

We must speak up for Higher Education

I am asking you to vote for me because I have spent my career speaking up for research staff in Higher Education. I am very concerned about the future of the University.

Every time I stood for national election, I argued the same point: The basic idea of a university is under attack from a government and a political class who fear a critical, independently-minded, university-educated populace. We need to respond by mobilising our own members: both in their own immediate interests, over pay and conditions, and in a wider defence of the university ideal.

In 2016 I turned these words into action. I was instrumental in co-ordinating the Second and Third Conventions for Higher Education, and I was an editor of the Alternative White Paper for HE. See <http://heconvention2.wordpress.com>

We launched the Alternative White Paper in Parliament and encouraged meetings across the UK.

The campaign united UCU with the Council for the Defence of British Universities and the Campaign for the Public University.

It put our union at the heart of a grassroots debate about the future of HE, the defence of academic freedom and the rights of staff and students.

In the 'old' universities we are in the fight of our lives to defend our pensions.



We must organise: to persuade members to vote, and vote yes; to build the strikes; and to prepare for an examination-marking boycott.

We need action committees in every university to bring together experienced branch activists and new angry members. Everyone can play their part.

At the same time we must all stand up for international staff, from the EU and beyond, during Brexit. How can you defend your pension if you are thrown out of the UK? We need to unite to defend our colleagues, our jobs, our pensions.

We are also defending our students and the future of Higher Education. Our employers are spending a lower proportion of their budget on pay and pensions than ever before. It is time to redress the balance.

We should never forget: Universities are critically important for a democratic,

educated society. Defending education means reversing government cuts and dismantling fees. It means standing up ourselves, fighting for our own pensions and pay.

I am a hard-working branch vice president and a defender of research staff. Vote for me for a union that represents you and fights for you.

Biographical details, including service to the union

I am a principal research fellow at UCL. I have been a researcher in artificial intelligence and linguistics for 28 years: 6 in Nottingham and 22 at UCL. I am a member of UCU Left.

Recent service:

Branch president, UCL UCU (currently VP).. 2013-present
HE secretary, London Region UCU member of NEC..... 2008-2015

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
Nita Sanghera

London & East HE
Paul Anderson
Rachel Cohen
Ioanna Ioannou
Sean Wallis

London & East FE
Julia Roberts
Sean Vernell

North East HE
Jeff Fowler
Mike Lammiman
Steve Lui (Sun Chong Lui)

North East FE
Saleem Rashid

North West FE
Carol Cody

N. Ireland HE
Peter Collins

UK-elected HE
Mark Abel
Sunil Banga
Elio Di Muccio
Julie Hearn
Jo McNeill

UK elected HE (casual vacancy)
Marion Hersh

UK-elected FE
Margot Hill
Naina Kent
Richard McEwan

Women members HE
Sue Abbott
Pura Ariza
Marian Mayer

Women members FE
Martha Harris
Elaine White

Land-based education
Eleni Michalopoulou

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: uculeft.org

Find out more: uculeft.org