

Response to the Worton Review 2009

As the umbrella organisation representing the Modern Languages community in HE, the **University Council of Modern Languages** welcomes the HEFCE Review of Modern Foreign Languages provision in HE in England conducted by Professor Worton, and looks forward to the national meeting (01/12/09) called to consider action in response to the report's timely and wide-reaching recommendations. UCML strongly endorses these recommendations, not least the establishment of a high profile forum bringing together key partners and stakeholders to provide national leadership (R12), mandatory status for the KS4 language target (R17) and continued funding for the *Routes into Languages* programme (R13). We also welcome the appeal to funding bodies to consider further investment in Language-based Area Studies Centres, widening the global focus (R14). UCML is committed to working together with professional bodies and associations, especially the Association of University Language Centres, the HEA Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistic and Area Studies, and CILT, the National Centre for Languages, to **achieve the unity of purpose called for in Recommendation 1**. We recognise that effective response to all subsequent recommendations depends crucially on the MFL community working with the above bodies to shape the agenda, achieve consensus and promote shared messages regarding the identity and purpose of language study in universities. **UCML, AULC, LLAS and CILT** therefore propose to develop a programme of strategic consultation and collaborative work as follows:

National Consultation

National HE consultation (<3 meetings across the country) led by a **Steering Group** representing the above, and engaging with Deans/Heads of Schools/ Departments/Centres (as relevant) together with representatives of national subject associations, to consider action in response to the review on the basis of clearly identified themes and questions.

Working Groups

Establishment of 3 working groups (up to 5 members in each, providing broad representation of different languages/sub-disciplines/communities) to address key issues under 3 broad headings:

- 1. Shared Identity and Common Purpose – Unity embracing Diversity**

(Chair: Pam Moores with support from LLAS)

- 2. Institutional agendas and internationalisation**

(Chair: Mike Kelly with support from LLAS)

- 3. Languages in HE: our relation and contribution to society**

(Chair: Elizabeth Andersen with support from CILT)

Each group will consider **all** Worton's recommendations from its dedicated perspective, recognising overlap, and will report to the Steering Group which will draw together conclusions and proposals for action. We will seek funding for post-doctoral and administrative support for meeting organisation, associated data collection, and focused report-writing over a 9 month period. We will make interim reports to the national forum established in response to Recommendation 12, to professional associations and to the HE Languages community at their July 2010 conference (organised by LLAS). Completion and dissemination of a written report are anticipated by early autumn 2010.