

UCU NEC elections: Vote Sue Abbott

For women members (Higher Education)

Elections
run from
February
3rd-28th

FIGHT TO DEFEND HIGHER EDUCATION

I'VE BEEN A SENIOR LECTURER at Northumbria University (Newcastle upon Tyne) since 2005.

Prior to this I worked for various public bodies (local councils and the Fire Brigade) and held union positions including International Officer and Equality Rep.

- I have been Faculty Rep since 2006 where I support all members on a day to day basis on a wide range of issues including workload and stress.

The effects of workplace cuts have seen a significant impact upon UCU members where management expects more and more work in less time.

The reality is that it is virtually impossible to get our work done in the hours we are allocated. This must be tackled by UCU.

Our national employers have a legal duty of care towards us and we must campaign together to get this recognised. I have been particularly concerned about the increased focus towards target driven performance management. This is causing increased stress and illness among members.

- As Branch Equality officer since 2006 at Northumbria University, we operate a UCU equality group which is able to address the very many issues that crop up -bullying/lack of access/ equal pay/lack of opportunities for black members, disability access and many more.

These initiatives were recognised by the Northern TUC in 2008 and particularly the Holocaust Memorial Day event where we brought the Anne Frank exhibition to the University.

- I have also served as Northern Regional Equality Officer and was involved in organising regional conferences and setting up regional equality newsletters.



In particular during this time I supported the Northern Black Members group.

- I have been a Congress delegate twice and a regular Branch representative at HE national meetings on pay and conditions. During this period I was asked to speak at a UCU fringe meeting on equality and the recession with a TUC national equality officer.

- This year I was delighted to be elected to the national Women Members Standing Committee and an updated version of our branch motion on the "Lad Culture" in HE is being taken forward to the Women's TUC in March.

- There are many areas that I would like to contribute towards particularly in tackling equal pay, bullying and harassment and improving opportunities for women. I have also been involved in organising events for Black History month. This year I chaired an event with 'Show Racism the Red Card' where Gary Younge from the Guardian was keynote speaker.

- I am involved with anti-fascist activities. This has included speaking at the Newcastle Peoples Assembly meeting on this topic.

I ask you to vote for me in this election because:

- Austerity is having a particularly adverse effect on women. We need effective NEC representation for women on the NEC to address urgent issues such as zero hours contracts.

Campaigning to ensure fair working conditions for all hourly-paid and fixed-term workers, where women are often concentrated, should be a priority.

- Education along with other public sector areas is under the biggest threat we have ever seen. As a supporter of UCU left I believe we must strongly challenge attempts to privatise our institutions, change our terms and conditions or deny us fair pay.

- Coordinating industrial action with other unions is one of the most effective ways to persuade our employers to recognise our case for decent pay and conditions.

That's why I was disappointed that the majority of HEC members in December voted not to escalate our action but reduce the strikes to two hours and not implement the marking boycott until April.

I believe this was a mistake and the programme of action we had democratically agreed should be reinstated.

- It is important that there are strong voices for women on the NEC. I am confident my broad experience and commitment can contribute to this.

Vote Sue Abbott 1, Saira Wiener 2, Nadia Edmond 3

Please also vote Loraine Monk for Vice President. Loraine's 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 Wiener
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