

A Registered Charity (No 275082)

*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

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

Welcome, introduction & minutes

Colleagues were welcomed to the first meeting of the academic year. The note of the previous meeting held on 25 June was agreed. On matters arising, it was reported that work in relation to the DfE’s shape of the market review had been suspended because of General Election purdah.

Mary Russell

A moment’s reflection was held as a mark of respect for former UCET Executive Director Mary Russell MBE, who had recently died. Mary had been Executive Director since UCET’s inception in 1967 until she retired in 2004 and had made the organisation the influential force that it had become.

Discussion

Highlights from the afternoon’s discussions included:

* An update from JNR on issues not included on the agenda, including: UCET’s support for member institutions in regards the REF: a UCET lifetime achievement award for Peter Gilroy; feedback from the 2019 UCET conference; and issues relating to student support for PCET ITE students.
* Recruitment to ITE, building on the morning session from Mark Crowley on trends in applications and recruitment, during which it was noted that recent ITE census results showed that national targets for both primary and secondary recruitment had been missed. The following reports were given in respect of applications for 2020: primary slow, although applications to undergraduate were holding up; history down, possibly because of bursary reductions; PE slower than previously; English holding up; and MFL down. There was no consistent picture on the balance between School Direct and core, although it was reported that smaller SD cohorts were struggling to recruit compared to larger ones. Current bursary levels, with the zero bursary for primary likely to have had an impact on targets being missed, were noted. Some discussion took place about the new DfE apply service, with questions asked about systems compatibility and the collection and collation of information on conditional offers.
* Eligibility for recruitment to School Direct salaried programmes. Most providers reported that decisions about the required levels of prior experience applicants needed were generally left to schools.
* New arrangements to ensure fundamental skills in maths and English in place of pre-entry skills tests, where providers were taking a number of measures in relation to the new requirements, including mapping of existing programme content; diagnostic assessment at interview; and use of programme assignments in relation to data analysis and report writing. Issues relating to the circa 2,500 legacy cases had still to be fully resolved.
* DBS, with a number of colleagues reporting that they had successfully outsourced processes, although this might not always cover checks against the list of people prohibited by the Secretary of State from teaching.
* The new ITE content framework, which would have to be reflected in all ITE programmes in England from September 2020. The framework should not be used as an assessment tool and did not cover everything that should be included on ITE programmes. UCET and NASBTT would be holding events to help members adjust their programmes, identify how aspects of the content framework were already being covered and change the way some things were done. Final decisions at provider level might, it was suggested, have to be left until it was clear how the content framework would align to the new OfSTED ITE inspection framework. Concern was expressed that the early publication had prevented many helpful suggestions made at round table events from being taken on board. References to cognitive load were not felt to be future proof and reduced the discretion of ITE providers to take a critical approach and engage in alternative theoretical approaches.
* The results of the tenders for the pilot phase of the Early Career Framework. UCET would do what it could to maximise HEI involvement in the ECF and advocate for links to M Level. Concerns were expressed about the impact on ITE mentoring of the focus of support for NQT mentors. It was also reported that many multi-academy trusts were totally unware of what the ECF was.
* The implications for ITE and CPD of the reorganisation of teaching schools, with larger and fewer hubs potentially impacting on relationships between teaching schools and accredited ITE providers, potentially presenting both threats and opportunities.
* Inspection issues, including feedback from recent pilot inspections (which might or might not be reflected in the new inspection framework). The pilots had included a strong focus on: subject knowledge; strength of partnerships; consistency between centre-based and school/college based training; the reflection of provider curriculum level priorities in what happens in placement settings; reduced emphasis on data; an expectation that issues relating to workload, behaviour and SEND are interwoven throughout programmes; and the sharing of subject expertise with mentors. It was also noted that future pilots would include the observation of student teachers in the classroom. It was agreed that the new inspection framework, and its relationship to the content framework, would be the focus of the next morning symposium.
* The development of a new UCET strategic plan for 2020 onwards and the work of the Intellectual Base of Teacher Education (IBTE) group.
* The Science of Learning for Initial Teacher Education project, with a presentation from Ruth Bailey and an invitation to colleagues for future involvement.
* Issues in relation to Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, including some research projects in Northern Ireland funded through UCET.

Items for information

The following were noted for information: the UCET general election press release; the report of the 2019 ICET conference; and the summer 2019 UCET newsletter.

Any other business

Colleagues were informed about the 2nd Festival of Education at Sheffield Hallam University which would be held on 12 June 20120.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 17 March 2020.