

UCU NEC elections: Vote Sean Wallis

for UK-elected member (Higher Education)

For a national campaign to defend HE

Elections run from 4 February to 1 March

I am asking you to vote for me because I have spent my career speaking up for research staff in Higher Education. We need a union that is outspoken in the defence of critical, rigorous and independent research, and a Higher Education worthy of the name.

I became active in AUT and then UCU because I believe that all who work in a University have their part to play – both in our academic endeavours and in the battle to defend our sector.

What is at stake

The very idea of a University is under attack from a Government and political class who fear a critical, independently-minded, University-educated populace.

Internally we face a new generation of ‘pragmatic’ managers who think that instead of leading society forward, the University should sell itself to the market. Money is everything. Courses are to be judged by whether they are fashionable or vocational – not whether they are intellectually demanding.

We have an historic responsibility in UCU to stand up and defend the independence of UK research in the sciences, humanities and the arts – and to defend the necessary academic freedom of inquiry required to carry out this research. I warmly encourage UCU members to get involved in campaigns like the Council to Defend British Universities.

At UCL we recently led a successful



campaign to stop our University abolishing the academic statute. But we cannot fight college by college and expect to win. We need a national strategy in defence of our Profession – just as we do over Pay and Pensions.

The Government fees regime is in crisis. English Universities have lost 14% of their student intake. Our members’ jobs are on the line. The economics are unsustainable, while companies like Pearsons are waiting in the wings. They see our crisis as their opportunity.

We have to win an argument among the population at large: Universities are critically important for an educated

society, and must be defended.

This means reversing the Government cuts and dismantling fees. To do this we need to develop the confidence of our members to speak up for our profession.

We must work with all who share our goals – including the NUS, our sister unions, and campaigns like Science is Vital and the CDBU – to build a national political campaign to defend HE.

Defending research means defending staff

Defending research integrity means defending the staff who carry out that research. University research staff have as much right to a career as anyone else.

Equally importantly, hire-and-fire undermines UK science. Research is long-term. Yet research staff are frequently dismissed at the end of projects – a terrible waste of talent.

Now, even in the “elite” universities, university senior managers see the solution to an uncertain future as demanding that Professors’ and Lecturers’ contracts are weakened. Instead of improving the lot of researchers, management are increasingly seeing the use of casual employment – the “research staff model” – as the future for lecturing staff.

I am a member of UCU Left, a hard-working branch secretary and a defender of research staff. Vote for me for a union that represents you and fights for you.

Please also vote for

- Liz Lawrence for Vice-President
- 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