

UCU NEC elections: Vote Allister Mactaggart for Midlands (Further Education)

WE NEED STRONG AND DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP FOR A SECTOR IN CRISIS

I have been a Lecturer in Art & Design at Chesterfield College since 1997. As someone who benefited from FE in my own retraining I am committed to upholding the sector in the face of the unrelenting attacks from government and employers.

I have been an active member of UCU/NATFHE throughout my teaching career. I was a departmental rep for many years and I am currently Branch Chair. I am also active regionally and have been a delegate to annual Congress on several occasions putting forward motions and amendments from our branch and the regional committee.

For many years FE has been considered the 'Cinderella' sector and successive governments have said kind words while continuing to undermine the sector.

Now, however, the unrelenting ideological attacks on us are having disastrous effects in terms of redundancies and worsening conditions, and upon the education of our students.

As a UCU Left supporter I believe a democratic, member-led union which actively campaigns for our sector is essential. Lecturers understand how the government's and employers' rhetoric plays out in further deterioration of educational provision in our colleges. I welcome UCU's Charter for Further and Adult



Education which succinctly sets out the benefits of what we do. We should use this during the current general election period, especially making sure we are seen to stand up as a union against growing racism and Islamophobia.

Sadly, the injunction against our planned pay strike on 14 October demonstrated that our employers are more willing to jump to the Tories' tune than stand with us to defend Further and Adult education. UCU must stand up for the future of the sector.

To do that leaderships should implement our democratic mandates, not undermine them. That is why I opposed the motion passed at the Special Conference in December to drop our pay campaign and ditch the pay ballot that we were in the middle of.

I believe the narrow decision to capitulate has seriously weakened the union and played directly into

the hands of government and our employers.

Our real strength as a trade union lies in our willingness to take national co-ordinated strike action, where

necessary, to safeguard all of our members, in all of our colleges. All the evidence shows that when we take such action we get improved offers from our employers.

We are part of the trade union movement. In addition to our own campaigns, therefore, I believe we must also offer solidarity to other workers in struggle, and we should celebrate the examples of those who have successfully stood up against austerity and cuts, particularly the campaigns against zero hours contracts, one of the scourges of current employment practices.

If elected I will campaign for:

The positive promotion of our sector, using UCU's Charter for Further and Adult Education to demonstrate the benefits of what we do; Defence of jobs and working conditions in the face of austerity and cuts; Fair working conditions for all staff, including hourly-paid; An alternative to the punitive Ofsted regime and lesson observation/performance management schemes within our colleges.

Vote Rhiannon Lockley 1, Allister Mactaggart 2

Elections run from 2 February to 27 February

Please vote for the following candidates in the national officer and NEC elections

President Scotland:
Carlo Morelli

UK Elected HE:
Marion Hersh,
Carlo Morelli,
Jeff Fowler, Eleni
Michalopoulou

North West HE:
Jo McNeill, Chris
Sheehy

LGBT HE:
Pura Ariza

Casually Employed
members (HE):
Vicky Blake

UK Elected FE:
Mandy Brown

North West FE:
Nina Doran

Midlands FE:
Rhiannon
Lockley, Allister
Mactaggart

Casually Employed
members (FE):
Amy Jowett

Trustees:
Alan Whitaker,
Angie McConnell

(Please note that
all members
can vote in the
elections for
Equality, Casually
Employed
members' and
Trustees seats)

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