Honorary Secretary report

1. Elections to UCML Exec

We welcome Ashley Harris (ECA), Christine Schallmoser (co-chair of the AULC and UCML SIG), Olga Gómez-Cash (Honorary Treasurer) and Sandra Salin (Membership Secretary).

We will be advertising the following roles that are becoming available in July: Vice-Chair Education (Vicky Wright), ELT Representative (Alexander Ding), Translation and Interpretation Representative (Begoña Rodríguez de Céspedes), Italian Studies Representative (Gigliola Sulis), and Northern Ireland Representative (Sharon Jones).

2. Small Grants

The panel reviewed applications from Round 1 last November, and the following projects were awarded grants: Language education in the (post-)digital era – lessons learnt from the pandemic, Teaching Medieval French: Sustainable Approaches for the Next Generation, the Widening Participation Languages Network, and Postcapitalist Translocations: Mark Fisher in Latin America. Applications from the second (and final) round for this year were reviewed in May and the following projects were awarded grants: Memories of the BUMIDOM and Meeting in the Middle: Bringing Together UCML’s ECA Community.

3. “Where Are We Now? The Location of Modern Languages and Cultures” Durham conference

UCML had a strong presence at the conference organised by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at Durham University. As part of the organising committee for the conference, I made sure to represent my academic Department and UCML, organising and chairing sessions that would be relevant to our interests, while also promoting the work that we do as a committee and through our SIGs.

4. UCML Summer Plenary 2023

We have been busy planning this AGM and Plenary and we are ever so grateful to Cathy Collins for supporting us with the preparations and to Charles Burdett for allowing us to use rooms at Senate House completely free of charge.
5. Projects supporting UCML’s mission

a. Centre for Language Education Policy and Research
Arlene Holmes-Henderson, Jonathan Long and myself have been working with Durham University on funding applications to establish a Centre for Language Education Policy and Research in the North East of England. We’d be keen to engage in

b. Mapping the languages of the North East
I have been working with Durham County Council and Newcastle City Council on establishing the linguistic richness of the North East of England. The aims of this research are twofold: to challenge the region’s characterisation as the most white and monolingual in England, and to assess the impact that this characterisation has on languages provision in schools.

6. Dates of future meetings

Executive Committee: 10th November 2023 and 24th May 2024
Winter Plenary: 12th January, 2024

Marcela Cazzoli, 7th July, 2023