

Put equality at the centre of UCU's work

I see the role of trade unions as being about collective action, engagement and social justice. I see the role of the UCU as challenging the managerialism, anti-intellectualism, compliance culture and abuses of power which stem from the marketisation of education. I also see our role as promoting an alternative vision of education and leading by example.

At BCU, I played a central role in rebuilding the branch after many years of disengagement and low activity.

We established a full branch committee; built a network of reps; increased the membership by over 25%, and improved engagement with UCU's democratic structures.

This experience has given me a good understanding of struggling branches, and how things can be changed through persistence.

Polarisation

I am also well-placed to understand the challenges facing members in Post-92 institutions, particularly the top-down approach to performance management and the struggles for the necessary time and resources for research.

I feel the polarisation of the sector into "research" and "teaching" institutions must be resisted.

I see Equality as central to the work of the UCU and am committed to challenging the gender and race

pay gaps, and to pushing for cultural change in order to challenge entrenched attitudes of patriarchy, racism, ableism, and heteronormativity in our universities.

I'm also committed to improving the rights of casualised members; having been employed on casual contracts I'm familiar with the struggles to make ends meet and build an academic career.

International

International exchange and collaboration are crucial to HE and need to be defended during this moment of nationalism and authoritarian populism. As a non-EU citizen, I don't want my EU colleagues subjected to the immigration bureaucracy I have dealt with and will campaign for the rights of EU and non-EU members.

If elected I will make sure that the NEC is responsive to members and activists in the region, through providing opportunities for you to feed in to key discussions and decisions and also to feed back through providing regular reports.

I'm a supporter of UCU Left. My approach is open, pragmatic and non-sectarian. I am not a member of any political party.



Biographical information including service to the union

I'm a Reader in the School of Media at BCU and am Associate Director for the Birmingham Centre for Media and Cultural Research. My research explores issues of austerity, migration and nationalism.

I've been a member of the UCU since 2008. I'm UCU Branch Chair at BCU; before this I was Branch Secretary and Membership Secretary. I am also a caseworker. I've also been Departmental Rep and Equality Rep in previous branches. I'm HE Chair of the West Midlands Regional Committee, and until recently served as Vice-Chair of the Black Members' Standing Committee.

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 HE
Jo McNeill

Honorary Treasurer
Paul Anderson

Midlands HE
Kirsten Forkert

Midlands FE
Allister Mactaggart

South HE
Deepa Govindarajan
Driver
Lesley Kane
Marian Mayer
Jaya John John

North West HE
Anthony O'Hanlon
Saira Weiner

North West FE
Carol Cody
Honorary Secretary
UCU Scotland
Marion Hersh

President
UCU Scotland
Carlo Morelli

North East HE
Bruce Baker
UK-elected HE
Maria Chondrogiani
Marion Hersh
Carlo Morelli
Jo Grady

UK-elected FE
Richard McEwan
Saleem Rashid

Disabled members HE
Ciara Doyle

Black members
Naina Kent
Dave Muritu

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