

*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the UCET Executive Committee meeting, held on 26th April at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Virtual Online Meeting**

Attendance:

Pat Black; Clare Brooks; Caroline Daly; Max Fincher; Spencer Hennessey; David Littlefair; Kevin Mattinson (Chair); Jo McIntyre; Jackie Moses; James Noble-Rogers; Tanya Ovenden-Hope; Lynn Senior; Cat Scutt; Stefanie Sullivan; Paul Vare; Jenny Wynn.

Apologies:

Jake Capper; Hazel Bryan; Sean Cavan; Des Hewitt; Rachel Lofthouse; Margaret Mulholland; Trevor Mutton; Roisin McPhilemy; Elaine Sharpling; Vini Lander; Roger Woods.

1. Welcome and Introductions

* Noted.

1. Declarations of Interest

* None.

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

* JNR and UCETNI colleagues had given evidence to the Independent Review of Education in Northern Ireland, and were in the process of drafting a follow-up paper.
* JNR gave an update on this year’s annual conference and the keynote speakers who are confirmed; Ukranian colleagues in teacher education nominated by UCET members will be eligible to attend free of charge.
* PV noted that the second effective CPD paper will be coming out soon; there was discussion of how within the new FE sector qualification that has been developed, there is much more scope for individual agency for teachersl. ToH to introduce PV to Howard Pilot from the Education and Training Foundation to discuss further.
* JNR has submitted last year’s annual report and accounts to the Charity Commission.
* KM thanked colleagues in advance for giving their availability on dates for meetings to discuss the planning of the recruitment of the role of Executive Director at UCET.
* The deadline for the UCET elections for the positions of UCET Chair Elect and Vice-Chair has been extended to 10 May 2022. The same deadline also now applies to both Chair and Vice-Chair of the Primary and Early Years forum.

1. ITE Market Review

* The anticipated date for the outcome of the first round of applications is on or around 16 May. Once the date is known, an extra meeting of the EC will be arranged.
* There was discussion around an email that DfE sent to some providers on Friday 22nd April asking those with ‘significant omissions’ in respect of the mentor training question to re-submit revised versions of their answers.
* It was agreed that for **MF to conduct a poll of UCET members in England** to see if a) how many providers received the email and b) if any other emails/questions have been asked on other questions in the application. There was discussion of how to plan a response to the outcome of the first round. Only inviting selected providers to provide further information could it was noted have implications in regards equity.
* UCET will need to respond robustly if there is a significant fail rate for providers.
* Concerns remained about the impact on teacher supply if a significant number of providers were not accredited. DfE had also been warned about the prospect of judicial review.
* It was agreed that UCET members would be invited to share the outcomes of their application results from the first round; **JNR to draft an email** in readiness to issue on the day of the announcement; and the three possible public lines to take in response to different outcomes in terms of numbers of successful applicants etc.
* It was asked whether any legal challenge would be at an institutional or group level (e.g. Million+ and Russell Group); it is difficult to know until the results are announced and any challenge would not take place until after round 2 results are known.

1. Inspection Issues

* Some inspection reports are expected to be published this week.
* A question was asked about the wording ‘assessed placements’, and that this is both strange and ambiguous; does it refer to the teacher standards or the institutional curriculum? **JW to send JNR a copy of OfSTED’s response**.

1. Covid, Recruitment and ITE placement issues

* The DfE issued a survey yesterday on how Covid is affecting placements.
* It was agreed that for both Primary and Secondary, levels of recruitment are back to pre-pandemic levels and that universally.
* It was noted that there has been an upsurge in PGCE applications from African students.
* Masters’ and CPD applications are also lower. It was observed that, by contrast, in Wales, uptake has been strong for the M Leel qualifications.
* The CCT are allowing a wide range of qualifications to count toward chartered status, and CS emphasized that the CCT have always valued the relationship between research and practice for teachers.
* There was discussion around whether providers have seen an increased level of ‘no-shows’ for interviews.
* Recruitment levels for SKE are also considerably lower; there are hardly any referrals from providers for SKE; UCET to ask the DfE about recruitment to SKE. **KM to contact the DfE regarding the Science SKE as mentioned by JW.**

1. UCET Easter Newsletter

* For information.

1. Any Other Business

* It was noted that at a recent ITTAG meeting, junior colleagues from the DfE were present and were responding to questions using pre-prepared statements with no scope for genuine dialogue.
* There are some significant staff changes in the policy unit of the DfE that UCET need to keep an eye on, as some people in the DfE have engage constructively with UCET in the past. It was agreed that the EC would for the time being not invite the DfE back to the EC meetings, but continue to engage with them on a one-to-one or small group level.

1. Date of Next Meeting: 28 June 2022