

AGM & Plenary Workshop

30 June 2017

River Room, Kings Building, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS

UCML ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

MINUTES

Reports can be found at <http://www.ucml.ac.uk/events/30-06-17.html>

Abbreviations: see Attendance List & Acronyms List (p.4ff)

1. Welcome & apologies for absence

Apologies from Exec members:

Caroline Campbell, Catherine Chabert, Par Kumaraswami, Shirley Lawes, Carole MacDiarmid, Marion Spöring (replaced by Hannah Doughty).

2. Minutes of last meetings

2.a UCML Executive meeting of 31 March 2017

- **Accuracy & approval**

2.b contribute → contributed

3.f.ii alone → better

3.g asked → asking

10.d the symposium was run not by ABIL but by PARSUK (HO);

10.l in fact a report had been received from SL; it is uploaded at <http://www.ucml.ac.uk/events/31-03-17.html>;

10.m a report was later received from RK and is uploaded at the same link.

- **Matters arising**

Re 3.g: possibility of conferring international membership on RUDN: this idea had been abandoned after a correspondence.

2.b UCML Plenary Business Meeting of 6 Jan 2017

- **Accuracy & approval**

10.g use of or → use of our

- **Matters arising**

None.

3. Chair's report

MG added the following points:

- Erasmus+: engagement continues, but no results yet;
- Integrated language policies are desirable; these are being implemented in Wales & Scotland, with ambitious goals though some problems in the detail; in England & NI: no language policies currently envisaged;
- I am talking to the BA, & have suggested extending Arabic mapping to other languages; this should be funded by the government, who need to get grip on supply chains, policies are not properly coordinated at the moment;

- d. Update on various campaigns (a large number of HEIs are consulting over redundancies etc, we're in touch behind the scenes):
 - **Brighton:** Senior Management have decided to consult and not necessarily to close;
 - **Manchester:** public debate not making progress. RV: Manchester student campaign is slowing down, needs more momentum, eg everybody should tell 10 friends to sign petition. MG: Tutors appear to be the main target for (voluntary) redundancies: Manchester said they would not close any language but have given no detail on how they will continue provision;
 - **Heriot-Watt:** HD: MS, who is union rep at Dundee, has met with people there; MG there is meaningful dialogue there; colleagues have asked us not to do much at the moment.
- e. I am in discussion with HEFCE about continuing the work of the SIVS advisory board after the end of HEFCE; the Board was never officially disbanded, but last met in 2015;
- f. AMLUK: still loose grouping; UCML is still keen to support; IMLR has agreed to provide logistical support;
- g. Heads of ML: I offered UCML support. Comments by other attendees: RV: there will be follow-up of Colin Riordan's suggestions; OGC: they have decided not to focus on what kind of association they should be but action, eg on Erasmus+, & there will be a follow-up meeting in autumn.

MG also thanked people who have left – Jocelyn Wyburd + the three Exec members who are leaving today: Chris Harris, Richard Waltereit & Elodie Vialleton. He reminded colleagues that all UCML active members are volunteers and do this work without institutional support or, often, recognition.

In the discussion, some other HEIs under threat were raised:

- **Russian at Bath** (JP): threatened due to low numbers. MG: I've made contact, but have received no answers yet. Requested update from BASEES (MN);
- **Kingston** (ST): discontinuation of PGCE French & Spanish, both closed in January; MG agreed to take this up;
- **Roehampton:** alternative models of provision: Senior Management are still thinking.

4. Report of Vice-chair Languages & Intercultural Education

EP added the following points:

- a. The next important action will be in August when we have A level results;
- b. UCAS: we requested improved granularity of data, ie JH of a ML with another subject: I have a meeting with them next week;
- c. Surveys: the report on varying procedures for YA accreditation has been written up and a new survey on which HEIs offer non-post-A level start in which MLs is being prepared.
- d. British Council *Language Trends 2017* (links: see report) – the situation is not rosy but more primary schools are offering ML; there is a gap between north & south; unfortunately the lowest provision of ML is in deprived areas;
- e. Future of biennial UCML (formerly + LLAS) conference: discussions are ongoing with EV; *see AOB*;
- f. Further on Manchester: the proposal is to cut 171 posts from our Faculty; we have 52 language staff & 19 posts will go (both degree + Language Centre). Senior Management deny they have a plan; we are resisting, working with union & student union.

