

# UCML Executive Committee

Friday 12 November 2021 10am-12pm

Via MS Teams



## MINUTES

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

Marián Arribas-Tomé	Hon Treasurer	MAT
Nicola Bermingham	Hispanic	NB
Emma Cayley	Chair	EC
Marcela Cazzoli	Hon Secretary	MAC
Alexander Ding	ELT	AD
Connor Doak	Slavonic & EE	CD
Allyson Fiddler	Germanic & Low Countries	AF
Luís Gomes	Lusophone	LG
James Illingworth	Project Co-ordinator	JI
Sharon Jones	Northern Ireland	SJ
René Koglbauer	Schools Liaison	RK
Emmanuelle Labeau	French	EL
El Mustapha Lahlali	Middle Eastern studies	ML
Ursula Lanvers	Linguistics	UL
Liam Lewis	Early Career Academics	LL
Fransiska Louwagie	VC Communications	FL
Marina Rabadán-Gómez	IWLP	MRG
Begoña Rodriguez	T&I	BR
Gigliola Sulis	Italian	GS
Frances Weightman	Area Studies	FW
Ed Welch	Scotland	EW
Liz Wren-Owens	VC Research	LWO
Vicky Wright	VC Education	VW
Binhua Wang	E. Asian	BW

### Other acronyms

ALL	Association for Language Learning
ATC	Association of Translation Companies
AMLUK	Alliance of Modern Languages, Area Studies and Linguistics Subject Associations UK
APPG	All-Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages
AULC	Association of University Language Communities
CIoL	Chartered Institute of Linguists
EASSH	European Association for the Social Sciences and Humanities
ECA	Early Career Academic
IMLR	Institute of Modern Languages Research
IWLP	Institution-Wide Language Provision
ML	Modern Languages
NICILT	Northern Ireland Centre for Information on Language Teaching & Research
OWRI	Open World Research Initiative

PGR	Postgraduate Researcher
QAA	Quality Assurance Agency
REF	Research Excellence Framework
RiL	Routes into Languages
SIG	Special Interest Group
UCAS	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
UCMLS	University Council of Modern Languages Scotland
YA	Year Abroad

## M I N U T E S

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

No apologies received.

### 2. Minutes (10 mins)

Executive Committee meeting of 16 April 2021 EC

2.a Accuracy and approval  
No points were raised.

2.b Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda  
§5.e *Internships*: This was not something initially handed over to LWO but she will take forward.

**Action: LWO to consider the possibility of UCML internships and what these might look like**

§8.d *Liaising with subject associations*: LWO has met with Charles Burdett at IMLR and LWO will attend AMLUK meetings going forward.

§10.d.ii *Graduate outcomes*: unclear whether Claire Gorrara's intervention at the Strategic Forum produced any results. EC and JI to take forward.

**Action: EC and JI to chase whether the Strategic Forum intends to look into graduate outcomes**

§3.f.ii *Joint conference*: MAC working with Charles Burdett and Mark Critchley. 25<sup>th</sup> February on OWRI and legacy and one on 25<sup>th</sup> March on pooling of resources. EC asks that details be shared with UCML membership.

**Action: MAC to forward details of any events to EC, FL and JI for circulation**

Annual General Meeting of 9 July 2021 EC

2.c Accuracy and approval  
No points were raised.

2.d Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda  
§3.v *Erasmus in Scotland*: MAC to discuss with EW (see also 9.b.i below).

§10.i *Small Grants*: committee membership has rotated and next meeting will take place on November 19.

### Discussion of Officer's Reports (45 mins)

### 3. Chair's Report EC

- 3.i *Committee Membership*: EC extended a welcome to new members joining the Steering Group since the AGM, namely LWO as VC Research, FL as VC Communications, and MAT as Hon. Treasurer, as well as new members of the Executive Committee UL as Linguistics Rep, EW as Scotland Rep, and BW as East Asian Studies Rep.
- 3.ii *Project Coordinator*: JI will step down as Project Coordinator and will instead Chair the YA SIG. This means we will need to recruit a new Project Coordinator. A job advert will be produced in due course which colleagues can circulate to their respective communities.

