

UCU NEC elections: Vote UCU Left

Elections
run from
February
3rd-28th

FOR A DEMOCRATIC, CAMPAIGNING UNION

Vote for candidates who will defend education and 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 & insecurity

Despite George Osborne boasting about a recovery things are getting worse for our members. We have suffered significant pay cuts – up to 15 percent – since 2009. The Retail Price Index shows 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. Job security and the fight for Equality must be central to our defence of education and our conditions.

The possibility of serious resistance worries the Tory government. That's why they are playing divide and rule over immigration and migrants, stoking racist attitudes which impact on us, our students and our communities. The Tories have just announced a further £12 billion welfare budget cut if they win the general election next year.

No retreats!

Effective industrial action and escalation can win. We need to reinstate our escalating resistance to pay cuts in FE and HE, not retreat from the successful and popular action already taken last year as the Higher Education Committee did in December and as the Further

Education Committee voted narrowly to do on 24th January.

In HE, when some managements make punitive deductions of pay for 2 hour strikes, there should be a national response – all branches should take a day's strike.

Both the national industrial committees have failed to implement their democratic mandates. We need to elect a national leadership committed to a fight back against our employers and the government before untold further damage is done to post-16 education, and we need to strengthen our regional structures and our local networks of activists to do this effectively.

All the candidates below stand with those members, branches and regions who have been seeking to reinstate democratic mandates for the defence of members' pay and conditions.

For a campaigning, democratic union

UCU Left candidates have strong track records of supporting members and leading action. They stand for a campaigning, member-led union, not a 'call-centre' servicing union which some in the union's leadership want to foist on us. Such a model would destroy UCU as an effective union.

The 'Independent Broad Left' candidates normally keep their allegiances hidden in these elections. Yet at both the recent HEC and FEC meetings it was they who voted en bloc to overturn the democratically determined pay strategies. In HE instead of escalation and the

implementation of a marking sanction they substituted a dangerously inept and poorly thought out de-escalation of action, including the delay of one of our most effective weapons – the marking sanction. In FE they voted, en bloc, against any further strike action, even alongside HE colleagues and other teaching unions.

These are not the only anti-democratic measures they have forced through on the NEC. 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
- Proposed changes to standing orders intended to 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 winning back decent pay.

Union membership in HE has grown since September. When we fight back, people join the union. Members like the idea of action alongside other unions. In many branches new activists have come forward.

In these elections we have the opportunity to vote for candidates, including a Vice President, who want a strong union to defend members and 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
**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