

UCU NEC elections: Vote Loraine Monk

for UK-elected member (Further Education)

Building a future, Defending Further Education

Elections
run from
4 February to
1 March

I am asking for your support for re-election to the NEC. I am a lecturer on a fractional contract at Richmond Adult Community College. I was Chair of NESCOT UCU Branch from 2004-10, from where I was made redundant. I was prominent there in defending members, opposing dress codes and opposing a punitive inspection regime.

I have been a member of the NEC for four years, representing the South Region. In my time on the NEC I have served on the Recruiting and Organising Committee (ROCC), the Women's Committee and the International Working Group.

I was also Chair of UCU South East Region for five years and a member of UCU's delegation to the TUC Congress and Women's TUC. I also served on UCU/NUT Liaison Committee.

I have long experience of active involvement in trade unions. Prior to my UCU membership I was a shop steward in ACTS/ TGWU working in a TUC Unemployed workers centre and a Nalگو Shop Steward.

I believe that:

- UCU must inspire its membership. That means arguing and campaigning for a positive message - against the cuts and for the educational opportunities that F.E. provides.
- UCU must continue to oppose privatisation and the market ethos at every opportunity.



- UCU must stand up for the interests of all its membership. Any changes to our democratic structures must aim to create a union representative of all our groups and sectors. Maintaining the existing equality structures is essential as is retaining our Regional network.
- UCU must increase membership, improve financial strength and support branch officers. That is best achieved as a campaigning union - because that's how we attract and retain our membership.
- UCU must promote FE issues- FE has a central role to play in changing people's lives and opportunities.
- UCU must lead a sustained campaign against rising workloads and job cuts. We need a high-profile campaign against punitive lesson observations. I am proud of being part of an NEC and union that supported the students in

their protests against higher fees and against the abolition of the EMA, that we boycotted the I.F.L. and played a leading role in the fight against cuts to our occupational pensions.

I strongly believe NEC reps must be accountable. During my time as an NEC rep I have tried to report back and seek members' views. As a UCU left supporter, I also want to see the union become more outward looking and less divided. Our strength is in working together.

We need to find a sense of hope that things can change. As education workers we should never accept the argument that to strike is to be destructive.

I firmly reject any pessimistic idea that to take action is hopeless and that the economic situation is unchangeable or that cuts are the only answer to the present economic climate.

As a union we must stand together to defend academic freedom and ensure that education is a right, and a right for everyone.

We need to find ways to work with other unions, students, pensioners and campaigning organisations to defend the Welfare State and build a new agenda for hope and change.

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