MINUTES

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

Marián Arribas-Tomé  Hon Treasurer  MAT
Nicola Bermingham     Hispanic     NB
Sarah Bowden          Germanic & Low Countries SB
Emma Cayley           Chair        EC
Marcela Cazzoli       Hon Secretary MAC
Alexander Ding        ELT          AD
Connor Doak           Slavonic & EE CD
Luís Gomes            Lusophone    LG
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
Mary Newman           Executive Assistant MN
Marina Rabadán-Gómez IWLP          MRG
Begoña Rodriguez      T&I          BR
Carlos Sanz Mingo     Wales        CSM
Gigliola Sulis        Italian      GS
Ed Welch              Scotland     EW
Binhua Wang           E. Asian     BW
Liz Wren-Owens        VC Research  LWO
Vicky Wright          VC Education VW
Chi Zhang             Area Studies  CZ

AGENDA

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

2. Minutes (10 mins)
   Executive Committee meeting of Friday 12 November 2021  EC

   2.a Accuracy and approval

   No amendments were noted.

   2.b Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda
LWO noted the ongoing plans about internships.

Annual General Meeting of 14 January 2022

2.c Accuracy and approval

No amendments were noted.

2.d Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Discussion of Officers’ Reports (45 mins)

3. Chair’s Report

3.a UCML appointments and departures: We appointed Mary Newman to be our new Executive Assistant and I want to give her a very warm welcome. Mary has already proved to be absolutely invaluable, and I know that we will all work very well together. Thank you, Mary! Routes into Languages Coordinator UK: Vicky Wright and I were delighted to appoint Sky Herington to be the new UK-wide coordinator to help relaunch RIL activity; she began her role in March. This is also a key new appointment. Welcome, Sky! James Illingworth, who has done such an incredible job as Project Coordinator for us, stepped down from this role at the end of January 2022, and we are delighted that he has assumed the running of the Year Abroad SIG which will be the focus of considerable activity in the coming year, beginning with our successful plenary.

3.b UCML/IMLR relationship – Marcela and I attended the 25th February event on Future Directions in Modern Languages, and I concluded the final session with Charles Burdett.

3.c. UCML/BA Neil Kenny, Lead Fellow for Languages at the British Academy and I continue to meet to discuss ongoing initiatives together, following on from TNLS. The Chair of UCML and Neil have co-Chaired the Strategic Committee on Languages in Higher Education (SCLHE). Neil has passed his Chairing responsibilities this year to Charles Forsdick; Marcela recently attended this meeting as Co-Chair (4th March) and we will follow up on the actions which include thinking about lobbying for community languages (there is already a group looking at this which combines British Council and BA reps) and gathering data on lesser taught languages – we can think about how best to do this. As UCML Chair I also sit on the British Academy Languages Advisory Group whose purpose is to advise the Academy’s Lead Fellow for Languages and the HE & Skills Policy Team on the delivery of their programme of work on Languages – there is an upcoming meeting. Among other initiatives, LAG is overseeing the implantation of the Languages Portal UK, provisionally to be hosted on the BA website, commissioning the gathering of data (e.g. data on cold spots which may be developing in HE language provision, enabling us to develop a rolling geographical picture of particular languages offered and not offered). The groups have underlined the need to keep an eye on original TNLS recommendations to ensure they are still being implemented. Closer relationship between UCML and the APPG MFL. I attended a meeting of the APPG MFL in September and presented at a Language Show panel discussion chaired by the APPG MFL on Friday Nov 12th on zoom on ‘What next for language policy in the UK‘. The APPG will now have a close relationship with CIOL who are financing or part-financing the secretariat. We have agreement from the BA that they will help us to buy the most recently available UCAS data (2019-21) and proceed to commission a new follow-on granularity report (following the July 2021 BA/UCML report on 2012-18). We will update as this develops.
3. d QAA. The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Languages, Cultures and Societies and for Linguistics is due for renewal in 2022 and Vicky and I are currently on the advisory panel along with other UCML reps. We will report on progress in due course.