**Action: ALL to circulate call for a new Project Coordinator once they receive it**

- 3.iii *QAA Benchmark Statement Reviews*: we have just heard that Khawla Badwan will Chair the Linguistics panel, and Nigel Harkness will Chair the Languages, Cultures and Society panel, which will be co-chaired by our very own EW.
- 3.iv *Charitable status*: this was prompted by transfer of RiL which revealed issues with liability and legal status of UCML. MAT is taking this forward on our behalf but the Executive will be consulted throughout the process and any assistance would be appreciated. RK confirmed that ALL has charitable status and he would be happy to discuss.

**Action: RK to meet with MAT and EC to discuss charitable status**

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

- 4.i *UCAS Data*: HECOS codes shows a slight fall in June application numbers, but as we learnt in the Granularity Report these codes hide the complexity of MFL study in the UK and we perhaps ought not to be as depressed as the data might make us feel. UL notes that looking at the GCSE and A-Level data against overall numbers of entries is important. AF points out that when items come from external bodies rather than staff at an institution they tend to have more weight. With the Granularity Report it may be worth EC issuing something that can go directly to Executive Boards.

**Action: FL, EC and JI to continue to produce comms on Granularity Report.**

- 4.ii *Gender*: there are certainly interesting gender trends in the admissions data, notably that there are slightly more males taking non-European languages than European ones. This is something we should keep an eye on and perhaps take forward with RiL.
- 4.iii *RiL*: following questions about RiL in the UCML-AULC Survey we have contacted those expressing interest and most have responded positively and some dormant networks are being reactivated, especially in the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber. Possibly appointing a coordinator for RiL going forward. BR notes that she has been in contact with the ATC who are also keen to promote languages and there are clear overlapping areas of assistance. VW adds that the National Networks for Translation and Interpreting are still active and attend the UCML-RiL meetings. VW states that a university in the West Midlands is in talks with UCML to take RiL activities forward. VW also extended a warm thanks to Aston for all the work they have done for widening participation.

#### 5. **Report of Vice Chair Research** LWO

- 5.i *PGR Bursary*: LWO presented the proposal for UCML to produce a bursary for PGRs. FW asked whether visa restrictions for non-home students had been considered. Several funding models being considered (one large grant or several small grants), but this will need to be taken into account once we pin down the precise details.
- 5.ii *Global South Bursaries*: GS gave an overview of the Global South Bursaries proposal, noting how existing initiatives tend to focus on sending UK colleagues abroad. There is a hope that we might be able to acquire contributions from UCML members, especially subject associations, to make the amount on offer truly meaningful. EW thought it might be better to include match funding/in-kind funding in the criteria rather than asking members to also contribute to the pot.
- 5.iii *Horizon*: UL mentioned that there has been some speculation in the media about the UK's future in Horizon and was concerned UCML might need to issue a response.

**Action: EC and LWO to look into it**

6. **Report of Vice Chair External Engagement & Communications** FL

- 6.i *Website*: Twitter is one of the main referrers to the UCML website and is where we get most of our traction. FL encouraged all colleagues to send her anything that could be tweeted out and to be pro-active in generating content from UCML.
- 6.ii *ECA Survey*: FL is now the Steering Group liaison with the ECA SIG. FL reminded colleagues of the survey the ECA SIG are hoping to produce. The ECA SIG is working to produce a concordat that universities can sign up to but should be underpinned by statistical data demonstrating the state of the field. LL noted there is a link to the survey as a Google doc in his report and encouraged colleagues to add any comments before the survey is circulated.

**Action: ALL to look through the draft survey and send any comments to LL no later than 17 November**

- 6.iii *EASSH*: FL attended the EASSH General Assembly and there was concern raised around Horizon in the UK in this forum too.

7. **Hon. Secretary's Report** MAC

- 7.i *Small Grants*: Membership has rotated and the Small Grants sub-committee welcomes UL, LG and LWO. Thanks were extended to Jo Drugan, VW and GS for their previous service.
- 7.ii *Conferences*: great that there are a number of conferences in the pipeline (UCML/AULC/IMLR), but need to be careful that we are achieving maximum impact rather than replicating and possibly diluting each other's work.
- 7.iii *CIoL*: Accreditation project for final-year students. This will be piloted at Durham and if successful hopefully broadened to other institutions in the sector.

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

- 8.i *Bank accounts*: the bank has been slow to process the transfer of the accounts from the previous treasurer which has caused some delays. MAT is chasing this and thanked Olga Gomez-Cash for her continued support.

