

UCU NEC elections: Vote David Armstrong for UK-Elected members (Further Education)

For a fighting union in touch with its grassroots

Elections
run from
4 February to
1 March

I have taught Business Studies for 27 years and in that time I have witnessed a steady decline in the status, prestige and real pay of FE staff.

I became involved with NATFHE at the time of Incorporation, the effect and intention of which was the systematic destruction of Lecturers' bargaining power and morale. I became active in NATFHE because I saw our profession being attacked.

Our Branch enjoys an extremely high percentage UCU membership, mainly due to Branch solidarity supporting the tireless efforts of its Officers in negotiation and casework.

In my 19 years as a Branch Negotiator we have successfully held off most of management's annual attempts to erode our conditions.

In the 2011 Barnet & Southgate College merger we ensured that all Southgate lecturers transferred to the far-superior Barnet conditions, among the very best in England.

Nationally, politicians have made our members scapegoats for the greed and incompetence of the financial sector.

However in the current hostile political and financial climate we will only make headway in pay and conditions by cooperating closely with our sister unions in fighting the constant attacks on staff pay and conditions in the whole public sector.



We must:

- Ensure that Colleges meet their moral and legal obligations in treating part-timers equitably.
- Fight the insidious growth of malign employment policies e.g. over-observation
- Ensure that OFSTED helps improve standards rather than merely enforcing ill-conceived political dogma.
- Ensure a return to meaningful national bargaining where all colleges must honour national agreements; moreover the Government must take responsibility in enforcing this and to providing decent, honest and effective levels of FE funding.
- Continue the excellent UCU recruitment campaign.

I will also continue in my determination to ensure transparency, accountability and democracy in FE funding and college governance.

Principles

Of course these principles apply equally to UCU itself. However since last year's General Secretary election it has become increasingly obvious that certain factions within the union are intent on neutralising the democratic structure and destroying the campaigning effectiveness of the union.

I am not a member of any political party but I have been a supporter of UCU Left since its inception and will continue to assist in upholding its principles of maintaining a fighting, democratic and member-led union:

- In touch with its grassroots membership
- With a Regional structure that nurtures solidarity between Branches
- That can respond quickly and effectively against the constant attacks by the government and employers.

Please also vote for

- Liz Lawrence for Vice-President
- 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