

UCML Executive Committee

31 March 2017 13.00 – 16.00
Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU



MINUTES

(NB reports are available on <http://www.ucml.ac.uk/events/31-03-17.html>)

EXEC MEMBERS PRESENT

Caroline Campbell	IWLP	CEC
Joanna Drugan	T&I	JD
Michael Gratzke	Chair	MG
Derek Hird	E. Asian	DH
Imogen Long	French	IL
Hilary Owen	Lusophone	HO
Giuliana Pieri	Italian	GP
Elena Polisca	VC Education	EP
Julian Preece	VC Research	JP
Naomi Segal	Hon Sec	NS
Marion Spöring	Scotland	MS
Claire St John Eve	Admin Assistant	CStJE
Elodie Vialleton	Hon Treasurer	EV
Roel Vismans	Germanic & Low countries	RV

Also present, by invitation

Olga Gomez-Cash	upcoming Treasurer	OGC
Claire Thompson	Scandinavian studies (UCL)	CT

1 **Welcome and apologies** for absence MG
Apologies had been received from: Sarah Bowskill [SB], Catherine Chabert [CC], Ana de Medeiros [AdM], Chris Harris [CH], Hilary Kalmbach [HK], René Koglbauer [RK], Shirley Lawes [SL], Carole MacDiarmid [CMacD] & Matthias Neumann [MN].

2 Minutes

Executive Committee meeting of 4 November 2016 MG

2.a Accuracy and approval

The minutes were approved as accurate.

2.b Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Item 3. The biennial formerly co-run by LLAS, AULC & UCML: it was agreed that this should be continued, under a different format, with 3-way funding from AULC, UCML and host HEI. Two offers of hosting had been received: the Open University (in 2018) and Hull (in 2020). EV: the OU offer would be based on UCML contributing £2K. CEC: AULC has always contribute £600-1000. It was agreed to proceed as follows: OU to be invited to come up with a plan, then set up a working group including CEC as AULC rep. It was noted that a new format would be advisable, and that the conference should be a non-profit event with a lower fee than before: **Action: EV.**

Business meeting of 6 January 2017

MG

2.c Accuracy and approval

Accuracy: one typo corrected and two HEIs added in the 'organisation' column of the Attendance list.

2.d Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

MG reminded EP about a Facebook discussion re admission of students without any A level languages. **Action: EP.** MG reminded EV about his need to be added as signatory to the UCML bank acct; details needed. **Action: EV**

3 Chair's Report & discussion

MG

Three of the five priorities were discussed:

3.a (Brexit) including YA fees/loans

RV: enquired about this. MG had written to HEFCE about the government funding letter, but no response yet.

3.e Language policies in all 4 UK nations

This is being covered by AHRC Languages Fellow Janice Carruthers.

3.f Support for AMLUK and network of Heads of School in Modern Languages

3.f.i The grouping of Heads of Schools of ML is holding its first meeting in May at Durham; MG is attending. The SG proposes that in future UCML could run this forum of HoSs, eg on same day as its biannual Plenaries. RV was enthusiastic about this & surprised they had not gone through UCML. It was agreed that proliferation of 'representative bodies' can only fragment our field and the UK ML sector should not appear to be divided. MG suggested we should influence discussions. JP pointed to the history of UCML: 'in January 2008, the Standing Council of Heads of Modern Languages (SCHML) agreed to dissolve its organisation & amalgamate with UCML. The amalgamated organisation, known as UCML, came into being in July 2008' (see <http://www.ucml.ac.uk/about.html>).

3.f.ii AMLUK: this organisation is poorly defined but energetic. It consists of Heads of Subject Associations, people from AHRC, British Academy etc., and is cl/aiming to represent UK ML. How to deal with this? MG: we could embrace it & bind these energies; another possibility is to let them organise themselves & join UCML. Following the recommendation of the SG, it was proposed to invite them to send 2 or 3 representatives to a SG meeting to be held immediately before the upcoming AGM.

