

*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

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

**Virtual Online Meeting**

Attendance:

Pat Black; Hazel Bryan; Clare Brooks; Sean Cavan; Caroline Daly; Max Fincher; Spencer Hennessey; Jo McIntyre; Jackie Moses; Trevor Mutton (Chair); James Noble-Rogers; Cat Scutt; Stefanie Sullivan; Paul Vare; Jenny Wynn.

Apologies:

Jan Ashbridge; Jake Capper; Vini Lander; Roger David Littlefair; Rachel Lofthouse; Kevin Mattinson; Margaret Mulholland; Tanya Ovenden-Hope; Roisin McPhilemy; Lynn Senior; Elaine Sharpling; Roger Woods.

1. Welcome and Introductions
* Noted.
1. Declarations of Interest
* None.
1. Minutes and Matters Arising
* JNR noted that the Science SKE proposal drafted by Kevin Mattinson has been resubmitted to the DfE to inform the SKE review.
* JNR thanked those who are stepping down from the Executive Committee including: Trevor Mutton (Vice-Chair), who will be replaced by Lisa Murtagh (University of Manchester); Des Hewitt (Chair of Primary and Early Years), replaced by Jan Ashbridge (University of Cumbria); Roisin McPhilemy (Chair of UCETNI) to be replaced by James Nelson (Queen’s University Belfast) and Jo McIntyre (co-opted) whose place will become available. JNR gave especial thanks to TM who has served for 9 years in total on UCET committees and to other Eecutive Committee members (Jo McIntrye and Roisin McPhillemy) who were also standing down.
1. ITE Market Review
* JNR gave an update on recent developments, including noting that Cambridge University have submitted their application in the second round of applications, and that this has attracted some press interest in *SchoolsWeek* and the *TES*.
* UCET is treating cautiously ministers’ announcement that Stage 2 of the application process will be ‘light touch’.
* JNR thanked everyone who attended and contributed to the series of workshops UCET held this term to help ‘unsuccessful’ applicants and those applying in round 2 for the first time.
* There was discussion around the quality threshold criteria not being listed in the Stage 2 guidance, and it was pointed out use of a model that involved the making of qualitative judgments in what should have been a straightforward compliance measure had been problematic.
* It was suggested that **UCET asks who the DfE’s ‘associates’ are and what their professional background is, and to have a list made available**.
* It was agreed that UCET monitor each stage of the Market Review process as it continues and support UCET members if they need to, and also that UCET monitors who passes Stage 2 and who doesn’t, looking particularly at the geographical spread and the impact of limited access to HEI-based teacher education in the UK.
* Another suggestion was that HEIs keep a record of any of the ‘specialist associate’ visits and other engagements with DfE, perhaps on a pro-forma.
1. Inspection Issues
* It was noted that inspectors have sometimes approached inspections with a negative lense, and often acted disproportionately in response to isolated and unrepresentative comments from students and others.
* There have been anecdotal reports of some very stressful experiences, and it was agreed that even one such case happening was unacceptable. There had, however, also been reports of very professional behaviours from inspectors.
* It was suggested that perhaps there should be representation from a university’s senior management team at any inspection meetings, as a duty of care to university staff, in line with policies on abuse and bullying of staff.
* It was agreed that **a group would be set up to produce a guidance paper, led by SS, on how to prepare and manage OfSTED inspections**.
1. UCET ECF/NPQ position paper
* The new paper outlines the improvements that could be made based on the input of many UCET members.
* SEND, contextualization, sustainability and a ‘critical teacher’ ethos are areas that are highlighted as lacking in currently the ECF/NPQ model.
* It was pointed out that for the paper to have any traction with the DfE, it might be worth giving a statement of who was involved and the evidence base that was used. Additionally, providing an appendix indicating what specific evidence is missing and highlighting the key omissions might help.
* It is evident that the DfE have concerns around mentoring capacity, and it might be worthwhile for UCET to engage now with shadow ministers to provide tangible proposals on this issue.
* The CCT journal *Impact* currently has an open call for papers on the topic of teacher effectiveness and development; a shortened version of this could be added if helpful.
* One concern expressed was that of the promotion of the ‘generic’/’technicist’ teacher that the ECF seems to embody, and the idea of a ‘science’ of teaching, with the concept of the subject-specific specialist teaching becoming increasingly absent.
* Colleagues thanked PV for his work on the paper which was commended as a strong piece of work that UCET can take forward.
* PV asked if when the report is ready, it can in a publishable format; **PV to send a copy to MF/AG who will arrange this.**
1. Feedback on developments in Northern Ireland and Wales
* In Northern Ireland, the report on the research into Teachers Professional Learning funded by the Department of Education through UCETNI has now been published.
* Additionally, the Independent Review of Education, which JNR attended with others at Stormont to submit advice, has now published its report.
* In Wales, members of USCET are working with Welsh Government, the Education Workforce Council and Estyn to reduce the regulatory burdens placed on ITE providers. One paper has been published and a further one is being written.
1. UCET issues:
2. *UCET 1-2 November conference*
* Depending on the numbers who attend this year’s in person annual conference, a decision will have to be taken on the format and duration of future conferences..
1. *UCET summer newsletter*
* For information.
1. AOB
* UCET will arrange an ad-hoc meeting of the EC once the results of Round 2 of the ITE Market Review are known.
1. Date of the next meeting: 27th September