3. e Routes into Languages – I have now attended a meeting of the network with Vicky and representatives from Routes hubs. Vicky’s report contains more detail here, however it’s worth noting that we are very invested in relaunching Routes, and to finding further funding for it. As she notes, we now have representation across all the English regions as well as Routes Cymru, NICILT and SCILT.

3. f DfE: In early January 2022, the VC Education and I were invited to a discussion with representatives from the DfE policy team for languages (Laura Church, Hannah Jack and Philip Denley). We invited Rene Koglbauer of ALL/UCML to join us. The policy team explained that our meeting forms part of a scoping exercise whereby they will discuss primary languages with a range of stakeholders. They mentioned that the new Minister of State for School Standards, Robin Walker, is very committed to languages, and especially in the context of social cohesion and access. We had a very positive discussion, and they have requested regular meetings with us. This will be a very important conduit for us to engage with language policy. We suggested that the RiL network might provide a very useful framework for establishing UK-wide projects.

3. g GCHQ: We have developed a good relationship with the Head of Languages Engagement at GCHQ. GCHQ will be an important partner in helping to coordinate effort across the languages community and government. They currently run a Cross-Whitehall language group bringing together managers from FCDO, Cabinet Office, DfE, BEIS, Ministry of Justice etc. They have input into the Languages Portal UK project and other strategic committees and groups for languages.

3. h AULC: We are continuing in 2022 with the publication of a report of provision across the sector. We have released our UCML survey to Heads, and once we have the data, we will liaise with AULC on the joint report.

3. i Year Abroad SIG: James Illingworth, as the new Chair for our Year Abroad SIG is currently gathering information about visas for Japan which are proving especially tricky, and convened a meeting for Heads and YA reps to discuss the situation in Russia/Ukraine.

3. j Charitable status for UCML: this discussion was originally prompted by the transfer of Routes to UCML. Currently we have no legal protection as we are an unincorporated organisation, and as individuals that makes us liable for any legal action against UCML or financial debt that may accrue. We are considering moving to gain charitable incorporated status and are in the process of trying to understand what this may mean and whether it is desirable for us. We welcome any advice or thoughts on this. Some other comparable organisations have this status; others don’t (ALL, SFS are charities for example). Marián, Vicky and I met with Rene to take this forward, and I am very grateful for all Marián’s advice about this process. We aim to bring a proposal to the AGM in the summer which will need careful thought.

3. k Head of Languages Special Interest Group: David Cowling (Durham) has agreed to chair this, and there will be a meeting shortly.

3. l Marcela and I met with our representatives from the three devolved nations, and we exchanged information about progress with policy developments as well as agreeing that the Chair of UCML would visit the institution of each Chair in due course for further
detailed discussion. Belfast was suggested as the first venue and the trip to coincide with Society for French Studies conference at QUB in late June.

3.m Liz and I met the three new AHRC Future of Language Research Fellows and were interviewed. We are following up on the information they requested and will keep a close eye on their work as it develops.

3.n Events and other participation in groups: on 9th March 2022 I gave a keynote on trends in Modern Languages in HE at a one-day conference, ‘Shaping the Future of Modern Foreign Languages in Education’ at the Institute of Government and Public Policy (IGPP) in a session with Neil Kenny and Megan Bowler.

3.o Chairing of the Arts and Humanities Alliance (AHA) – this has passed from English (Martin Halliwell and Susan Bruce) to ML for the first time. Thea Pitman (Leeds) and I will be co-Chairs from June 2022.

3.p Units in need of assistance: Fransiska is preparing a letter of support for the University of Arts, London, which is proposing closing its languages programme, and we have also signed a letter from Mark Critchley of AULC.

3.q Possibility of a SIG which would be a WP network of Universities with high proportions of students from less privileged backgrounds where ML is offered, led by Becky Muradás-Taylor.

3.r I have been invited to join the Language Services Future Pipeline Working Group which includes representatives from the Ministry of Justice among other stakeholders.

