

UCU NEC elections: Vote Paul Pritchard for UK-Elected member (Further Education)

Elections
run from
February
3rd-28th

A VOICE FOR MEMBERS, A PROMISE TO FIGHT

Throughout my working life I have been an active trade unionist and, for more years than I care to remember, have held representative positions in the respective unions in my workplace.

This has included being a workplace rep, through to full time officer roles and also delegate positions to TUC and Labour party conferences, I am now chair of Solihull Branch.

Throughout this time I have endeavoured to promote inclusion and involvement for all, both in work and in wider society and this is one of the reasons why I am a supporter of UCU Left.

After many years in industry I began a teaching career delivering trade union education at Solihull College, which was almost 11 years ago.

During that time I have witnessed a great deal of change in the FE Sector which very much reflects the experiences I had of privatisation within Royal Mail and BT as a CWU rep.

The drive toward marketisation of education and the impact this has on both employees and students, is very much symptomatic of conditions that workers are facing throughout the country.

Zero hour contracts

We are witnessing colleges drive down the numbers of full time staff and back filling with increased numbers of sessional lecturers on zero hour contracts, whilst at the same time increasing the workload of full time staff through growing admin requirements and unnecessarily onerous observation standards.



These zero hour contracts are a throwback to the casual conditions experienced by dock workers in the 1920s, they may well suit some people on the job market but they should be the exception, rather than the rule and, if elected to the NEC, I will ensure that every effort is made to replace them.

Over the last few years we have all experienced cuts in real pay that is being driven by the colleges as they strive to bring down costs and increase their surpluses.

Across the board, UCU members are being coerced into working harder for less and the only way this can be done is by applying pressure to take on more work and responsibilities.

One of the consequences of this pressurisation is the increased levels of bullying and harassment that UCU members are facing within their workplaces and, allied to increased stress levels, this is resulting in more and more

staff either falling ill or being left with no option but to leave their career.

Our students too are faced with challenges in getting back in to or progressing in further education as successive governments play games with funding streams and benefit systems.

Add in the fact that colleges are forced to chase the funding and protect their precious OFSTED ratings and the very people who are most in need of accessible tertiary education are denied it as the courses they need are either not being run or they aren't allowed the funding.

In order to tackle these and other issues facing our members, UCU needs to have a member-led NEC that will be representative, democratic and accountable that involves members in direction setting and decision making in a meaningful way.

If elected I will seek to ensure that UCU

- Is representative of and involves its membership
- Challenges the use of zero hours contracts
- Campaigns for inclusion in FE, regardless of ability to pay
- Defends jobs and consolidates contracts
- Protects pay and pensions

Vote Darren Tolliday 1, Alan Barker 2, Paul Pritchard 3, Allister Mactaggart 4, Margot Hill 5

Please also vote Loraine Monk for Vice President

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

National

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