

UCU NEC elections: Vote Andreas Bieler

for UK-elected members (Higher Education)

Elections
run from
February
3rd-28th

Resisting austerity, Fighting for the public university

I am a Professor of Political Economy in the School of Politics and IR at the University of Nottingham and have been an active member of UCU since 2003.

Between September 2011 and August 2013 I was the President of the local UCU association at Nottingham University. I am committed to a lay-member, democratic, fighting union in defense of universal education.

Joining the dots

As a supporter of UCU Left, I believe we need a union which combines the struggle for salaries and pensions with a struggle against zero hours contracts and casualisation as well as against the marketization of Further and Higher Education and the public sector more widely.

A struggle which means mobilizing first and then talking to employers from a position of strength!

The current attack on salaries, pensions and general working conditions in Further and Higher Education is unprecedented.

With many members coming under direct pressure as a result, it is clear that UCU will always have to support its case work function.

Nevertheless, as I see it we need to understand the attacks on Further and Higher Education as part of the general



austerity policies and attacks on the public sector as a whole.

In this situation, simply emphasizing the defense of individual colleagues is not enough, as it would aim to cure the symptoms rather than tackle the root causes of the problem.

Uniting with other campaigns

In my time as UCU President at Nottingham University, I worked on linking up the local association with other struggles in the city including the fight against NHS privatization, the Bedroom tax and the conversion of schools into Academies.

We can only be successful in our struggles for proper salaries and

pensions, if they are linked up with the demands and groups of closely related struggles against austerity.

If elected to the NEC, I will work towards linking UCU up with wider struggles against austerity!

As UCU, we are often emphasizing discussions with employers, at times at the expense of mobilization and struggle.

In my view, it was a mistake to abandon industrial action in order to discuss further changes within USS with the employers at a moment, when employers had not offered any concrete concessions.

A fighting union

If elected to the NEC, I will work towards making UCU into a fighting union first instead of a bargaining machine!

If put under enough pressure, employers will come and ask for negotiations themselves.

Then and only then is it likely that concrete achievements can be obtained.

There have been a number of incidents recently, when the police and University administration responded heavy-handedly to student demonstrations on several campuses in the UK.

If elected to the NEC, I will work towards close co-operation with students' movements to ensure that universities remain a public space open to free discussions and protests.

Please vote Lesley McGorrigan 1, Jelena Timotijevic 2, Karen Evans 3, Andreas Bieler 4, Carlo Morelli 5, Eleni Michalopoulou 6, Paul Blackledge 7

Please also vote Loraine Monk for Vice President

Loraine's election blog is at: <http://lorainemonk4vp.wordpress.com>

Please vote for these NEC candidates who are supported by UCU Left

We urge you to vote for the candidates in the order they appear below.

Vice President FE
Loraine Monk

North East FE
Umit Yildiz, Lee Short

North East HE
Paul Blackledge, Mike Lammiman, Jeff Fowler

London and the East HE
Sean Wallis, Adrian Budd, Ioanna Ioannou

Women members HE
Sue Abbott, Saira Weiner, Nadia Edmond

Women members FE
Margot Hill, Rhiannon Lockley

UK-elected HE:
Lesley McGorrigan, Jelena Timotijevic, Carlo Morelli, Karen Evans, Andreas Bieler, Eleni Michalopoulou, Paul Blackledge

UK-elected FE:
Darren Tolliday, Alan Barker, Paul Pritchard, Allister Mactaggart, Margot Hill

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
- Give your highest preferences in the UK-Elected list to UCU Left candidate(s) from our region

Find out more at www.uculeft.org