

# Plenary Business Meeting

6 January 2017, 11 am – 12.30 pm

Europe House, 32 Smith Square, SW1P 3EU

## MINUTES

(NB reports are available on <http://www.ucml.ac.uk/events/06-01-17.html>)

### 1. Welcome

Exec members' apologies: Hilary Kalmbach (Middle East), Carole MacDiarmid (ELT), Matthias Neumann (Slavonic), Claire St John Eve (Admin Assistant), Richard Waltereit (Linguistics).

Attendance list: see end of minutes (p. 5).

### 2. Minutes of last meetings

#### 2.a UCML Executive meeting of 4 November 2016

##### *Accuracy & approval*

- These minutes had already been approved.
- Accuracy: typos were corrected in items 6, 7, 9.a, 10.d and 10.f.

##### *Matters arising*

- §5: RV raised concern re PhD numbers in MFL under the DTP system; JP commented that the data show a fair share for MFL, and queried whether the UK should be funding non-UK students; RV felt the best students should be funded regardless of origin.
- §6: RV asked for data on acceptances of students without A level (originally raised by ALL) to be distributed further, not only on Facebook, since Heads of School [HoS] may be influenced to expand recruitment. CH suggested a formal survey: **Action: EP/CH.**

#### 2.b UCML Plenary AGM of 1 July 2016

##### *Accuracy & approval*

- Accuracy: typos were corrected in item 5.c & 13.a. The minutes will then be approved.
- JP noted that the numbers for Wales were slightly different from the report: German was on the increase but French & Spanish had decreased.

##### *Matters arising*

- §4.b: SF thanked UCML for its help in resolving the threat to Birmingham ML.
- RV raised the ongoing concern re Dutch studies: only two HEIs still teach the subject – Sheffield & UCL.

- §7.b: re Charles Burdett's definition of ML (as distinct from language-learning), RV asked for this definition to be publicised, with a link: **Action: AdM.** MG agreed that we need to communicate the integrity of our field.
- §12.a: MS noted that UCML & CILT are collaborating on a number of initiatives. She also updated re Dundee University: no jobs will be cut.

### 3. **Outgoing Chair's report**

JW expanded on some aspects of her report.

- a. She had had good responses to her article in *The Linguist*.
- b. She & MG had responded to the Northern Ireland government consultation, as languages were not mentioned in the policy document.
- c. The last LLAS/UCML biennial conference took place in 2016; it would be good if these conferences could be continued through a joint initiative of UCML with a HEI, even though LLAS no longer exists; it is not a research conference but focuses on issues of strategy, T&L etc. The 2018 one may be hosted by the Open University: **Action: MG/EV/EP** – see also 4.d below.
- d. Routes into Languages: how to continue its work after the end of HEFCE funding (HEFCE owns the brand). The UUK International unit is drawing up a plan, and remains in touch with the Programme Director. UCML will also continue to be involved, as a key stakeholder.
- e. JW thanked all colleagues for years of support, and she was formally thanked for her work as Chair (*supplemented by a presentation during the afternoon*).

### 4. **Report of Vice-chair Languages & Intercultural Education**

EP expanded on some aspects of her report.

- a. Falls in HE applications and acceptances were noted, with appreciation of the rise in Chinese & Japanese for applications, as well as Spanish, Scandinavian and Middle Eastern studies for acceptances.
- b. NS raised the ongoing problem of stats showing SH language numbers only, when our students have been overwhelmingly opting for JH for decades. It was agreed that there should be a joint approach to UCAS re its JACS codes, from UCML & ALL: **Action: EP/RK.**
- c. EP reminded colleagues of the government consultation paper [https://consult.education.gov.uk/qualifications-division/subject-content-for-languages-with/supporting\\_documents/Languages%20consultation%202016.pdf](https://consult.education.gov.uk/qualifications-division/subject-content-for-languages-with/supporting_documents/Languages%20consultation%202016.pdf). There was a discussion of the proposal for the Lesser Taught Languages not to have an oral exam.
- d. EP raised question of the continuation of the UCML/LLAS biennial event: she aims to set up partnerships with HEIs – **Action: EP.**

### 5. **Report of Vice-chair Research**

JP expanded on some aspects of his report.

- a. The four OWRIIs have been launched; they will present their actions so far at our Summer Plenary (30 June 2017).
- b. Janice Carruthers, AHRC Leadership Fellow in ML, is looking at government language policies in the four nations.
- c. REF: the government response to the Stern Report has been published. By March UCML will respond, probably together with AMLUK [Alliance for ML in the UK]. We anticipate the same panels as REF 2014, but we are invited to think about titles of panels, membership and configuration. CH asked how funding was allocated, and whether linguistics research was more successful than the 'cultural studies' side.

## 6. Report of Vice-chair Engagement & External Communication

AdM expanded on some aspects of her report.

- a. She thanked Teresa McKinnon for her support and MG for his tweets.
- b. The UCML website will be moved soon – probably to King's College London – this should be known by June. This is an opportunity to improve the website and make it more user-friendly.
- c. In the future there will be more stress on print media (the press will be represented at this afternoon's Workshop and also the summer Plenary), especially to disseminate success stories and promote government support for our disciplines.

## 7. Hon Secretary's report

NS expanded on some aspects of her report.

- a. She thanked outgoing Exec members, especially JW, and welcomed new ones.
- b. Upcoming vacancies in 2017: Linguistics, Initial Teacher Training and Hon Treasurer; NS asked members to think about applying.

## 8. Treasurer's report

EV expanded on some aspects of her report, and showed a powerpoint.

