

*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*



**Note of the UCET Executive Committee meeting, held on 21st March at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Virtual Online Meeting**

Jan Ashbridge; Claire E. Ball-Smith; Pat Black; Sean Cavan; Caroline Daly; Max Fincher; Spencer Hennessey; Kevin Mattinson (Chair); Jackie Moses; Lisa Murtagh; James Noble-Rogers; Cat Scutt; Stefanie Sullivan; Paul Vare; Roger Woods; Jenny Wynn.

Apologies:

Clare Brooks; Hazel Bryan; Jake Capper; Emma Hollis; Margaret Mulholland; Vini Lander; David Littlefair; Rachel Lofthouse; James Nelson; Tanya Ovenden-Hope; Lynn Senior.

1. Welcome and Introductions

* Noted.

1. Declarations of Interest

* None.

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

* The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
* The UCET Equalities sub group will have a plenary session at this year’s annual conference.
* JNR, PV and Lizana Oberholzer met with the DfE to discuss the refresh of the ECF. DfE seemed to be aware of and accept that there are issues of duplication, contextualization that need addressing.
* Jointly with NASBTT, UCET will contribute both written and oral evidence to an Education Select Committee inquiry into teacher recruitment, training and retention announced last week**. .**
* UCET met with Callum Davey from NiOT and politely declined to be involved in the joint production of ITAP and mentoring materials but will keep the channels of communication open.
* There was discussion around Teach First and the NiOT, and concern was raised that NiOT are actively approaching SCITTs to persuade them to keep their accreditation dormant.
* The issue of quality assurance from the perspective of OfSTED inspections was raised, with the question that if a SCITT provider fails an OfSTED inspection and is part of the NiOT, the impact this will have on the NiOT as an accredited provider, and the knock-on effect on teacher supply.
* JNR noted the advice that UCET gave on teacher industrial action recently.
* The current UCET and NASBTT DBS has been signed off and is on the UCET website (see under ‘Guidance’/UCET key documents’) and JNR thanked JM for her work on this.

1. ITE Market Review

* JNR summarized recent developments, including:
* A summary of survey responses on ITAP subjects has been circulated and is on the UCET website: [ITAP: summary of subjects (March 2023) | UCET](https://www.ucet.ac.uk/14900/itap-summary-of-subjects-march-2023)
* An email group has been established for those Management Forum members who want to engage in discussions about new partnerships and Quality Requirements.
* UCET held four successful workshops this term on Stage 2 of the Market Review on: curriculum materials; ITAP; mentoring and partnerships; some of the regular forum meetings have also covered these issues.
* The question was raised of whether UCET is documenting behaviour from the new DfE associates; JNR has asked for feedback, but it has been mostly positive, with some inconsistencies.
* It will be important to monitor whether or not there are also mixed messages to providers, e.g. one associate who serves several different providers telling them different things.
* The question was also asked as to what the purpose of the partnership associate role is; it was advised to let the associate contact the provider, rather than being proactive in this respect.

1. CCF and ECF refresh

* The DfE have established both a project group and an external reference group (both JNR and Emma Hollis, NASBTT are members).
* At the first meeting, UCET warned against merging the two frameworks, and JNR does not expect any significant changes to be made.
* It was noted that this does not feel like a genuine review and UCET have recommended that a wider remit of members of the reference group is included (see chat file for list of current people).
* PV noted that members of the UCET CPD forum have been working on the idea of ‘tracked changes’ version of the ECF, thereby individualizing it while complying with the recommendations.
* PV asked if it might be possible for a trust or foundation to support the work on it to publish a pilot sooner; JNR asked PV to identity some costings.
* UCET emphasized the many gaps in the ECF, including on equality and diversity (JNR thanks VL in her absence for a briefing note), on the scope to draw on a range of research-based evidence to inform ITE programmes, and SEND.

