

UCU NEC elections: Vote Marion Hersh

for UK-Elected member (Higher Education)

Elections
run from
4 February to
1 March

In defence of education, academic freedom, and equality

My vision of education

I am passionate about education, particularly Higher Education. In the constant battles to stop the further undermining of our publicly funded education system it is easy to forget that education is wonderful and exciting, transforms lives, gives people opportunities, and enables them to challenge the government and change society. It is also the foundation of prosperity. Our contribution as teachers, researchers and academic related staff to the development of individuals and society as a whole is invaluable. This should be recognised with job security, decent pay and pensions and work-life balance.

Academic freedom in research and teaching is fundamental to this vision. Education should be properly funded through taxation and free to students. HE is essential to society and should be open to everyone not just the elite. The Research 'Excellence' Framework threatens academic freedom, as well as jobs, departments and even institutions.

Equality and anti-casualisation

Casualisation and the discrimination, bullying and harassment of women, black, LGBT, disabled and other members undermine and threaten us all. I am involved in the Scottish Anti-Casualisation and Equality and Human Rights Networks.

I am active in the campaign against xenophobic and racist immigration policy which threatens the international nature of (higher) education and could lead to the

closure of institutions. I support collective action, locally and nationally, to fight for equality and against casualisation. I have helped develop local initiatives for recruiting fixed term staff, including researchers.

Active campaigning should be supported by recruitment of more women, black, LGBT, disabled and hourly paid members and those on fixed term contracts, and supporting and encouraging their activism. We need both the legal scheme to take on more strategic equality and anti-casualisation cases and increased campaigning to reduce the need for legal action.

Activist and campaigner

I am a lifelong campaigner for peace, equality and social justice and actively involved in national and international solidarity. I juggle campaigning inside and outside UCU with a full-time job as a senior lecturer in Engineering at Glasgow University. I have had two two-year terms on the NEC and the Scottish Executive and campaigned on pensions, regional equality networks, equality, stress, marketisation of education, points based immigration, commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day, Stop the War and equality impact assessments. At Glasgow I was actively involved in the successful campaign to save the Crichton Campus and in successful industrial action against redundancies and have organised a women's group. I am an active member of the local committee as the green rep.

I am on the Scottish TUC LGBT Committee. I have participated in campaigns and helped organise lobbies against job losses in Scottish Education

Faculties and at Dundee and Stirling, department closures at Strathclyde and Herriot Watt and against INTO at Glasgow.

I am involved in campaigning with students and anti-cuts groups. I am an active member of Unite Against Fascism, the Campaign against Nuclear Disarmament and the Campaign against Climate Change Trade Union Steering Group, and have recently campaigned against ATOS and their attacks on disabled people.

Union democracy and industrial action

I believe in participatory union democracy with members attending meetings to discuss and vote on issues. We should use electronic media and social networking to build member involvement and recruit new members, but not replace participation by electronic referendums.

Real democracy also means implementing industrial action, whether strike action or action short of a strike, when members vote for it. We are also going to need industrial action in order to fight for jobs, against cuts and closures and for decent pay and pensions. Like many members I do not like the prospect of industrial action, but I recognise that it is necessary.

Vote Marion Hersh for UK-Elected member (Higher Education)

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