

A Registered Charity (No 275082)

*9-11 Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H 0EH*

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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the UCET Executive Committee meeting, held on 22nd March 2022 at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Virtual Online Meeting**

Attendance:

Pat Black; Clare Brooks; Max Fincher; Spencer Hennessey; Rachel Lofthouse; Kevin Mattinson (Chair); Trevor Mutton; James Noble-Rogers; Stefanie Sullivan; Paul Vare; Roger Woods; Jenny Wynn.

Apologies:

Hazel Bryan; Jake Capper; Sean Cavan; Caroline Daly; Des Hewitt; Emma Hollis; David Littlefair; Jo McIntyre; Margaret Mulholland; Jackie Moses; Margaret Mulholland; Roisin McPhilemy; Tanya Ovenden-Hope; Cat Scutt; Elaine Sharpling; Vini Lander.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Declarations of Interest

* None.

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

* UCET Northern Ireland have been allocated 10K by DENI to fund research in to Teacher Professional Learning. Stranmillis and Ulster are doing the research.
* There is currently an Independent Review of Education by DENI; JNR is going to Stormont to put the case for each of the 4 HEIs continuing as providers to meet the diverse needs of local communities and schools.
* JNR to send RL the TPL strategy in Northern Ireland.

1. ITE Market Review

* The results of the first round of accreditation are expected in May.
* UCET will be holding additional workshop events to help those with round 2, with those HEIs who succeeded in round 1 hopefully supporting their colleagues through round 2
* There will be no rationing of providers by DfE and the threat that there could only be circa 20 HEI providers has now hopefully passed; the funds spent on the TeachBest PR campaign and other activities carried out by UCET and other organisations may have had a positive impact.

1. Inspection Issues

* UCET are expecting reports to be published soon by Ofsted.
* UCET is collating tips and feedback, and sharing experiences of inspections with others at meetings.
* The response to UCET’s FOI request on how qualified inspectors are in terms of ITE experience and what training they had received yielded no useful information.

1. CPD Issues

* A draft of the second paper was discussed at the recent CPD forum.
* There are some amendments to make and a meeting will take place in 2 weeks; the final paper should be ready before the Easter break.

1. iQTS

* Institutions that have been successful in their applications to deliver iQTS include: Canterbury Christ Church; Sheffield Hallam; University of Birmingham (Dubai); Derby; Sunderland; Warwick.

1. Covid, ITE placements and DfE guidance

* It was agreed that the withdrawal rate for trainees is higher than normal for this time of year; this is due to many factors, but not least the effect of Covid and trainees now having to teach in person after 2 years online.
* Mentors and professional tutors have noted increased anxiety and these colleagues have been working hard to support trainees wherever possible.
* Some schools have been asking for evidence of Covid vaccinations before allowing trainees to teach; other schools have also been allowing/encouraging those who have tested positive to go back in to school, which is concerning.

1. Post compulsory ITE

* The ETF have established a working group to take forward the development of the new teaching qualification for teachers in the FE and Skills sector, and UCET is well represented on this group.
* The new qualification places more emphasis on: taught learning hours; SEND; contrasting work experiences and locations; mentor support. The new teacher apprenticeship standards underpin the qualification.
* A draft by the working group will be published by 31 March for the DfE to comment on by 31 July, but this date might be moved forward to 1 July so the qualification can be approved by 1 September. This will allow 1 year for HEIs to bring in the new qualification.
* A subject specific network has been established via the Post 16 forum to allow mentors to connect with one another across subject and geographical locations.

1. UCET Issues
   1. *Draft annual report and accounts*

* JNR summarized the annual report findings; UCET is in a robust financial position and the likely USS deficit request can be met, but might mean using some of the reserves.
* JNR asked if the EC was happy to recommend the draft annual report and accounts to the AGM for acceptance, and to approve the re-appointment of Peters, Elsworthy and Moore as UCET’s auditors; the EC approved.
  1. *UCET staffing and succession planning issues*
* KM thanked JNR once again for his time as Executive Director.
* JNR is happy to stay on for 6 months after his originally pencilled in leaving date (Autumn 2023).
* It was suggested that a small sub group of the EC be convened to discuss the process/timeline of how to appoint a new person and have a clear sense of milestones; it was suggested that HEIs should be perhaps approached first rather than external headhunters. **MF to email KM the email addresses of the EC.** 
  1. *UCET strategy*
* The review of the Executive Director’s role is also the time to look again at the strategy, staffing etc.
* KM thanked RW for his report and summary of the accounts position.
  1. *UCET officer positions \*
* Nominations for several UCET office positions for 2022/2023 will be invited soon.
* Anyone interested in standing should contact JNR who will email out details soon.
* The positions are:
* UCET Chair Elect; UCET Vice-Chair; Chair of ITE Primary and Early Years forum; Vice-Chair of Primary and Early Years forum; Vice-Chair of the Northern Ireland Committee; one co-opted place on the EC.
* JNR summarized the timeline for the process of these position; KM asked if the EC was happy with the timeline, which was agreed.
  1. *UCET conference*
* Fifteen symposia have been agreed and keynotes confirmed to date include: Alison Peacock (Chartered College of Teaching); Tim Brighouse and Mick Waters, and the Chief Inspector from Scotland, Gayle Gorman.
* One or two more keynotes are needed, particularly research-focused keynotes; ideas and suggestions to JNR.

1. Any Other Business

* Des Hewitt (current chair of Primary and Early Years) has been ill and will be off work for 6 months. UCET sends its best wishes to Des for a speedy recovery.
* Most UCET forums will continue online; MF to cancel booking for P16 in person; CPD and Research and International will meet in person for the Summer term.
* It was agreed that due to the small group size, the EC continues to work well online.

1. Date of next meeting: **26 April 2022**