

UCU NEC elections

Vote to defend education and build a fighting union

We need a strategy of resistance to austerity

The election for NEC members and national officers begins on Monday 4 February and remains open until 1 March.

UCU Left is urging UCU members to vote for the candidates below, all of whom are principled defenders of public education in both FE and HE and determined defenders of members' interests – both their interests as educationalists and their interests as employees.

In particular we urge support for Liz Lawrence for Vice President and Gavin Reid, Honorary Treasurer. Liz's election blog is here: <http://lizlawrence4vp.wordpress.com>

Education is under attack by the Tory Coalition government. Our response must be to build the biggest and broadest possible resistance to this.

The current economic crisis, now entering an unprecedented triple-dip recession, has driven HMV, Jessops and others to the wall at the cost of thousands of



Protesting in support of London Met students who were threatened with deportation

private sector jobs, but the public sector is under threat too.

Falling

A recent *Guardian* article described the extent of the crisis in Higher Education caused by falling student numbers for a second year and increasing market competition for 'customers' (students).

It flagged up the serious possibility of the financial collapse of some HE institutions.

If that were to happen, the impact in terms of our

employment opportunities to study for future generations, and on our local communities, would be devastating.

Rising tuition fees, fear of debt, and cuts to ESOL and EMA have already discouraged tens of thousands from remaining in education, particularly working class and mature applicants.

Waiting in the wings are private providers and private equity companies that are

Elections run from 4 February to 1 March

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

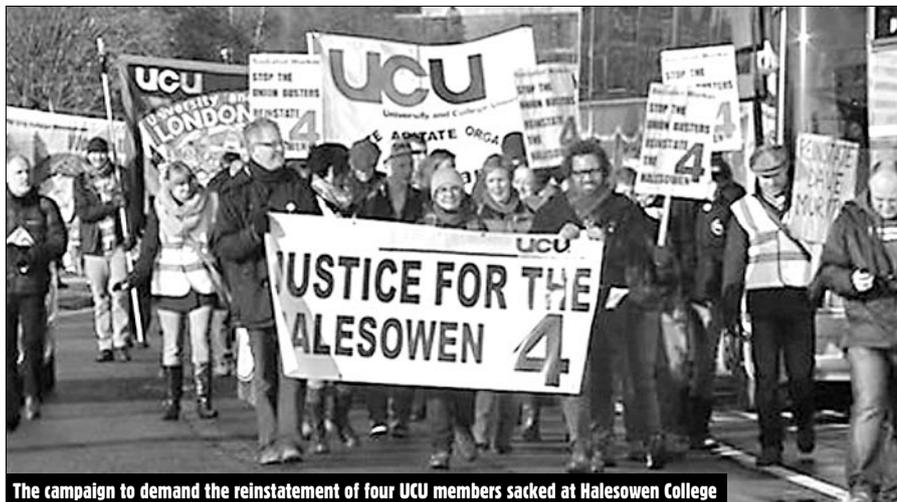
South HE
Patricia McManus, Ellen Seiss, Lesley Kane

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



The campaign to demand the reinstatement of four UCU members sacked at Halesowen College

ready to snap up the profitable remnants of any collapses of institutions in the post-school sectors.

The threat of privatisation is already real for institutions which have suffered large falls in recruitment like London Met, UEL, Liverpool Hope, and others.

London Met's recruitment suffered a devastating blow when the UKBA suspended its licence to recruit foreign students last summer.

Reputation

The Government's determination to use education institutions as an extension of the Borders Agency has deterred foreign students and has done untold damage to recruitment and to the reputation of UK higher education across the world.

Though the Government wants to introduce the market throughout education, and to privatise as much of it as is possible, the teaching unions are an impediment to this aim.

Michael Gove has challenged the unions by threatening to end national bargaining, and encouraging head teachers to impose financial penalties on teachers who take action over pay and workloads.

This demands a serious response. All the teaching unions must rise to this challenge.

When they do so, the UCU must offer the maximum solidarity. Where the managements of schools go today, the managements of universities and colleges will seek to go tomorrow.

The candidates listed overleaf want the UCU to remain a campaigning union, controlled by its subs-paying members, not a union run by its full-time national officials.

They are opposed to cutting the union's staffing at a time when we need intensive recruitment drives for new members, high quality research to underpin our campaigns, and vibrant regional offices to support branches that are in struggle.

They are opposed to attempts to undermine members' representation and union democracy.

All believe there is an alternative approach which avoids a race to the bottom by combining reductions in unnecessary expenditure, modestly increasing subs, and focusing on campaigning and raising the union's national and local political and industrial profile to encourage new membership.

People join unions when they see them fighting on their behalf, as is shown by all of the evidence of recruitment patterns to the UCU over the last six years. All these candidates believe that

what we are facing in post-16 education cannot just be fought locally or piecemeal.

It demands a national strategy of action, including industrial action.

It is this which has been sorely lacking from the majority of the current UCU leadership over the past year or so, a leadership whose pessimistic outlook and 'wait for Labour' approach has led them to being more concerned to dampen down opportunities to fight back than seriously to address the scale of the assault we are facing.

That was why our current leadership refused to organise action after the HE pay ballot in early Autumn in which members had voted to take action short of a strike.

Anger

There is a growing mood of anger and willingness to fight back. We can see this in the anti-cuts groups and campaigns springing up to oppose NHS cuts and benefits cuts.

We can see it in the large meetings of NUT reps recently which have demanded strike action from the leadership to defend their terms and conditions.

We have opportunities coming up in our own sector to set in place a series of national campaigns over pay and workloads, both in FE and HE.

The special HE conference on 27 February is one such opportunity, and similar opportunities exist in FE after the Further Education Committee voted for a campaign and ballots over workloads and pay.

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

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