treasurer 'Languages after Brexit' (ed. Michael Kelly, Palgrave, 2018) has a very helpful and inspiring 'Summary of Proposals'.

4. Charity status

I have been exploring the possibility of UCML becoming a charity and had a meeting recently with someone from Third Sector Experts (TSE). After our meeting and looking at our website and governing document, they made some recommendations. These do not come from an impartial perspective so we should remember this when considering them. I am seeking some independent advice too to make up for the bias. When seeking clarity with the implications of our present status, Olga, the former treasurer, also told me that the operative distinction between being a charity or an association is the 'unincorporated': we don't do trading nor make a profit, so we don't behave 'corporately', charge VAT, pay corporation tax etc.

TSE was not totally clear about the aspect of whether just being unincorporated frees UCML from paying corporation tax. They think we fall under the 'Advancement of education' Charitable Purpose and due to the turnover amount per annum, we would be legally required to register as a charity, in their view. However, because of being unincorporated we are not under scrutiny, so this remains an area subject to diverse views, that we need to get settled.

TSE recommend us registering as a CIO -Charitable Incorporated Organisation- with the Association Model constitution to enable our members to vote on decisions.

We were recommended their silver package which includes Trustees conflict of interest policy and declaration of interest. £960 inc. VAT. Please see the Charity Start Up packages PDF attached.

TSE also says that as a registered Charity, to use University in our name we would need to obtain permission from the Department of Education and to use Council we would normally have to be a local authority, an independent advisory body, a deliberative assembly, or a governing, supervisory or representative body of an activity, trade, business or profession, with our application showing evidence that we will be what we claim and that it has the support of those it intends to govern, supervise, or look to it for expertise. We'll also need to obtain a letter or email of non-objection from a government body or a relevant body.

Paperwork would take about 2 weeks (they will need info from us to complete application) and then there is a long wait (about 10 weeks) because of the time the Charity Commission is taking in processing applications.

TSE would be happy to have another meeting, if we thought we needed to discuss this further.

There are also some gov.uk pages that are helpful in providing information on the different types of charities and in outlining what is required to do if we wanted to become one, so you can have a look.

Marián Arribas-Tomé, with many thanks for the administrative support of James Illingworth.