Discussion: It was strongly felt (see above) that UK ML must remain united, and that the true range & role of UCML needs to be made clearer, to AMLUK & others, as activities proposed by AMLUK, such as liaising with govt about department closures, are already undertaken by UCML. Attendance at UCML Plenaries is open to anyone from a paid-up member organisation; members of the Exec are elected from nominated representatives of the sub-field, not *ex officio* heads of subject associations. Re the misperception that UCML does not cover the research agenda, our upcoming Plenary refutes that. DH felt that AMLUK was positive; OGC thought AMLUK believed it alone represents 'transnational ML'. It was agreed to follow the SG's suggestion: invite them to send 2 or 3 members to a meeting of the SG preceding the 30 June AGM/Plenary (at which many of them are speakers). **Action: MG** to invite, **Action: AdM** to extend KCL room booking back by 1 hour.

3.g International associate membership of UCML

UCML had received an email from RUDN University – the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (a specialist HEI for ML) – asked to become members. MG suggested we create a category of international membership = £100 fee, without voting rights, for this HEI and any others; but for that an international recruitment campaign would be required. Some felt that UCML is a UK organisation representing ML national policy issues, and recruiting abroad does not make sense. CEC presented a parallel: AULC has a member institution in the W. Indies; they share ideas about language policy and a rep attends the conference. It was decided to invite RUDN to attend our 30

June Plenary, and also ask them if they are in the European equivalent body, the European Language Council [ELC]. **Action: MG.**

JD noted that ELC has set up a language rights group for Europe (not restricted to EU members), on which she represents the UK; there is a meeting coming up in Brussels. It's led by Maurizio Viezzi from Trieste. MS: Scotland is also represented.

4 [Report of Vice Chair Languages and Intercultural Education](#) & discussion EP

Discussion focused on two items:

§1: It was noted that the market is increasingly polarised, with 'high tariff' departments doing well and post-92 HEIs doing badly; however language recruitment overall is healthy.

§2: It was proposed to keep the survey on YA credits open to elicit further responses. **Action EP to update, NS & AdM** to send out. Meantime, membership contacts may need updating: **Action CSTJE**. Also EP agreed to contact UCAS re JACS codes: **Action: EP.**

5 [Report of Vice Chair Research](#) & discussion JP

JP pointed to the REF response (see link in his report). There was some discussion about Celtic studies in relation to REF – whether it should count as ML or as representing UK national languages. It was noted that Celtic studies was in principle represented on the Exec (see Standing Orders), but had never nominated a candidate. **Action: MG** to email key people in Celtic Studies (via CEELBAS).

6 [Report of Vice Chair External Communication and Engagement](#) & discussion AdM

MG suggested that we should make ourselves more visible in the press, eg putting out stories around A level results time etc and acquiring more journalist contacts. Following discussion at the SG, it was decided to ask AdM to produce a short policy document outlining the use of both social media & other media: **Action: AdM.**

7 [Hon. Secretary's Report](#) & discussion NS

One point to add: Chris Harris has unfortunately had to withdraw from the role of Hispanic representative, so a Call for nominations would go out shortly. Chris was warmly thanked for his contribution to UCML.

8 [Hon. Treasurer's Report](#) & discussion EV

EV announced her confidence that the transition to the new Treasurer will be smooth. She has secured an auditor: Sam Hellmuth (York University). OGC was welcomed as the new Treasurer from 1 July 2017. It was confirmed that email/scanned receipts are acceptable for travel claims.

9 [National reports](#) & discussion

9.a [Northern Ireland](#) SB

In the absence of SB, MG invited comments. It was felt that it would be helpful to know where Irish stands on 'the Celtic question': **Action MG.**

9.b [Scotland](#) MS

MS reported on the 1+2 discussions & report. UCMLS had organised a cross-sector Conference in Glasgow and published a report on 1+2 (on UCML website) and UCMLS-led activities to support the Scottish government's action plan on 1+2 implementation. The government's plan focused mainly on schools. (e.g. primary and secondary schools only). The Exec congratulated MS on the exemplary activities of Scotland.

