

UCU NEC elections: Vote Lesley McGorrigan for UK-elected members (Higher Education)

Elections
run from
February
3rd-28th

Two hour strikes? UCU can do better than this!

I am a current NEC member seeking re-election. I am employed at Leeds University (academic-related) and have been a UCU/AUT officer/ committee member for 19 years.

I am a member of UCU's national academic-related committee. I have been a delegate to UCU/AUT's annual Congress on several occasions. In these roles, my guiding premise is that the members are the union's strength and equality is paramount. I am a member of UCU Left.

When all three University unions took joint strike action in our pay campaign for the first time in 16 years, I detected something in the air that goes beyond the issue of pay. There was anger:

- At our 13% pay cut over the last four years,
- That Vice-Chancellors' salaries average £247,000 per year,
- That the university sector has huge trading surpluses and reserves of £1.1 billion,
- That these surpluses derive from students' £9k fees but management refuses to adequately pay the staff who teach them.

However, it was apparent that staff were not only rallying to the campaign because of pay. There is a latent malaise due to:

- **Over work:** ever increasing, frequently meaningless, tasks added to workloads,
- **Bullying:** endemic in the sector, causing stress and ill health,



- **Corporate style management:** consultants who know, and care even less, about education,
- **Outsourcing:** of services, such as email and catering, enabling private companies like Microsoft to profit from our education system,
- **Job threats:** whole sections of our workforce constantly having their jobs reviewed, restructured and threatened with others vulnerable on fixed-term and, even worse, zero-hours contracts,
- **Pension theft:** many members feel bitter that their willingness to fight for our pensions was not effectively harnessed by our union leadership.

The list could continue. It is apparent that our latest dispute was an outlet for members to express a broader unease reaching beyond our campuses.

This bigger picture in 2014 Britain is increasing homelessness and 347,000 fellow citizens surviving from food

banks in the name of 'austerity'.

These horrors coincide with our Government transferring every vestige of our public sector into the hands of private companies to make a profit.

These corporations, in turn, partake in the bandwagon of corporate tax avoidance.

Most of us today know we are living in a grossly unfair system; the question for me is what will we do about it?

Unions have always been a catalyst for progress and UCU has been a powerful part of that movement. The role of elected representatives is to provide leadership to instigate positive change.

For example, I used my voice as an NEC member to argue for the positive escalation plan UCU had adopted for our 2013 pay dispute, in opposition to the ludicrous move to two-hour strikes which the majority of our leadership has landed us with.

My track record as a local officer and NEC member is to lead from the front to inspire confidence in members that we can make the change we desperately need.

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 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
Lee Short,
Umit Yildiz

North East HE
Paul Blackledge,
Mike Lammiman,
Jeff Fowler

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

Women members HE
Sue Abbott,
Saira Weiner,
Nadia Edmond

Women members FE
Rhiannon Lockley,
Margot Hill

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

Find out more at www.uculeft.org