- a. New members have been recruited in the run-up to this popular Plenary, and most existing members have paid for 2016, some also for 2017. Paypal has proved a popular way to pay.
- b. Financial data are on the website. The main message: UCML finances are healthy. We should think about how to use the available money.
- c. Signatories: MG to replace JW.
- d. We need an Auditor, now that our finances are no longer run through an HEI; given the size of our turnover, a light touch will suffice. SH suggested helping to find one: **Action: EV/SH.**
- e. RV said we should spend our reserves strategically; to be discussed by the Steering Group & Exec: **Action: MG/SG & Exec.**

## 9. National reports

### 9.a Northern Ireland

SB expanded on some aspects of her report.

- i. NI can learn from Scotland & Wales how to drive the languages agenda forward.
- ii. At Ulster, the IWLP has been relocated into the School of Education so it is still there. David Barr is the Head of the School of Edn.

### 9.b Scotland

MS expanded on some aspects of her report.

- i. Successful programmes are continuing.
- ii. We can learn lessons from Australia & other Anglophone countries, which have language-specific curricula.
- iii. We continue dialogue with government & other public bodies, pushing for more cross-sector initiatives.

### 9.c Wales

CC expanded on some aspects of her report.

- i. Though it is early days, the strategy proposed by the Welsh Assembly seems to be working: an increased number of HEIs & Subject Associations are involved.
- ii. CC is preparing a quantitative report on GCSE, AS & A level (due in March).

## **10. Any Other Business**

MG suggested a number of priorities.

- a. What can we do to influence policymakers? This afternoon's Workshop is focusing on this. The next UCML Plenary, on research agendas, will be on 30 June at KCL.
- b. Transnational curriculum: Hull is introducing one this year.
- c. We need to network better, especially re employability. Colleagues are invited to disseminate the facts about employability of ML graduates through UCML channels, including what our graduates do beyond the 'language professions'. What transferable skills do they develop and how can we help them articulate these skills? (*See also 10.f below*).
- d. Supply chain of ML: we need to increase at every level, in order to be sustainable, and should have a more integrated approach, less focused on individual languages. UCML is the ideal place to generate the message of the value of ML.
- e. DH noted that the government has committed funds to the development of Chinese. How can UCML encourage similar investment in more languages? MG suggested this could be used as a 'case study' of how to involve politics successfully – but noted that employers still seem to favour the major European languages.
- f. CC reminded colleagues to use the toolkits & other material in Shaping the Future (eg <http://www.ucml.ac.uk/shapingthefuture/employability>) and Born Global (see <http://www.ucml.ac.uk/news/303>)
- g. RV welcomed MG's emphasis on positive messages and suggested that UCML needs to be a campaigning organisation: this would be a good use of or reserves.
- h. It was noted that *Third Year Abroad* was now being relaunched as [globalgraduate.com](http://globalgraduate.com); colleagues were encouraged to take and distribute fliers, available at the back of the hall.

Europe House was warmly thanked for the excellent venue.

The meeting closed at 12.30.

**Attendance list**

<b>surname</b>	<b>first name</b>	<b>initials</b>	<b>organisation</b>	<b>role</b>
Baumann	Uwe	UB	Open	
Bowskill	Sarah	SB	QUB	Exec (NI)
Carson	Joe	JC	St Andrews	
Chabert	Catherine	CC	Cardiff	Exec (Wales)
Davies	Steffan	SD	AGS	
De Medeiros	Ana	AdM	Exec	VC Comms
Drugan	Joanna	JD		Exec (T&I)
Erich	Svenja	SE	City	
Forcer	Stephen	SF	Bham	
Gomez-Cash	Olga	OGC	Lancaster	
Gorrara	Claire	CG		
Gratzke	Michael	MG	Hull	Chair
Gritt	Andrew	AG	Nottm Trent	
Haines	Brigid	BH	WIGS	
Harris	Chris	CH	Hull	Exec (Hispanic)
Hellmuth	Sam	SH	York	
Hird	Derek	DH	Wmin	Exec (E. Asian)
James	Katie	KJ	DAAD	
Jeremiah	Emily	EJ	RHUL	
Koglbauer	René	RK	Newcastle	Exec (ALL)
Kaye	Paul	PK	Europe House	
Krawietz	George	GK	DAAD	
Labeau	Emmanuelle	EL	AFLS	
Lawes	Shirley	SL	IoE, UCL	Exec (ITT)
Long	Alison	AL	BASEES	
Long	Imogen	IL	Hull	Exec (French)
Lyle	Louise	LL	ULIP	
MacDiarmid	Carole	CMcD	Glasgow	Exec (ELT)
Martinez	Marion	MM	York St John's	
Melcion	Lourdes	LM	Roehampton	
Munyangayo	Théophile	TM	Leeds Beckett	
Owen	Hilary	HO	ABIL	Exec (Lusophone)
Philpotts	Matthew	MP	AGS	
Pieri	Giuliana	GP	RHUL	Exec (Italian)
Pletsch	Magdalena	MPlé	Herts	
Polisca	Elena	EP	Manchester	VC Education
Postel	Matthias	MPos	CIOL	
Preece	Julian	JP	Exec	VC Research
Sartoni	Roberta	RS	Aberystwyth	
Segal	Naomi	NS	Bbk	Hon Sec
Spöring	Marion	MS	Dundee, UCMLS	Exec (Scotland)
Starkey	Paul	PS	BRISMES	
Stewart	Janet	JS	Durham	
Vialleton	Elodie	EV	Exec	Treasurer
Vismans	Roel	RV	Sheffield	Exec (Ger/Low)
Wyburd	Jocelyn	JW	Cam	Outgoing Chair