

For a strong leadership: Defend education and our members

I am Branch Secretary for UCU Croydon College Branch where I have worked as a lecturer since 2007. I am standing for election to the NEC for the first time.

My experience at Croydon College has been one that is shared by many lecturers and UCU representatives: relentless pressure to drive down terms and conditions of employment, fundamental attacks on the quality and professionalism of education, staff working over hours to try and cope with the pressure of spiralling workloads, bullying of individual members and collective threats to staff in general with the setting of meaningless impossible deadlines.

A responsive union

I am against the union reducing the powers and relevance of the Regional Committees as it is at this level that lay activists can meet, develop strategies and build support for initiatives and solidarity actions in defence of member's interest.

Weakening regional structures will bureaucratize the organisation and make it less responsive to members' needs and the challenges we face.

Thatcher's anti trade union laws sought to move us away from collective practice to individualised atomised voting.



We should not be seeking to extend that atomisation through over reliance on Internet polls and voting in place of real discussion and debate.

Ideological assault

The attack on our terms and conditions and on our pay is an integral part of an ideological assault on Public Education in schools, colleges and universities. By grinding us down they grind down the provision.

If elected to the NEC the priorities I will argue for are:

1) Full support for Branches when they take on employers including working to co-ordinate and spread support for action

2) Strong Regional structures that can bring branches and members together across both FE and HE to co-ordinate campaigns and actions and build solidarity

3) Re-launch and re-invigorate political campaigning for quality publicly funded free education

4) No Zero Hours contracts, campaign to stop substitution of permanent posts with variable and sessional contracts.

5) Stop creeping introduction of performance related pay, For national pay awards above the rate of inflation and against cuts in pension provision.

6) Campaign to end punitive observation regimes and restore professional status for teachers through meaningful CPD developed by lecturers for lecturers

UCU has been an important influence within the Trade Union movement taking a stand against cuts in jobs pay and pensions.

Our members stand between the Con-Dem government attacks on education and the right to a free quality education service. The NEC must offer a lead to the fight.

Vote Margot Hill 1, Rhiannon Lockley 2

Please also vote Loraine Monk for Vice President

Lorraine's election blog is at:

<http://lorainemonk4vp.wordpress.com>

Please vote for the following candidates in the national officer and NEC elections

Vice President FE
Loraine Monk

North East HE
Paul Blackledge, Mike Lammiman, Jeff Fowler

North East FE
Lee Short, Umit Yildiz

London & the East HE
Adrian Budd, Ionna Ioannou, Sean Wallis

Women members HE
Sue Abbott, Nadia Edmond, Saira Weiner

Women members FE
Rhiannon Lockley, Margot Hill

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

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

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