

A Registered Charity (No 275082)

*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the meeting of the UCET Management Forum held at 1pm on Tuesday 25 June 2019 at Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3RB**

Welcome, introduction & notes

Colleagues were welcomed to the final meeting of the Management Forum of 2018/19. The note of the previous meeting was agreed. On matters arising, JNR reported that: he is continuing to visit member institutions to talk about the current policy landscape and would welcome further invitations; the Intellectual Base of Teacher Education Group had met three times and had started to draft statements about the unique contributions HEIs make to teacher education and the values and principles that should underpin effective teacher education; there had been no significant developments in regards teaching apprenticeships, although the Trailblazer group was scheduled to meet the following week; UCET had issued questions to Education REF sub panel Chair David James and the was collating institutional definitions of ‘significant responsibility for research; and UCET colleagues were in the process of drafting a paper on Professionally Acceptable Workload (PAW).

Discussion

Highlights from the afternoon’s discussions included:

* General updates from UCET, including: the results of recent UCET elections; the securing by USCET of additional partnership funding for HEIs in Wales; and a successful UCET NI event in Belfast showcasing he contribution the HE sector makes to teacher development and supply.
* Attention was drawn to the Bristol Education yearbook and document summary service, further details of which can be found at: <https://edn.bris.ac.uk/dss/>.
* Safeguarding, were it was noted that: OfSTED had confirmed that ITE students did not need to undergo multiple DBS checks during their training; overseas criminal record checks tended to cover a 5-7 year period; childcare disqualification rules still applied to ITE, with the exception of those relating to disqualification by association; and applicants that had previously either dropped out or been removed from an ITE programme could reasonably be asked to provide confirmation from their previous ITE provider for the reasons they left the programme.
* ITE content framework and Early Career Framework, where ECF tenders to deliver the framework and develop curriculum materials in the pilot regions were expected to be invited soon. On ITE content, the importance of a flexible framework (as opposed to a curriculum) that equipped new teachers with research skills and could be adapted to meet the varying needs of different student teachers was stressed. The distinct nature and purpose of ITE compared to the ECF, and the importance of aligning mentor support for ITE students and NQTs were also noted.
* The forthcoming DfE shape of the ITE market review, the outcome of which UCET would seek to influence and which could have significant implications for ITE providers.
* Recruitment to ITE programmes in 2019/20, were the trend towards later applications appeared to be continuing, with implications for DBS, skills tests and SKE. Other issues referred to included: summer recruitment (including associated workload implications), the lateness of the DfE request window, misleading and potentially biased information given by people at Train to Teach events; and the Home Office review into migration policies for skilled workers.
* The opening of new skills test centres, continuing concerns about the negative experiences of those taking the tests and the possibility of an imminent policy announcement on the future of skills tests.
* The implications for teacher education of the Auger recommendations on student fee levels.
* Inspection issues, including: research visits by OfSTED staff looking at behaviour, phonics, subject knowledge, governance, expertise within partner schools, and the use of research. An update was also given on the process for developing a new inspection framework to be consulted on in early 2020 (following ‘friendly’ pilot inspections in late 2019) for implementation in 2020/21.
* The difficulty of providing and co-ordinating DfE data requests.
* The recent meeting of the UCET School Reference Group, and an invitation for Management Forum members to suggest new members of the group.
* The annual UCET conference on 5-6 November 2019 UCET conference for which registration was open (with 10% discounts for institutions sending five or more delegates); Keynote speakers to include: Mary Bousted; Trevor Mutton; Moyra Boland and John Furlong. Evening entertainment will be a Dusty Springfield tribute act. <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/conference>

Any other business

Management Forum’s attention was drawn to:

* The implications of the change to the May 2020 bank holiday.
* The Teacher Regulation Agency and the forthcoming invitation for new members, to which teacher educators might apply.
* DfE consultancy support to advise ITE providers on workload issues.

Date of next meeting

3 December 2019. The topic for the morning symposium would be agreed nearer the time.