3.s Attended Event on 31st March - UK Language Policy from 2015 to 2022 and Beyond: UK Language Policy from 2015 to 2022 and Beyond Tickets, Thu 31 Mar 2022 at 09:00 | Eventbrite In the afternoon there was a closed working session for around 20 participants run under Chatham House rules on the theme of How best can government and academics work together to promote languages in the UK?

**ACTION:** Invite Sky to future Exec meetings  
**ACTION:** Send BR list of attendees for languages pipeline  
**ACTION:** EC to talk with BR about future involvement

MRG requests that IWLP is also involved in languages pipeline.  
MRG discusses inclusion of community/heritage languages.

**ACTION:** EC to write to BR and MRG about language services future pipeline working group.

4. **Report of Vice Chair Languages & Intercultural Education**  
4.a Given the impact of the Report on Granular Trends in Modern Languages in UCAS Admissions Data which reviewed degree combinations with languages between 2012-2018, we have been in contact with UCAS to purchase the latest data sets (to include the 21/22 academic year). We will again to be restricted to the publication of 100 data points (i.e. any one point made in a report is counted as ‘one’ whether it draws on one or more pieces of data). We hope to work closely with the British Academy on this project as in the last report.
4.b AULC / UCML annual survey. As with the last joint survey, we are collaborating with AULC in order to draw as detailed a picture as possible of the UK languages landscape. This time we are sending out separate surveys but plan to write a joint report which we hope will be available from the beginning of July.

**VW** summarised the main AULC objectives for the AULC survey and for the UCML survey.

Both surveys were sent out before Easter and will need to be completed by the 30th May, 2022. The survey was sent to 71 Heads of Languages and it is hoped that we will get a good return. At the time of writing there have been 10 responses and already there are some interesting trends appearing. Following an approach from the BA and the formation of the informal Home / Heritage / Community Languages Advisory Group hosted by the British Council and the Association for Language Learning, we will be sending out an appendix to the survey asking about institutional policy on qualifications in home, heritage and community languages and to establish whether admissions policies include restrictions on the acceptance of A levels and equivalents in these languages.

4.c Routes into Languages As I reported at the January plenary every English region was represented at the first UCML Routes subcommittee meeting of the new year, 2022, alongside Routes Cymru, the national networks for Translation and Interpreting and for the first time Northern Ireland were represented through NICILT and Scotland through SCILT. This is a great achievement, given the lack of funding and it is rewarding to see new university partnerships springing up in the English regions. We will be holding the next meeting in May. The most exciting news for Routes however has been the recent appointment of Sky Herington as UCML's national Routes Coordinator. She will be helping to coordinate a number of Routes activities including a potential soft re-launch across the Routes networks around the European Day of Languages on the 26th September and setting up a national training course for UG ambassadors. Given that there is potential to develop a new Routes website with support from the technical team at Southampton, she will also be contributing to its re-design and development. Routes was contacted by Michelle Langley, a Policy Adviser in the British Academy's Higher Education and Skills policy team, and we have made a contribution to an updated paper on research into what works in languages mentoring on the latest Routes activities.

4.c I am on the steering group for GA and attend their regular meetings. There is still ongoing active discussion around future funding sources to take the GA programme forward and crowd sourcing is currently one area of interest. It is a great shame that the GA scheme has not found a sustainable way forward since it has had a real impact in schools which have adopted the programme and could be particularly useful in bringing more boys into our subject areas. Other activities I have attended several meetings of the Languages Cultures and Societies Subject Benchmark Advisory Group and am on a working sub-group looking at defining principles for an inclusive curriculum and pedagogy. I am also representing LCS on the Linguistics Advisory Group. These meetings have been very fruitful and very positive.

