

 A Registered Charity (No 275082)

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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the UCET Executive Committee meeting, held on 28th September at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Virtual Online Meeting**

Attendance:

Pat Black; Clare Brooks; Sean Cavan; Caroline Daly; Max Fincher; Spencer Hennessey; Emma Hollis; Vini Lander; David Littlefair; Rachel Lofthouse; Kevin Mattinson (Chair); Jo McIntyre; Jackie Moses; Margaret Mulholland; Trevor Mutton; James Noble-Rogers; Tanya Ovenden-Hope; Cat Scutt; Paul Vare; Jenny Wynn.

Apologies:

Jake Capper; Hazel Bryan; Des Hewitt; Roisin McPhilemy; Lynn Senior; Elaine Sharpling; Roger Woods.

1. Declarations of interest
* None.
1. Minutes & matters arising (enc.)
* The EC agreed the previous minutes were accurate.
* The outcome of the iQTS consultation was published in August, and the DfE proposed that the new qualification would adhere to as many of the English regulatory requirements as possible. Five pilot programmes, including both SCITTs and HEIs, will start in September 2022 and the qualification will be rolled out a year later (but only by English providers). An expert group had been established.
* For the PCET sector, the DfE has asked the Education and Training Foundation to develop new requirements for the FE and skills sector for ITE programmes.
* Providers are concerned about trainees having to follow a prescriptive, ineffective and limited ECF ‘script’ and that there is a non-negotiable delivery of content. It was agreed that the CPD forum would consider the issue.
1. ITE Market Review
* The results of the consultation report are expected in December 2021.
* It is feared that the re-accreditation process could start as early as January 2022 and will be used as an insidious method to push out “underperforming” ITE providers.
* UCET have argued consistently that teacher supply will be affected if this transpires.
* It was noted that part of the evidence gathering is to convince SMTs within universities of the value of teacher education to the HE sector generally. DL will share recent evidence-based findings at the next UCET CPD forum in October.
* Key priorities for ITE providers will be deciding how and whether to apply for accreditation and how to develop relations with teaching school hubs. Some might also look at options to diversify away from QTS provision and UCET might have a role in supporting them on this.
* It was agreed that both Executive and Management would hold interim meetings if any significant announcements occur before December.
1. OfSTED issues:
* Fifty percent of the inspections reports to date have been found ‘inadequate’ and ‘requires improvement’.
* Feedback of the inspectors’ approach has been that they have been both unprofessional with antagonistic behavior.
* Both FOIs recently submitted by UCET asking for evidence to support the conclusions of the research report published in May have been rejected; a third FOI has been submitted asking for a summary of responses of student teachers to ask in-service trainees: ‘how well do you think your programme has prepared you to teach in schools’? It was also agreed that UCET would ask for the rejection of its second FOI request to be reviewed.
* JNR agreed to draft a briefing document/public statement for UCET members to share with university SMTs and Vice-Chancellors to help explain the risks of the MR, as discussed above.
* There has been no acknowledgement by OfSTED of how both ITE providers and schools have had to adapt and work during the Covid-19 pandemic. The UCET primary and secondary forums will be showcasing the topic of ‘how to prepare for your forthcoming OfSTED inspections.
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1. UCET issues:
2. *The 2-3 November 2021 on-line UCET conference*
* Registrations for the UCET conference was currently slightly down compared to the same time last year. The programme is now available and Amy Godsland is meeting with Andy Goff (formerly ONVU) to finalise the technical details.
1. *The format and structure of UCET meetings for January 2022 onwards*
* It was agreed that the Executive would continue to meet virtually in the first term of the 2022 calendar year. Other forms and committees would take their own decisions.
1. *Meetings with DfE and OfSTED*
* JNR continues to have regular meetings with both DfE and OfSTED, which are proving more effective than when both came to the EC in the afternoons. It was agreed not to close down the invites to the UCET EC, but perhaps take an ad-hoc approach.
1. *Other internal issues*
* JNR announced that he has penciled in September 2023 as the date he will stand down from his current role.
* UCET staff are now all home based. The need for the UCET office will be kept under review.
1. AOB
* None.
1. Date of the next meeting: 7th December 2021