

# UCU NEC elections: vote Mark Abel for South HE

# No more retreats. A new leadership for crisis times

## UCU needs:

- A new strategy for the crisis it faces
- A new leadership that follows conference policy
- Action adapted to the new circumstances in HE

**A** lecturer at the University of Brighton since 2005, where I have been a UCU membership secretary, branch chair, and now Chair of the UCU coordinating committee. I previously worked in FE, holding union posts, including branch Chair at Bournemouth and Poole College.

In Brighton, I played a leading role to defend our Hastings campus from closure, and in UCU's campaign in the Region against the TEF and the HE & Research Bill.

Currently, I lead the campaign to defend the UCU's local agreements on part-time and casualised lecturers and on promotion from attacks by an increasingly aggressive management.

## Crisis

UCU faces a state of incipient crisis. Nationally, we have suffered a series of serious defeats. We failed to defend either of our pension schemes, and in HE have been unable to prevent the erosion of our pay by 15%.

With the new anti-trade union laws and the HE Bill, the prospect of national action is further diminished. Intensified competition and an imminent differential fee regime constitute a clear threat to national pay bargaining, and a



race to the bottom for some institutions. This will shred what remains of the 2006 Framework Agreement.

UCU's crisis is self-inflicted: the consequence of how the union has been led. In the last two pay disputes, the Higher Education Committee has failed to implement the will of the membership as expressed at annual conferences. It has failed to build confidence amongst the membership, and has called off national action before it has bitten.

## Strategy

Without a radical reappraisal of our situation, the development of an appropriate strategy, and adoption of effective tactics, the UCU may suffer serious decline.

We need our stronger branches, if their institutions are financially viable in the new HE market, to aid the weaker ones. That is what a national union is for.

We need a union that will defend academic freedom in the new situation,

will defend overseas colleagues from the rise of xenophobia and the threat to their residency, and is committed to resisting the rise in racist attitudes and attacks.

## Leadership

We need a leadership which:

- Believes in the possibility of successful action, and in members' determination
- Is decisive and democratic in following conference policy
- Will bring a new strategy, and tactical initiatives, to the membership at conferences and in branches

## Biography

I teach international politics. I research in aesthetics and musicology. I'm for the democratic accountability of the union's leadership. I'm a supporter of the Campaign for Public University and the Council for the Defence of British Universities, I'm committed to free HE provision, and to education as a public good rather than a private and personal investment. I support the UCU Left.

Election runs from 1 February - 1 March

## 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

### Trustees

Steve Cushion  
Laura Miles

### General Secretary

Jo McNeill

### Vice President HE

Carlo Morelli

### Honorary Treasurer

Paul Anderson

### Midlands HE

Elio Di Muccio

### Midlands FE

Rhiannon Lockley  
Safia Flissi

### UK-elected members FE

Mandy Brown  
Richard McEwan

### UK-elected members HE

Carlo Morelli  
Marion Hersh  
Phoebe Moore  
Ioanna Ioannou

### South HE

Lesley Kane  
Mark Abel  
Marian Mayer

### Representatives of LGBT members

Pura Ariza

### 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: [uculeft.org](http://uculeft.org)

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