

# UCU NEC elections: Vote Alan Barker

for Midlands member (Further Education)

# FOR A DEMOCRATIC, FIGHTING UNION

Elections  
run from  
4 February to  
1 March

I HAVE BEEN a member of the NEC for two terms (four years) and during that time I have consistently sought to:

- Achieve better pension arrangements for lecturers.
- Campaign for better pay.
- Adopt strategies for a decrease in workload.
- Promote greater democracy within the union.

On the first two points I have advocated taking industrial action where appropriate and have been a strong proponent of working alongside other unions where we have the same interests.

Last year this involved voting to 'name the date' for further action to defend our pensions even when other unions did not, and I believe that UCU Left supporters were instrumental in starting the fightback against the government's austerity drive.

This is important even though some of the leadership of larger unions ultimately capitulated.

I am consequently very proud of the part I was able to play in the large demonstrations and strikes that became a feature of the early years of the Tory Coalition.

On the workload issue, at our annual FE Conference in June I moved a motion calling for a significant reduction in our teaching load, implementing a work to rule if necessary, and was involved in



initiating the current campaign over pay and workloads.

This has shown some early signs of potential success, especially where there is a strong local branch, and I hope to have the opportunity to develop this.

## Democracy

I am also strongly in favour of participatory democracy rather than sending loaded questions to the entire membership and my voting record on the NEC and at Congress proves this.

Trade unions have always worked best where face-to-face members' meetings take place, a full discussion of the issues is conducted, and decisions made collectively.

This process ensures that we have a genuinely member led union rather than a top-down structure where decisions are made at the top then simply rubber-stamped by the membership.

I have also served on the Education Committee where I have attempted to form a strategy around the core concerns of our members.

I have always seen our trade union as necessarily being a defender of educational principles and our students just as much as defending lecturers and our pay and conditions. That philosophy is a thread running through all my trade union work.

As a UCU Left member, I believe that the scale of the assault on our working conditions, pay, pensions and on the very nature of FE demands a serious collective response.

The only way that the decisions of the government can be overturned is through pressure from every member of our union alongside other unions. The NEC must strive to generate and focus that pressure.

I believe in NEC reps being accountable to members. If elected I will continue to campaign over the above issues and will always consult with members through our democratic regional structures and will report back to members so that the dialogue always continues.

**Vote Alan Barker 1, Brian O'Sullivan 2**

**I also urge you to 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**

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