- 8.ii *Finances*: UCML is at an operational peak and any initiatives to make use of these funds would be welcomed (on the lines of the Global South and PGR Bursaries).
- 8.iii *Charitable status*: MAT is sourcing information on how UCML might move forward to become a registered charity. UCML has approached other learned societies that have already gained/are applying for charitable status, and MAT is consulting with a range of sector professionals. Any assistance/views/experiences that can be shared would be helpful.

## 9. National reports (10 mins)

- 9.a Northern Ireland SJ
- 9.a.i *Languages Programme Board*: this is a new committee created following meetings earlier in the year with the Education Minister and includes SJ as UCML Representative.
- 9.a.ii *NICILT*: Funded by Department for Education in Northern Ireland but can no longer engage with post-16 students, creating issues for A-level engagement.
- 9.a.iii *Erasmus+*: No real progress other than extension of funding for Erasmus projects to 2023.
- 9.b Scotland EW
- 9.b.i *Erasmus+*: Scottish Government looking to replace Erasmus+ scheme and those conversations are now getting underway. Unclear where priorities lie at the moment (primary/secondary/higher education) but EW looks forward to learning more in the near future.
- 9.b.ii *1+2*: £35.6million has been invested over the past decade and a number of work streams are being set up to evaluate the project, look at its legacy, and consider how it moves forward.
- 9.b.iii *UCMLS*: British Council attended the latest UCMLS meeting and stated that there is plenty of demand in partner countries for Language Assistants.
- 9.c Wales ??

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

- 10.a Area studies FW
- 10.b French studies EL
- 10.c Germanic/Low countries studies AF
- 10.d Hispanic studies NB
- 10.e Lusophone studies LG
- 10.f Italian studies GS
- 10.g Middle Eastern studies ML
- 10.h East Asian studies BW
- 10.i Slavonic & East European studies CD
- 10.j Linguistics UL
- 10.k IWLP (including the UCML/AULC report) MRG

AULC has asked to continue to work together with UCML, in particular about the narrative to reshape what a 'language centre'/IWLP/'lifelong learning' and how academic departments and IWLPs can work together to explain that they both do necessary but different work, and should co-exist.

**Action: FL and ALL to consider a press release/comms mission to educate senior management teams about languages and how they work**

10.l	English Language Teaching	AD
10.m	Translation & Interpreting	BR
10.n	Schools Liaison	RK

10.n.i *GCSE Content Review*: Consultation is closed and stakeholders have been meeting frequently. The consultation response is expected before Christmas.

10.n.ii *Initial Teacher Education Review*: Indication that ministerial change won't stop the review process.

10.n.iii *Institute of Teaching*: The closing date for the Institute of Teaching tender is 23<sup>rd</sup> November. The IoT is, intended to be a world-class teaching institute.

10.o	Early Career Academics	LL
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*ECA Mentoring Scheme*: This year the scheme has been a great success. It would be useful to build lists of mentors further. LL will draft an email to highlight the scheme but would be useful to have support from subject representatives to disseminate the details.

**Action: ALL to disseminate details of the mentoring scheme and in particular encourage colleagues to volunteer as mentors**

**11. Advance planning of Plenary Workshop of 14 Jan 2022 (10 mins) All**

Multiple themes were proposed: Future of the YA; the name of UCML and definition of the disciplinary field; and something focused on research as there is a perception our plenaries have focused on teaching/education recently. LWO felt that research might be better placed in the Summer Plenary once teaching is done and with REF on the horizon, whereas the YA is perhaps timelier and lends itself to a broader set of conversations.

**Action: JI to discuss a YA-focused plenary with the YA SIG**

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

AF will leave her role in January and expressed her thanks to UCML for the work they have done over the course of her career and how enjoyable she has found working as part of the Executive. EC extended thanks to AF for all her valuable contributions during her time on the committee.

**13. Future dates all**

<u>date</u>	<u>event</u>	<u>venue</u>
14 January	Winter Plenary (Business Meeting)	by Microsoft Teams
4 March	Winter Steering Group	by Microsoft Teams
29 April	Spring Exec	by Microsoft Teams
?? July	Summer Plenary (AGM)	TBC
?? October	Autumn Steering Group	TBC
?? November	Winter Exec	TBC