5. Report of Vice-chair Research

JP added the following points:

- a. Main discussion of UK ML research will be this afternoon;
- b. REF: we are awaiting rules;
- c. AHRC: JC has noted that ML is doing well on research applications, but remains low on doctoral numbers; no quotas will be considered.

Discussion:

There was general discussion of ML in the AHRC DTPs. The question was raised whether the applications were poor or marking was harsh; recruitment data are harder to access now they are devolved to HEIs, , . DL reminded us that selection is in the hands of DTPs, not AHRC, and that AHRC does not allow ring-fencing. JD reported that in the panel she was on (CHASE) she was the only panellist who was not in English studies; NS noted that this raises problems since literary-cultural interdisciplinary projects (eg in gender studies) tend to be thought of as 'English' when they may be broad ML; JP noted that ML applications are often inappropriately categorised by individual language; GP suggested that applications by non-UK students from a different tradition are often unsympathetically assessed, especially with regard to translated references; OGC stressed that ML is one discipline, not several.

6. Report of Vice-chair Engagement & External Communication

AdM added the following points:

- a. The website is being transferred to King's College: CSJE has started setting it up. It should go live in September; colleagues will be updated soon.
- b. The 'Opening Doors Charter', looking into gendered school subjects, has started with physics and is now investigating ML; it is an Athena Swan for schools. UCML will be represented on their board and report back.

Discussion:

Re the website: CSJE asked colleagues to let her know of any out-of-date links.

7. Hon Secretary's report

NS added the following points:

Special thanks due to EV for her years as UCML Treasurer; and colleagues were introduced to OGC.

8. Treasurer's report

EV added the following points:

- a. All expenses from the last meetings were now paid, with thanks for CSJE's assistance. Collection of membership fees will be coordinated with OGC during the handover.
- b. Change of bank signatories is required. There is a formal process.
The following text was proposed & passed by the AGM:
'It is resolved that: the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for our Natwest current and reserve accounts, be changed as follows: add Olga Gomez, new Honorary Treasurer, as a new authorised signatory; and the current mandate will continue as amended.'
Once OGC has become account signatory and gained full access to the accounts, she will remove EV from the list of signatories; for this to be authorised, the following was also passed in anticipation: *'It is resolved that: the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for our Natwest current and reserve accounts, be changed as follows: remove Elodie Vialleton, outgoing Honorary Treasurer, as an authorised signatory; and the current mandate will continue as amended.'*
- c. UCML finances are healthy, with a balance of £21K.

9. National reports

9.a Northern Ireland

SB added the following point:

As there is still no government in place, no comprehensive update is possible, but the relationship between Irish & ML is an issue, though because of REF a shared identity is emerging.

Discussion:

MG: there may be implicit barriers between internal/external languages which colleagues can help break down in everyday practice; NS reminded colleagues that Celtic Studies had asked to be represented on the Exec but has yet to present any candidates; to approach them again: **Action: MG**

9.b Scotland*HD added the following points:*

- a. Slides show the many activities associated with the Scotland '1+2' Action Plan at a variety of levels; Languages at A level is increasing overall, biggest increase in Spanish;
- b. MS is a member of the Erasmus+ Advisory Group, as is SCILT, & involved with schools and business.

9.c Wales*CC had sent a video amplifying the points in her report.*

- a. In 2016, despite increases in GCSE German and AS level Spanish, the overall numbers show that only 2.7% of Welsh AS pupils took ML;
- b. Possible reasons: predominance of compulsory subjects (English, Maths & Welsh) or small time allocation at KS3; primary English & Welsh discourage acquisition of an additional ML; Welsh Bacc; other optional subjects more 'fun';
- c. Positive aspects: teachers pleased with *Global Futures*, the Welsh government's 5-year plan: mentoring, language ambassadors, football, cultural institutes;
- d. But more needed: new curriculum, to be introduced in Sep 2021; could we have 'triple language' *cf.* triple science.
- e. HESA data: total enrolment dropped when fee regime changed; PG enrolment, just fluctuations.

10. Any Other Business

EV presented plans for the biennial UCML-AULC conference (formerly UCML-AULC-LLAS); it will take place in July 2018 at the OU at Milton Keynes, and consist of a half-day plus one day till about 4 pm. Plan to run event at a lower cost than previous years – once confirmed budget can be clarified. UCML could also look into corporate sponsorship money (sponsors are guided by the theme); LLAS was able to do this in the past. Theme: global citizenship, employability: to be decided at upcoming Steering Group meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.30.

