

A Registered Charity (No 275082)

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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the UCET Executive Committee meeting, held on 23rd March at 10:30 am -12:30 pm.**

**Virtual Online Meeting**

Attendance:

Tiffany Beck (part f meeting); Clare Brooks; Sean Cavan; Jake Capper; Caroline Daly; Max Fincher; Spencer Hennessey; David Littlefair; Rachel Lofthouse; Kevin Mattinson (Chair); Jo McIntyre; Jackie Moses; Margaret Mulholland; Trevor Mutton; James Noble-Rogers; Cat Scutt; Paul Vare; Roger Woods; Jenny Wynn.

Apologies:

Pat Black; Hazel Bryan; Des Hewitt; Emma Hollis; Vini Lander; Karen McGrath; Roisin McPhilemy; Tanya Ovenden-Hope; Elaine Sharpling; Matt Varley.

1. Declarations of interest

None.

1. Minutes & matters arising (enc.)

* The work of the TE consultative group has been put on hold pending the outcome of the ITT Market Review.
* UCET’s effective CPD paper has been published and will be the subject of a session at TEAN and will appear in the April 2021 issue of CollectiveED (Leeds Beckett).
* It remains to be seen whether OfSTED will resume inspections in April 2021 as announced. There have been mixed reports about recent OfSTED research visits; some providers have found them helpful, others have reported an inquisitorial approach. The emphasis of inspectors appears to be checking to see whether student teachers understand that they have received their CCF entitlement and are using the language of the CCF.

1. Finance issues:
2. *Report from Treasurer*

RW noted that UCET is in a good position financially. This is partly because this year there is no one-off payment to plug the USS pension funding deficit but also because of Covid related savings. Key figures for the 2019/20 year were:

* Income: £496,083 (£493,720)
* Spend: £425,778 (£442,131)
* Surplus: £70,305 (£51,589)
* Operating surplus (i.e. excluding investment income: £46,754
* Total resources carried forward: £568,474.

1. *Annual report and accounts*

* It was agreed to recommend the draft annual report & accounts to the AG which would take place immediately after the meeting.

1. *Appointment of auditors*

* It was agreed to recommend to the AGM that Peters, Elworthy & Moore be reappointed as auditors for the current financial year.

1. *Subscription increases for 2021/22*

* The annual subscription will be frozen for the next academic year.

1. UCET meetings in 2021/22
2. *Annual Conference (2-3 November)*

* It was agreed to hold the 2021 annual UCET conference on-line again.
* It might be worthwhile exploring whether UCET can have complementary regional/local meetings as part of conference week,, albeit with the scope to include some live and regional components considered.

1. *Forums, committees & symposia*

* It was agreed that UCET forums, committees and other meetings would continue to take place on-line for the rest of the calendar year, although UCETNI and USCT might take their own decisions.

5.       ITE Market Review & Institute of Teaching:

*a. Feedback from meetings*

* + - The TeachBest website and Twitter account have been launched, and had attracted an impressive number hits and followers
    - The All Party Parliamentary Group has set up its own review of ITE, and comments were invited on UCET’s draft evidence.
    - JNR has had regular meetings with Ian Balcombe (Chair of the Market Review) and is concerned that at the root of the review is a review group), which have done nothing to assuage concerns previously expressed about curriculum prescription and contracting models. Other individuals and groups have also met with members of the review group.
    - Attention at the RG meeting was drawn to the principles of the UCET IBTE statement; the notion emerged that the Market Review is trying to create a prescriptive, one-size fits all ‘ITE curriculum’ model with structured ‘stages’ was very evident.JNR and others had met with a selection of political and other contacts and had arrange for questions about the review to be tabled in parliament. UCET colleagues were encouraged to undertake similar activities.

1. *UCET public statements and media coverage*

* Press notices about the TeachBest website and Twitter were issued last week, and yesterday a press notice regarding recent parliamentary questions tabled by Baroness Rita Donaghy.

1. *PLMR contract and activities*

* PLMR have sent letters to influential parliamentarians and, via the new website, tailored letters can be sent to local MPs and the Secretary of State; JNR urged everyone to do so.
* TB noted that the TeachBest Twitter currently has 109,400 hits and the PR campaign is progressing well.

1. *UCET strategic response*

* The new Teaching School Hubs have caused both confusion and competition between existing alliances and partners.
* The new Local Authority boundaries are complicating matters, and there is pessimism that many old teaching school alliances won’t want to continue with School Direct activity from September 2022.
* The existing TSH priorities are:

1. Organizing their approach to the ECF delivery
2. Clarity on the appropriate body activity
3. Forming new networks between regional hubs
4. Working out the NPQs will also fit in with the ECF
5. How the ITT Market Review will also affect matters

* ECF briefing sessions are needed for the hubs as there is a lack of understanding of what their role will be.
* The DfE are going to publish information on the MR soon; it would be best to wait before formulating a strategy in response.
* It was noted that the de-skilling and disempowering of school leaders, heads and mentors in schools is now becoming apparent; accumulated knowledge and expertise is being abandoned and is very disappointing.
* **JNR invited people to summarize their concerns and UCET will collate them and take forward.**

6.     Covid 19 issues

a*. DfE guidance*

* This item was noted for information*.*

*b. Welsh Government Guidance*

* This item was noted for information.

1. *Feedback on recruitment, placements and programme adjustments*

* Applications were generally healthy, although cuts in bursaries in some subjects had had a negative impact on recruitment to those subjects and to the subjects which people chose to apply to. SDS programmes had also been hit by funding changes.

7.       Early Career Framework

* .This was covered under the discussion of Teaching School Hubs above.

8. Post compulsory issues

*a. Skills White Paper*

* The Trailblazer group has been reconvened (with Chair and Vice-Chair of the Post 16 group, Karen McGrath and Lynn Senior attending) helping to review the standards that underpin the learning and skills apprenticeship programme. These standards would in due course apply to all recognised PCET teaching qualifications, although a qualification would no longer be embedded in the apprenticeship itself. The Secretary of State had also been given a reserve power to re-regulate the sector should that be deemed necessary.

*b.* *ETF programme requirements*

Covid related adjustments to DET criteria were noted.

9. Any other business

* The issue of iQTS was raised and concern expressed that ITE is perceived to be a commodity and/or spoken about in the language of both colonialism and a business model.
* It was noted that the DfE do not seem to recognize the context of the international school sector.
* **KM asked colleagues to send their thoughts to him on this topic.**

10.  Date of next meeting: 10:00 am 27th April 2021 (followed by: Exec/DfE/OfSTED)