

# UCU National Officer elections: Vote Gavin Reid for Honorary Treasurer

Elections  
run from  
4 February to  
1 March

# Secure finances *and* a democratic fighting union

**F**urther and Higher Education face a period of significant and probably irreversible change. The barrage of policy offensives from Government seems endless: the new tuition fee, semi- (if not full) privatisation, the racism of the UKBA and the impact on the recruitment of international students, the incessant demands of management for more from an increasingly overworked staff.

Pay is stagnant but median settlements in the rest of the economy are running at 2.5%, the employers have had their first bite out of the USS pension scheme, TPS members face the public sector pension cuts, while on-going job losses are all extremely challenging for the Union.

We must recognise collectively the scale of the threats and be prepared to fight for every job. We will have to be prepared to fight for our terms and conditions as the sector steamrollers towards the lowest common denominator.

The way we prioritize our finances is now critical to the future health of UCU. Pay is stagnant in both HE and FE, while members face a troubled period of industrial relations, and a vicious government hell bent on an ideological offensive, each requiring ever-increasing resources.

Membership had grown healthily following merger but is now in decline, having significant implications for



revenue. Together these problems will force an imminent re-examination of the budget.

Nevertheless, we must not allow financial difficulties to overtake the democratic wishes of members, either locally or nationally – this is the key challenge.

## Strategy

We need a convincing national strategy, which has wide support, for the defence of members' jobs, contractual terms, pay and pensions, including well-organized and well-supported branches.

Inevitably, membership will decline further if we are unable to respond effectively either in the workplace, or at national level. I support the notion of the academic team and the rightful place of academic-related staff within it.

As a national pay negotiator and Vice-Chair of the Higher Education Committee at the height of the USS and

TPS campaign I worked closely with FE negotiators to fight for national industrial action to defend pay and pensions.

Subscription rates currently favour the better off and are an impediment to many lower earners joining UCU. The top monthly rate for those earning >£40k is only £19.07 compared with Unison who charge £22.50 to those earning >£35k.

We need to find urgently a subscription model that will maximize both income and membership density, while larger LA/branches should be required to raise a minimum local subscription.

The protracted saga over the sale of the former NATFHE headquarters led to significant annual expenditure in interest payments, rates, and security of the empty property that prevented the Union from prioritizing other activities. Fortunately this seems to be behind us and those savings must be used effectively.

As a UCU Left supporter I strongly believe that the union must look outwards, the current navel-gazing about the size of the National Executive must end speedily and we must ensure that we protect all our members, especially the most vulnerable.

Please also vote for Liz Lawrence for Vice-President

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](http://www.uculeft.org)