1. Recruitment

* Recruitment to Primary is down by 5%, and offers are down 16%
* Recruitment to Secondary is up by 14% and offers are down 2%
* Budgets are the same timescale and level as last year.
* There is a 10K relocation payment for international students.
* Cost-of-living pressures are a significant factor for student trainees applications; NASBTT have suggested using unspent bursaries as hardship grants.
* There is an increasing number of applications from overseas students, particularly from Africa, which is causing an unsustainable workload for HEI’s admissions teams and skewing rejection data rates; it was asked if the DfE can strip out the overseas’ applicants’ data.
* The impact of Covid is another reason for low applications, with potential trainees not having the same confidence and experience in the classroom as those pre-Covid; DfE should be reminded to think about how to reflect this in its marketing activities.
* Career-changers have increased and the mental health of trainees and NQTs is an on-going issue; the advertising of DfE does not reflect the reality.
* It was suggested that student fees could be written off, as part of evidence to the Select Committee Inquiry.
* It was noted that the parents of undergraduate trainees have expressed concerns over both the mental health aspects of training to be a teacher and pastoral issues; one provider noted that in the BAME community they work with, teaching is not a profession that parents would promote.
* The self-sacrifice ethos of the current generation has disappeared, and it is not reasonable to expect young people to make sacrificial life choices. They want to enter a profession which they both enjoy and feel respected and valued in, and this is being lost in the teaching profession.
* JNR summarized the key changes to the Apply system.

1. Post-compulsory teacher education issues

* The DIT qualification is replacing the DET, and will be the only qualification for the sector.
* Pre-service bursaries notifications have been issued, but providers whose OfSTED grade is RI or inadequate are not eligibe.
* There is an issue of equity; not all providers are being inspected under the same framework.

1. Developments in Wales and Northern Ireland

* UCET have written to the Welsh Government requesting an urgent review into the overlapping and extremely burdensome regulatory requirements placed on ITE providers by Estyn and the EWC.
* DENI has also written to UCET NI higher education liaison group about the future of the GTCNI and a recent consultation on its activities.
* JM gave an update on the Scottish Deans of Education group, where in Scotland there has been a review of ITE programmes, similar to England, and there are parallel concerns regarding recruitment.

1. Review of UCET strategy, governance and organizational structure

* KM thanked JNR, LM and SS for their work on the proposal to consult the membership about the strategy, governance and structure of UCET.
* JNR summarized the key points of the changes, with the importance of reaffirming UCET’s commitment to the university sector.
* Teach First will no longer be members of UCET and the new NiOT cannot be given membership, even if they are given degree awarding powers.
* The UCET Executive will be slimmed down from 4 to 2 places and co-opted places from 5 to 3.
* The role of Management Forum will be enhanced to feed in to the UCET Executive, and will be renamed to the UCET Assembly, with NASBT, the CCT and the School Reference Group being members (both CS and SH were supportive of this proposal).
* The current strategy will remain in place until 2025.
* It was suggested that UCET be more strategic in terms of how it raises any questions with the DfE, rather than emailing individual requests as they come in.
* No changes are to be proposed to the current roles and ways of working, apart from the Policy and Liaison officer role.
* The office space is Endsleigh Gardens is now redundant and UCET are not paying rent or utility costs (energy, broadband, photocopier) for it; CS kindly offered JNR hotdesk space at the CCT’s new office space at the Coram Campus, Brunswick Square, if needed.
* KM suggested a further proof of the document before circulating to the wider membership next term.
* It was agreed that the proposals be discussed with UCET forums and committees.

1. UCET Conference 2023

* The conference venue has changed to Leeds this year, on 14-15 November, and there are good transport links from London and the North.
* Four keynote speakers have been agreed to date, with two plenaries and some workshops agreed.
* CD noted that it would be useful to see a provisional copy of the programme if available as UCL IoE has to put budgetary forecasts in now for attendance at events in academic year 2023/2024; **MF to send list of workshop topics to CD.**

1. Any other business

* It was agreed to cancel the 25th April EC meeting and hold an interim meeting mid-term if necessary.
* The EC agreed that the end of Summer term 2023 meeting will be in person in London, and will be an all-day event (10:30 – 3:00pm) to allow more time for discussion and planning; **MF to find a venue.**
* The sensitive issue was raised of the suicide of the headteacher Ruth Perry, after an OfSTED inspection, and if/how UCET should respond publicly.
* It was agreed that a statement of solidarity and awareness of the impact of inspections upon teachers should be drafted, and issued as and when appropriate.

1. Date of the next meeting: **it was agreed to hold the Summer meeting online and the first meeting of the Autumn term, 26th September, in person, in London – venue TBC.**