5. **Report of Vice Chair Research**

In February I attended a meeting with EC with the new AHRC Fellows Nicola McLellan, Michelle MacLeod, and Emmanuelle Labeau to feed into their discussions. A questionnaire for researchers and a questionnaire for postgrads was disseminated following the meeting.
I attended a focus group looking at the future of AHRC DTP funding organised by CRAC. A key point to emerge was the need to disseminate AHRC support (e.g. training) more widely to avoid a two-tier system where funded students have access to many more resources as well as funding.

On March 31st I attended a workshop ‘UK Language Policy from 2015-2022 and beyond’ led by Wendy Ayres-Bennett, a follow-on from the AHRC project ‘Promoting Language Policy’. They have developed a one-stop online repository of legislation on language policy from 2018-present and of papers which have informed language policy (such as British Academy reports). www.promotinglanguagepolicy.org Can we include a link to this on our website? There were also presentations from GCHQ, the Cabinet Office, the Department for International Trade, UK Health Security Overseas, Ministry of Justice, Department of Education. GCHQ have set up schools resources on their website and are running a languages competition for year 8 and 9 this year – which may be useful for Routes. GCHQ also recorded their Director speaking about the value of languages in a business setting at the Languages Show 2021: https://www.gchq.gov.uk/news/thelanguageshow-2021

The final report of the Digital Mediations strand of the ‘Language Acts and Worldmaking’ project has been published: https://languageacts.org/digital-mediations/digital-mediations-publications/digitalmediations-final-report/. The report considers two main areas: (1) as the field of Modern Languages searches for a new vision and a new identity in the wake of multiple and complex transformations, how should it engage with digital methods, literacies and pedagogies? (2) As digital studies and practice become increasingly embedded within academic scholarship as a whole, how can we ensure that they are informed by linguistic awareness and sensitivity, and that Modern Languages expertise and perspectives influence digital research design?

6. Report of Vice Chair External Engagement & Communications

6.a Meeting with Emma Cayley and ECA chairs on 17 March on the ECA code they have developed. The draft code has been revised with some suggestions, and is ready to be presented for broader approval.

6.b Follow-up with EASSH on themes of green and digital transitions; I will attend part of the workshop on 29 April.

6.c With regard to the new Open Access requirements for UKRI, I felt the implications for ML might be worth some consideration. Liz has followed up on this with IMLR and there are no further consultations planned, but the impact of the new policies may still be worth monitoring in some ways?

6.d Social media: we formally reached the cap of 5k followers on Twitter; I’m unsure whether there will be changes to the platform and its use under its new order. On a practical note, it would be useful to be able to systematically receive the website updates via email to be able to relay them on Twitter and Facebook, if that works for Mary.

6.e UAL: draft letter prepared and shared with steering committee for feedback/revision; this can be finalised when appropriate. AS UAL do not have undergraduate programmes in ML, the message needs to be tailored accordingly. It might be useful to discuss a general strategy for (staged) intervention.
7. **Hon. Secretary’s Report**

7.a We welcome new representatives to the Committee: For Area Studies, Chi Zhang, from the University of St Andrews; for Wales, Carlos Sanz Mingo, from Cardiff University; and for Germanic & Low Countries Studies, Sarah Bowden, from King’s College London. We have also appointed a new Executive Assistant, Mary Newman, who has replaced James Illingworth since the end of January, and a new Routes into Languages UK Coordinator, Sky Herrington, who took up her post in February. Huge thanks to Frances Weightman, Liz Wren-Owens (who is now Research Vice Chair), Allyson Fiddler, and James Illingworth for the wonderful work they have done for UCML!

7.b Small Grants We will be meeting on 13th May to review applications from round 2 and 3.

7.c Partnership with CIOL UCML and CIOL are working in partnership to launch a Level 6 Certificate in Translation Accreditation & Certification pilot involving Durham University UG finalists. I will report back as soon as I have more details. As from this month, I am a member of the CIOLQ Educational Trust Board (ETB). I will be attending the first meeting today (29th April) at 2:00.

