

# UCU NEC elections: Vote Rob Murthwaite

for Disabled Members Seat (Higher Education)

Elections  
run from  
4 February to  
1 March

## Put the fight for disability equality at the centre of our union

**T**he past two years have seen an unprecedented attack on disabled people. Unemployment amongst disabled people of working age is higher than in any other group in society. Most who do work are employed in the public sector and job cuts in the sector will have a disproportionate effect on disabled people.

Disabled people are already twice as likely as non-disabled people to leave education with no qualifications. The abolition of EMA, significant increases in HE fees and cuts to courses will also significantly disadvantage disabled students. Abolition of Incapacity Benefit, plans to cut Disability Living Allowance by 20%, abolition of the Independent Living Fund and cuts to Access to Work will further undermine the ability of disabled people to gain employment, live independently and push millions further into poverty.

We need a union that is prepared to fight to defend every member's job, our pay and conditions and an education system that is open to all irrespective of their background or physical or mental abilities. We also need a union that is willing to join with any other union or campaigning group to defend the welfare state.

I have been a disability equality campaigner and trade unionist for over 30 years. Over the past four years I



have been an active member of the UCU Disabled Members Standing Committee and for the past year an active member of the Disabled People Against the Cuts (DPAC) steering committee. I was involved in the occupation of the DWP HQ organised by DPAC during the paralympics and the blocking of Park Lane on 20 October last year organised by DPAC.

I am currently a lecturer within the faculty of law at London Metropolitan University specialising in Equality Law. I have been an active member of the UCU branch co-ordinating committee and branch equalities officer for four years. The recent attack on international students at London Metropolitan University was part of the government's strategy of 'playing the race card', the consequences for London Met have been dramatic and are likely to be repeated at other HE institutions.

Neither has the government hesitated to brand disabled people as scroungers in an attempt to give cover to their attacks on welfare. The defence of equality must be central to our fight to defend education and the welfare state and public sector. I am a supporter of the UCU left and as such believe that our union must develop a strategy to defend our jobs and conditions and education in general. If this is to be successful issues of equality must be at its heart.

### If elected I will:

- Fight to ensure that issues of disability equality are at the heart of the union's industrial relations agenda
- Fight to ensure that issues of disability equality are a central aspect of campaigns on jobs, pay and conditions and in defence of education
- Organise to ensure that disabled members play an active role in a democratic, member-led union
- Argue for solidarity with groups fighting attacks on the welfare state including and in particular disabled people's organisations.

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**

Find out more at [www.uculeft.org](http://www.uculeft.org)

### 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**