

UCU NEC elections: Vote Angie McConnell for Vice-President (Further Education)

For a member-focused, member-led union

If elected I will:

- Work to make our Union more open, democratic and representative
- Listen to your views and ensure they are listened to at national level
- Work for a fighting union which puts the interests of the members at its heart and is member-led

My track record shows I have the experience, the skills and the qualities necessary to do the job.

I am pleased to have the support of Chairs of the sub committees of the NEC, the Immediate Past President, and leading UCU activists all of whom know what is needed to do the job effectively, as well as many branch members.

What I stand for

● **The current attacks on the public sector are absolutely unacceptable.** Our members are disproportionately affected by them. Part-time and hourly paid members, the majority of whom are women, are usually the first hit as universities and colleges cut back on staff.

● **Improving participation**

– women represent nearly 50% of our membership (May 2011 figures). The NEC comes close to representing this because we have national seats reserved for women members.

UCU has tried hard to create an NEC which represents the

diversity of our membership. We have a large NEC and while welcoming initiatives that would improve the working of the NEC I would resist moves to weaken that representation.

● **Equality structures** – the Equality structures of the union are a vital forum in which the views of our diverse membership can be heard.

I would like to see those structures strengthened to give more power in decision making to our women, LGBT, Black and Disabled members.

I supported the motion to last year's Congress, which was unfortunately unsuccessful, which would have meant a move towards equality reps being elected from the appropriate equality group.

● **NEC must give a lead.** Our members have shown their willingness to support national action, as shown by the magnificent support for last year's action to defend our pensions.

No-one takes strike action lightly, but the NEC quite rightly took the decision to stand up to the government.

The strikes in March and June had a galvanising effect on other teaching unions and paved the way for the outstanding action of 30th November.

UCU's stance on fighting pension cuts since last year has proven to be correct. In the run up to the

November action about 100,000 new members joined trade unions.

Elections
run from
6 February to
1 March

● **The NEC must also listen.** In FE the successful boycott of IfL fees came about in response to our members' feelings of anger, expressed through branch meetings and motions to FE Conference.

I was a member of the IfL Advisory Council and spoke out about UCU members' feelings of anger. I have supported the boycott of fees and am no longer a member of the Advisory Council.

● I fully support the action taken by our students in protest against tuition fees. Education should be accessible to all. The old adage that education is a right not a privilege was never more true than it is today and if elected, I will continue to push for the abolition of fees.

● If the current HE White Paper goes through it will have a potentially devastating effect on HE and will lead to HE provision which is far removed from any idea of open access. We cannot allow education to be privatised.

● If elected I will be an active national officer and prioritise branch and regional visits as I believe it is an effective way of understanding the views of you, the members.

Please also support Mark Campbell for general secretary

Endorsements

“Angie has been a stalwart of UCU. She’s a champion of equality, supporter of those in need and I fully expect her to be an outstanding President.”

Gavin Reid

Chair of Education Committee

“Angie has worked tirelessly for UCU, She has been active at branch, regional and national levels. She was an inspiring chair of the NEC Equality Committee and was also chair of the union’s Legal Panel and a member of Congress Business Committee. No-one has a better knowledge of our union’s structures and procedures.

“In my opinion, Angie is uniquely well placed to become vice president, and ultimately president, of UCU and I urge you to vote for her.”

Alan Whitaker

Immediate Past President

“When I was elected this year as Chair of the Equality Committee after Angie stood down I was well aware that she would be a hard act to follow.

“Angie’s commitment to promoting the interests of all members has been second to none and she remains a constant source of wise counsel and advice.

“I know that she would be a first rate president of the union in the difficult times ahead and I have no hesitation in urging members to vote for her.”

Laura Miles

LGBT (FE) NEC rep, Chair of the LGBT Members Standing Committee, Chair of Equality Committee

“As well as being a determined activists and branch officer in defence of members’ terms and conditions locally, Angie has proved herself a resolute champion and strategist in the struggle for equality in post-16 education.

“As Chair of the UCU’s Equality Committee, she has achieved a considerable advance in the union’s policy and practice in this area, particularly in moving issues of equality to centre stage, and making them part of the union’s industrial agenda.

“As a member of the Strategy and Finance Committee, she brought her eye for detail and her dogged perseverance, to bear on the union’s financial decision-making to ensure that the union’s assets and members’ long-term interests in the union are secure.

“Her most important quality is her commitment to trade union democracy.. She has always been powerfully insistent that the UCU must be, and must remain, a member-led union, and must resist the blandishments of a servicing model of trade unionism.

“The position of President, is primarily one of ensuring the observance of the constitution as a defence of members’ control over their trade union, as well as being the figurehead and public face of the union. In this respect, I cannot think of a more able candidate for this role than Angie McConnell.

“She has been a reliable and insightful colleague and ally. As Chair of the Recruitment, Organising and Campaigns Committee (ROCC) since the union’s formation, I have no hesitation in commending Angie to you as our future Vice President.”

Tom Hickey

UCU National Executive, Chair ROCC, member of Strategy and Finance Committee, and Chair of University of Brighton UCU

“Angie McConnell has shown a huge commitment to the union she has worked locally, regionally and nationally (at the same time) and supported a great number of members in case work and even more with campaigning.

“She has encouraged and supported new activists – led training and worked with Regional and National Officials to develop policy and procedures that have benefited countless union members. She has an extremely sharp eye for detail and is the person that many people go to for advice on rules and standing orders.

“She has been instrumental in the steering of the equality agenda in UCU as chair of the equality committee.

“I support Angie for President – she know this union inside out – she has a great sense of fairness and sound judgement, through her long standing experience across the sectors she knows the members she represents and in her unique quiet and confident manner will not shirk the responsibilities of President to bring the lay members concerns to the forefront of the union.”

Maire Daley

**Liverpool Community College
UCU & TUC Women’s Committee**