

UCU NEC elections: Vote Adrian Budd for UK-Elected members (Higher Education)

Elections
run from
4 February to
1 March

For a national strategy to defend the public university

Our union has a proud record of resistance to the neoliberal agenda of both the Con-Dem coalition and its New Labour predecessor. At the same time we have also championed the struggle for equality, both as a matter of principle and in the knowledge that we are weaker if the government and employers can divide us and set parts of our membership against others.

The severity and length of the current economic crisis ought to have brought an end to neoliberalism long ago. Yet capitalism's topsy-turvy 'logic' ensures that, while UCU members and the wider labour movement have faced years of falling real living standards, all the mainstream parties remain committed to some form of neoliberalism.

The decline in living standards has been reinforced by attacks on our pensions, pressures towards performance management and performance related pay, and increased workloads.

On top of all that members are increasingly fearful of redundancy as the new fee regime has resulted in under-recruitment to many courses. As austerity intensifies, our willingness to resist government offensives and to defend equality is more important than ever.

Resistance to government attacks on education is not about defending narrow self-interest but recognising that our public universities face grave threats to their integrity and social usefulness.

While students are saddled with debts on a scale that was inconceivable just a few years ago, so universities come under ever greater pressure to promote a narrow instrumentalism, to emphasise courses'



vocational rather than intellectual qualities, and to fill the gap left by governments' retreat from the goal of full employment by helping students enhance their employability skills.

To achieve all this, stressed and over-worked academics (many of them on insecure casual contracts) attempt to juggle their commitment to their students with exponentially expanding administrative burdens.

Over-seeing these processes are governance structures increasingly dominated by a narrow entrepreneurial ethos promoted by an unaccountable caste of entrepreneurial mediocrities. Education's emancipatory potential is in danger of being submerged by a narrow market-driven instrumentalist philistinism.

London South Bank

In recent years the neoliberal offensive took a particular local form at London South Bank. Management announced its intention to introduce performance related

pay via a new 'appraisal' scheme and shortly afterwards withdrew from national pay bargaining.

There is a common 'logic' to these management objectives – LSBU staff are seen as having separate interests to those in other HEIs and, internally, as isolated individuals in competition with their colleagues.

This narrow-minded, anti-social miserableness dominates elite thinking, but there is nothing inevitable about its victory over the traditions of the labour movement. Management plans for PRP were de-railed by opposition from the UCU branch which worked closely with UNISON and the GMB.

The branch also boycotted appraisal for over two years (despite the financial costs for members seeking university support for conference fees and travel expenses) and ultimately began industrial action with a one-day strike in June 2011. In the spring of 2012 management announced that it was returning to national pay bargaining.

Victories have been won at local level, but our union needs a national strategy capable of harnessing members' energy and principled determination to meet the serious challenges we face and of beginning to reverse the assault on education and the wider welfare state. As a member of UCU left I am committed to doing all that I can to achieve this.

Please also vote for Liz Lawrence for Vice-President and Gavin Reid for Honorary Treasurer.

Liz's election blog is:
<http://lizlawrence4vp.wordpress.com>

Please vote for the following candidates in the national officer and NEC elections

Vice-President
Elizabeth Lawrence

Honorary Treasurer
Gavin Reid

Honorary Secretary, Scotland
Carlo Morelli

Disabled members
Rob Murthwaite

Black members
Dawn Livingston

LGBT members (HE)
Pura Ariza

UK-elected HE
Paul Blackledge, Adrian Budd, Peter Dwyer, Jeff Fowler, Marion Hersh, Veronica Killen, Gavin Reid, Sean Wallis

UK-elected FE
David Armstrong, Mandy Brown, Alison Lord, Loraine Monk

Midlands FE
Alan Barker, Brian O'Sullivan

North West HE
Eleni Michalopoulou, Jo McNeill

North West FE
Darren Tolliday, Isabel Brotherston

Midlands HE
Ron Mendel, Nicholas Cimini

South HE
Patricia McManus, Ellen Seiss, Lesley Kane

STV VOTING SYSTEM

To maximise votes for progressive candidates we ask you to do the following:

- Please use your votes to **first endorse all UCU Left candidates** and only after that use lower preferences for other progressive candidates in each relevant list; and
- Give your highest preferences in the UK-Elected list to UCU Left candidate(s) **from your region**

Find out more at www.uculeft.org