

UCU NEC elections: Vote UCU Left

Elections
run from
February
3rd-28th

FOR A DEMOCRATIC, CAMPAIGNING UNION

Vote for candidates who will defend education, defend members!

UCU faces major challenges. Our members' pay, jobs and conditions are under threat. Both Further and Higher Education face stringent funding cuts, rampant managerialism and creeping privatisation.

Pay cuts, stress and insecurity

Despite George Osborne boasting that Britain is recovering, things are getting worse for our members. We have suffered significant pay cuts – up to 15 percent – in recent years. The Retail Price Index shows price rises of 2.7 percent while we are made insulting pay offers of 0.7 percent in FE and 1 percent in HE.

We find ourselves working ever harder in stressful and insecure jobs while our principals and vice-chancellors ride the gravy train and parade their new buildings and job titles.

Yet a serious fightback in defence of education and over our pay and conditions can win. The price of failing to fight back will be yet more cuts – the Tories have just announced a further £12 billion welfare budget cut if they win the general election next year.

The possibility of serious resistance worries the government. That's why they are playing divide and rule over immigration and stoking racist attitudes which impact on us, our students and our communities.

We need urgently to escalate our resistance to pay cuts in FE and HE.

We should not retreat from the successful and popular action already taken as the Higher Education Committee did at its 6th December meeting. All the candidates below stand with those members and branches who have reacted with disbelief and outrage at this decision.

We need to elect a national leadership committed to a fight back against our employers and the government before untold further damage is done.

For an organising, fighting and democratic union

The candidates of UCU Left are all activists with strong track records of support for members and of leading local and national action.

They stand for a campaigning, member-led union rather than a 'call-centre' servicing union which some in the union's leadership want to foist on the rest of us. Such a model would destroy UCU as an effective union.

The supporters of the 'Independent Broad Left' faction normally keep their allegiances hidden in these elections. Yet in December they voted en bloc to overturn the democratically determined HE pay strategy of escalation and substituted a dangerously inept de-escalation of action, including the delay of one of our most effective weapons – the assessment sanction – until April.

At the January 24th meeting of the Further Education Committee they

voted en bloc against a strategy of further strike action in the FE dispute proposed by supporters of UCU Left

These are not the only anti-democratic measures they have forced through. During the last year they also:

- Voted to consider compulsory redundancies for the union's own staff.
- Cut membership representation and democratic accountability at national level.
- Voted for changes to standing orders which will undermine branch and regional democracy and member participation.

By contrast, UCU Left supporters and other principled NEC members have consistently defended Congress policy and opposed all these measures. Delegates at Congress 2013 supported our alternative proposals for the union's budget and the NEC, and for getting back decent pay.

When we fight back, people join the union. When we take action, we can win.

Union membership in HE has grown since September. Members like the idea of action alongside other unions and our students and new activists have come forward strengthening branches and regions.

Now, in these elections, we have an opportunity to vote for candidates, including a Vice-President, who want a strong union that can defend members and will campaign in defence of basic educational principles like academic freedom and access to free, publicly-funded post-16 education.

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
**Lee Short,
Umit Yildiz**

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,
Sarah Wiener,
Nadia Edmonds**

Women members FE
**Rhiannon Lockley,
Margot Hill**

UK-elected HE:
**Lesley McGorrigan,
Carlo Morelli,
Karen Evans,
Andreas Bieler, Eleni Michalopoulou,
Jelena Timotijevic,
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 your region**

Find out more at www.uculeft.org