

UCU NEC elections: vote Marian Mayer for South HE

We did this! Grassroots activism can succeed

Firstly, thank you for taking the time to read my election address. I know how precious your time is. You may not know me, so I am taking this opportunity to explain why I want to continue working on behalf of UCU members via the NEC.

As a Senior Lecturer in Learning Development working in a Post 92 university for the past 15 years I have witnessed first-hand the ways in which the increased marketisation of Higher Education has changed the landscape in which we work.

Similarly, as an active member of the South region committee (Chair since 2017, previously Vice Chair) I have worked with colleagues in Further Education fighting to defend the essential provision of post 16 education.

As you have kindly taken the time to read my address you will probably know better than many how deep the attacks on FE and HE by successive governments have cut, and how hard UCU activists have worked to improve the terms and conditions under which we labour.

The campaign to defend the University Superannuation Scheme



Grass roots organising during the USS strikes

(USS) demonstrated how grass roots activism can succeed – despite the at times bewildering machinations of non-elected negotiators.

Staff working in HE joined UCU in order to take strike action and support the campaign.

Many of these new members made significant sacrifices in solidarity with members of the USS and their actions should inspire us all to organise and mobilise in our own branches.

It was this campaign that starkly illustrated a lacuna in democracy and transparency within our union, which led to astonishing scenes at

this year's congress.

If any good came from the walkout by UCU staff at congress it is that we now

have a UCU Democracy Commission and National Dispute Committee, both of which were mandated by the 2018 congress.

We also have a sense of the strength of feeling amongst members about the function and actions of elected and non-elected representatives in the various forums, with internal to UCU and external, such as the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) and the USS.

The state of UCU affairs have to change if the union is to remain relevant.

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

Vice President HE

Jo McNeill

Honorary Treasurer

Paul Anderson

Midlands HE

Kirsten Forkert

Nick Hardy

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 Chondrogianni
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

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It is essential that we all continue to hold employers, and pension scheme managers and trustees to account, and that we act in solidarity to defend any attacks on the Teachers Pension Scheme.

We can only do this by determinedly working together as a democratic member led union, this is where our actions have most effect.

We have seen this for example at Bath University where a campaign led by UCU comrades rid the university of Professor Dame Glynis Breakwell, at the time the highest paid vice-chancellor in the UK.

We have also seen significant wins in FE, notably the spectacular outcome for UCU branches across the Capital City College Group (CCCG - City and Islington College, Westminster Kingsway College and the College of North East London) whereby they settled their 2018/19 pay claim, including a back-dated 5% pay award to September worth up to £2,000 pa.

I have been an active member of UCU since 2005, and UCU Left since 2016, and rejoined the Labour Party to elect Jeremy Corbyn as leader .

My research investigates whether transformative education for Widening Participation and non-traditional students is possible.

The main focus of my work is improving outcomes for non-traditional, disabled and WP and international students – work close to my heart as a former Access to HE student.

I am currently the Co-chair of Bournemouth University UCU, the Health and Safety Officer – leading on workload and stress campaigns.

I also Chair the Southern Regional Committee. My Regional role involves supporting members in FE and HE, and supporting organising and mobilising members.

I have recently been co-opted to



the Disabled Members' Standing Committee, and of course I am actively working to reduce the 16% gender pay gap at my institution, and by extension all education institutions.

The casework I have undertaken in the past 14 years has given insight into the increasing impact of bullying, harassment, discrimination and exploitative workloads, which disproportionately impact on women in the workplace.

In particular I have successfully represented members seeking reasonable adjustments and agreements to allow them to meet caring responsibilities.

If you vote for me I will work to:

- Protect and defend colleagues impacted by Brexit
- End the pay gap in HE
- Defend pensions
- End all forms of harassment in the workplace
- Fight for truly accessible campuses where children and family members are welcomed

With your vote I will strive to make a positive contribution on the NEC and join comrades in collective efforts to transform our union into a democratic member-led organisation.