

UCU NEC elections: Vote Sue Abbott

For Women Members representative, Higher Education

Election runs from 1 to 26 February

TAKING EQUALITY FORWARD IN UCU

I have been a Senior Lecturer at Northumbria University (Newcastle upon Tyne) since 2005 and faculty Rep and Branch Equality Officer since 2006.

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

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 and tackled.

I have been particularly concerned about the increased focus towards target driven performance management.

This is causing increased stress and illness amongst our UCU members and must be stopped. I am on the National UCU Stress and Bullying committee where these areas are being tackled.

I served as Northern Regional Equality Officer until 2013 and was elected on to NEC in 2014.

I was elected as Chair of Women Members Standing Committee (June 2014 to September 2015) and chaired National WMSC conference in November 2014.

I attended and spoke at Women's TUC as UCU delegation leader in 2014. I have been Congress delegate on 3 occasions and attend HE national meetings on pay and conditions.

I have spoken on a wide range of matters affecting women at work and



particularly sexism and lad culture. This year I chaired 2 workshops at UCU equalities conference 2015 on these areas.

Additionally I have organised events for Black History month, LGBT History month and Holocaust Memorial day and promoted disability access.

I have been strongly involved with anti-fascist activities and was part of campaign to stop far right group Pegida in Newcastle in Feb 2015.

I have raised equal pay matters and issues relating to women in senior management. I believe in regular working with Students Union and have spoken at their equality events

Education is under an enormous threat from this government (the HE green paper and the Trade Union Bill). This will have a real adverse effect particularly upon women.

As a supporter of UCU left I believe we must work together in UCU to challenge attempts to

privatise, change terms and conditions and deny us fair pay.

- I voted against acceptance of a derisory 1% pay award and opposed adverse pension changes to USS. I am against Trident and support renationalisation of the railways. Jeremy Corbyn's leadership provides us with hope for the future here.

- I am part of campaigns to tackle anti trade union legislation and fight against austerity, homelessness and poverty and I encourage all UCU members to join me.

I ask you to re-elect me so my experience and commitment to women and equality at work will continue make a real difference.

I will be attending the Second Convention for HE (www.heconvention2.wordpress.com).

**Vote Sue Abbott 1,
Saira Weiner 2**

STV voting system

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

UCU Left is supporting the following candidates in the NEC elections

Vice-president FE
Mandy Brown

London & the East HE
Sean Wallis, Ioanna Ioannou, Rachel Cohen, Mark Campbell

London & the East FE
Sean Vernell, Julia Foster

North East FE
Lee Short

UK-elected FE
Margot Hill, Sarah Foster, Allister Mactaggart

UK-elected HE
Mark Campbell, Pura Ariza, Julie Hearn

Women members FE
Rhiannon Lockley, Elaine White

Women members HE
Sue Abbott, Saira Weiner

Black members
Dawn Livingston

FE members (casual vacancy)
Elaine White

For a lay leadership that will:

- Fight to defend post-16 education
- Defend members' pensions, pay and conditions
- Respect democratic mandates
- Seek to build a campaigning, member-led union

More election materials can be found at the UCU Left website: www.uculeft.org

Find out more: www.uculeft.org