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
Luis 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. 25th February on OWRI and legacy and one on 25th 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

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 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 are 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 proactive 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

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

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
10.b French studies
10.c Germanic/Low countries studies
10.d Hispanic studies
10.e Lusophone studies
10.f Italian studies
10.g Middle Eastern studies
10.h East Asian studies
10.i Slavonic & East European studies
10.j Linguistics
10.k IWLP (including the UCML/AULC report)

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 23rd November. The IoT is, intended to be a world-class teaching institute.

10.o Early Career Academics LL
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

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<td>Winter Plenary (Business Meeting)</td>
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<td>4 March</td>
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