- 9.c Wales CC
No report had been received, and apologies from CC.
- 10 Reports from other Executive members & discussion
- 10.a French studies IL
MG: the appreciation of Mike Kelly in the report needs redrafting: **Action IL.** *As of 18 April: this has been done & uploaded (NS).*
- 10.b Germanic/Low countries studies RV
MG noted that HoGMEET had invited both him & RV to its conference.
- 10.c Hispanic studies CH
No report had been received, and apologies from CH.
- 10.d Lusophone studies HO
HO noted that Lusophone studies had made its bid for a panellist for the next REF. She introduced ABIL, the Portuguese Assn of Researchers in the UK; they are running a symposium in Lancaster in early April. A main concern is the after-effects of Brexit. She thanked UCML for its support.
- 10.e Italian studies GP
MG noted that Italian studies was 'punching above its weight'. GP asked about the importance of liaising with the Italian Institute & Embassy; though this is part of each language-specific member's remit it is left to them to do what may be appropriate. The low rate of ML applications to AHRC, highlighted by Janice Carruthers at the SIS AGM in January 2017, was discussed.
- 10.f Middle Eastern studies HK
Though unable to attend, HK had sent the following report by email: 'As I am sure you are already aware, Arabic instruction is on the rise in many universities, as a solid business case can be made for it. The same cannot be said about Persian, Turkish, and Hebrew, unfortunately. BRISMES members (including the previous rep Oliver Bast) have been involved in trying to protect instruction in such languages from being eliminated as part of cost-cutting measures. I am not aware of any new developments in this area over the past 4-5 months, so there is nothing to add on top of what you presumably already know. If that changes, of course I will report back'.
- 10.g East Asian studies DH
MG raised the problem of REF putting non-European languages into Area studies. DH agreed and added that this is historical.
- 10.h Slavonic & East European studies MN
MG: noted that Slavonic studies have huge conferences.
- 10.i IWLP (including the UCML/AULC report) CEC
CEC stressed how positive relations are with ML departments. She also drew the Exec's attention to the article by John Morley in *The Linguist*. Positive news on Arabic, with a recent conference very well (internationally) attended.
- 10.j English Language Teaching CMacD
The issue re HESA raised in CMacD's report was amplified: it may be a rather technical problem, but it is important.
- 10.k Translation & Interpreting JD
JD re-raised the issues about public service interpreting: thebigword is cornering the market, supported by Leeds Met, and does not meet ethical standards for employment. To support the protest from the T&I profession, see the Professional Interpreters for Justice [PI4J] campaign organisation. There has been press coverage of legal cases collapsing for lack of interpreters.
- 10.l Initial Teacher Training SL

No report had been received, and apologies from SL.

OGC explained to members what ITT is. MG noted that in Hull they have a PGCE course integrated into the ML degree.

10.m ALL

RK

No report had been received, and apologies from RK.

It was noted that the Language Pedagogy Review is now out (see <http://www.all-languages.org.uk/news/review-modern-foreign-language-pedagogy-ks3-ks4/>) : there are clear recommendations re teaching of grammar.

Following the reports, Claire Thompson from Scandinavian studies at UCL presented her field. They have no formal Subject Association, but hope to set one up & affiliate to UCML. The only Scandinavian studies departments in the UK are now at UCL, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Highlands & Islands, with Centres at Sheffield, Leeds and Westminster. She noted that Scandinavian Studies has strong links with embassies.

11 AGM and Plenary Workshop on 30 June 2017

It was decided that we should have a poster for the June Plenary. CT knows a graphic designer whom she recommends **Action: EV.**

Draft programme

Time	Session
10.30-11	Registration and coffee
11.00-12.30	AGM
12.30-13.30	Lunch (own arrangements)
13.30-17.00	Workshop

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 Stephen Hutchings	PI, Cross-Language Dynamics OWRI
Prof Katrin Kohl	PI, Creative Multilingualism OWRI

15.30 – 17.00 Panel 2 chair: Prof Michael Gratzke, UCML Chair

Five 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

Prof Stuart Taberner

Director of International and Interdisciplinary Research,
RCUK

12 Any Other Business

Two issues were raised.

- DH raised issue of Area Studies disappearing from REF.
- EV reminded members of the new expense claim form & the necessity to send it with scanned receipts to the special email address ucml.expenses@gmail.com

13 Dates of next meetings

These were not discussed, but for noting:

June/July	Summer Plenary & AGM	Fri 30 June	King's College London
Oct/Nov	Autumn Exec meeting	last 2 years: 4 Nov 2016, 30 Oct 2015	
		<i>Date proposed: Friday 3 Nov 2017</i>	
Jan 2018	Winter Plenary & Business meeting	last 2 years: 6 Jan 2017, 15 Jan 2016	
		<i>Date proposed: Friday 5 or 12 Jan 2018</i>	
March/April	Spring Exec meeting	last 2 years: 6 May 2016, 20 March 2015	
		<i>Date proposed: Friday 9 or 16 March 2018</i>	

The meeting ended at 4 pm.