7.d Strategic Committee for Languages in Higher Education On Emma’s behalf, I co-chaired (with Charles Forsdick) the meeting of the SCLHE. I reported on the planned collaboration between the British Academy and UCML to produce the next granularity report and on the question of visas for language teachers and outgoing students. I also announced Emma’s new role as Co-Chair of the Arts and Humanities Alliance (AHA).

7.e The Language Teaching Journal I wrote a short article for the special issue of the Language Learning Journal on the OFSTED Curriculum Research Review of Languages. The piece looks at the potential impact of the GCSE curriculum reforms for language study at higher education.

7.f Upcoming meetings AGM and Summer Plenary: 15th July 2022 Steering Group: 14th October 2022 – 14:00 Executive Committee: 11th November 2022 – 10:00

8. **Hon. Treasurer’s Report**

There has been very little activity on the accounts since the March summary. Some payments are due, so the total amount is likely to go down soon. Some payments have been delayed because I only received the pin number on 28th April.

The PayPal account is accessible at my end, but I can see that it is not on the UCML website. My suggestion is that it is set up again on the website. As the details of the account holder changed on PayPal, this could have affected the functionality of the link on the webpage. There have been no transactions since September last year.

Just a reminder that for most of the transactions in PayPal a fee is discounted, and this amount is close to £100 for 2021, the only year I can see where transactions have taken place. I just wanted to make sure you were aware of these costs.
9. **National reports (10 mins)**

9.a Northern Ireland  
**ACTION:** Share BERA  

9.b Scotland  

9.c Wales  
CSM gave report orally.

9.c.i Event on Wednesday organised by careers advisor on use of languages in gov, representatives from Whitehall and Senate, CSM attending - use of languages other than English in government.

9.c.ii TITH – Welsh government programme for students to travel abroad, to be offered alongside Turing, reciprocal, aiming to send 15,000 Welsh participants abroad and receive 10,000 to Wales. The programme aims to establish 50 multi-national partnerships by August 2021 with 40 countries involved by the same date. So far £65 million investment with a 2026 end date. Also open to other educational spaces.

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

10.a Area studies  
No report received.

10.b French studies  
No report received.

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  
CD noted it was their last meeting in the role of Slavonic & East European Studies Representative and wanted to thank everyone. Also noted that it was ML’s last meeting. CD also discussed alternative arrangements being made for Russian students for their year abroad option – notably in Estonia, Latvia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

10.j Linguistics  

10.k IWLP (including the UCML/AULC report)  

10.k.i AULC Survey  

10.k.ii Reminder to colleagues of the UniLang SIG group  

10.l English Language Teaching  

CD
No report received.

10.m Translation & Interpreting  
Report given orally. BR discussed an ongoing Research and Innovation project looking at [1] what is needed in the language service sector; [2] lack of linguists. BR noted that some industries are saying that they desperately need linguists.

10.n Schools Liaison  
10.n.i In England, French, German, Spanish GCSE content published – delayed by 1 year to 2026  
10.n.ii Ofsted research review  
10.n.iii Teaching training recruitment very low  
10.n.iv EBAC, commitment to languages, 2023 network of MFL hubs by DfE  
**ACTION:** LG offering to work on this initiative to provide Portuguese

10.o Early Career Academics LL  
10.o.i ECA SIG best code of practice  
10.o.ii Questions raised about the inclusion of research leave, training, and teaching hours in aforementioned code of practice – agree to revisit these topics

11. **Advance planning of Plenary Workshops of 15th July 2022 (10 mins)**  
Discussion of plenary workshops.  
11a. REF session with Charles.  
11b. PGR panel.  
11c. Plenary being research focuses.  
**ACTION:** VW and UL to discuss possible PGR session at plenary.

12. **Any Other Business (5 mins)**  
**EL** raised two issues in lieu of a report during AoB:  
12a Training at Aston University for Business French  
12b Birmingham emergency training for native speakers keen to help with interpreting

13. **Future dates**  
AGM and Summer Plenary: 15th July 2022  
Steering Group: 14th October 2022 – 14:00  
Executive Committee: 11th November 2022 – 10:00