Plenary Workshop

OWRI and Beyond: The Future of Modern Languages Research in the UK

The Open World Research Initiative (OWRI) funded with up to £20 million of new government money through the AHRC is intended to have a transformative effect not just on Modern Languages research in the UK, but on teaching in the third and second sectors as well as public perception of our subject. Nine months after the launch of four major collaborative projects we invite the PIs and other research leaders to debate progress so far. Discussion will be in two parts.

13.30 – 15.00

Panel 1

chair: Prof Julian Preece, Vice-chair Research

Each of the OWRI Principal Investigators will report on the progress of their projects, paying special attention to impact on research and teaching in Modern Languages. Presentations last 15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes for questions.

Prof Wendy Ayres-Bennett	PI, Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies OWRI
Prof Catherine Boyle	PI, Language Acts and Worldmaking OWRI
Prof Katrin Kohl	PI, Creative Multilingualism OWRI
Prof Yaron Matras	Co-I, Cross-Language Dynamics OWRI

15.30 – 17.00

Panel 2

chair: Prof Michael Gratzke, UCML Chair

Four research leaders in Modern Languages debate their visions for the future of UK Modern Languages, followed by open discussion.

Prof Charles Burdett	PI, AHRC Translating Cultures project, Transnationalising Modern Languages
Prof Janice Carruthers	Priority Area Lead Fellow in Modern Languages, AHRC
Prof Catherine Davies	Director, Institute for Modern Languages Research
Prof Charles Forsdick	AHRC Theme Leadership Fellow for Translating Cultures

ATTENDEES LIST

surname	first name	role	initials
Ayres-Bennett	Wendy	speaker	WAB
Bellew	Bhee		BB
Bowskill	Sarah	Exec	SB
Boyle	Catherine	speaker	CB
Burdett	Charles	speaker	ChB
Carruthers	Janice	speaker	JC
Davies	Catherine	speaker	CD
De Medeiros	Ana	Exec	AdM
Doughty	Hannah	Exec	HD
Drugan	Joanna	Exec	JD
Duplain	Nicole		ND
Erich	Svenja		SE
Fanshawe	John		JF
Forsdick	Charles	speaker	CF
Gomez-Cash	Olga	Exec	OGC
Goodwin	Mark		MG
Gough	Vicky		VG
Gratzke	Michael	Exec	MG
Hernandez-Martin	Lourdes		LHM
Hird	Derek	Exec	DH
Jeremiah	Emily		EJ
Kelly	Debra		DK
Koglbauer	René	Exec	RK
Kohl	Katrin	speaker	KK
La Penna	Daniela		DLP
Labeau	Emmanuelle		EL
Law	Dylan	AHRC	DL
Leglu	Catherine		CL

Long	Imogen	Exec	IL
Marquez	Rosina		RM
Matras	Yaron	speaker	YM
Munyangeyo	Theo		TM
Neumann	Matthias	Exec	MN
Orme	Mark		MO
Owen	Hilary	Exec	HO
Perez de leon	Vicente		VPdL
Pieri	Giuliana	Exec	GP
Polisca	Elena	Exec	EP
Preece	Julian	Exec	JP
Rodriguez-Garrido	Rosa		RRG
Scott	Rachel		RS
Segal	Naomi	Exec	NS
Spadaro	Barbara		BS
Spiers	Emily		ES
St John Eve	Claire	Exec	CSJE
Train	Sue		ST
Vialleton	Elodie	Exec	EV
Vismans	Roel	Exec	RV
Wells	Naomi		NW
Williams	Seán		SW

ACRONYMS LIST

ABIL	Association of British & Irish Lusitanists
AHRC	Arts & Humanities Research Council
AMLUK	Association of Modern Linguists of the UK
AULC	Association of University Language Centres
BA	British Academy
BASEES	British Association for Slavonic & East European Studies
BC	British Council
DTP	Doctoral Training Partnership
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
HEI	Higher Education Institution
IMLR	Institute of Modern Languages Research
JH	joint honours
KS3	Key Stage 3
LLAS	[former] Centre for Language, Linguistics & Area Studies
ML	Modern Languages
OU	Open University
PARSUK	Portuguese Association of Researchers & Students in the UK
RUDN	People's Friendship University of Russia
SCILT	Scotland's National Centre for Languages
UCAS	University & Colleges Admission Service
YA	Year Abroad