

# Keep up pensions fight and defend education

**The government is using austerity to push through a White Paper which will further open up Post-16 Education to the dictates of the market.**

They are intent on cutting our pensions – both TPS and USS. Conditions, pay and jobs are also being attacked.

The massive strike on 30 November showed the potential for a successful fight back. UCU played a central role in building united action.

We punched well above our weight and have grown as a result, despite the fact that our initial moves to action were opposed by general secretary Sally Hunt and her supporters.

## Pensions

The campaign over pensions is at a crucial turning point. We need to reject the ‘heads of agreement’ outright because it leaves us paying more, working longer, and receiving less. It seems some in our leadership are set to drop the ball over pensions and allow the momentum of November to be lost. We need to work with other unions like the NUT, NASUWT, PCS, and Unite to call more action, only re-balloting when there is a serious offer.

Also, the fight to defend USS pensions has to be stepped up and linked to this wider battle. We cannot make concessions; otherwise

these pre-92 members will also lose their final salary scheme and suffer consequences.

As a union we have notched up some important successes recently:

- In FE, members rejected the advice of full time negotiators and knocked back the despised Institute for Learning (IfL).
- Cuts to ESOL and Adult Education funding were knocked back, in the face of our joint campaigns with students and local communities. But we have to be ready as the Tories will be back for more.
- Some significant victories against compulsory redundancies have been won.

In addition, UCU members fought alongside students against the extortionate rises in tuition fees and attacks on EMA because we passionately believe in widening access to education. We continued to march with students when some in UCU tried to distance the union from the campaign.

## Successes

The successes we have had are due to the hard work of many UCU activists in the branches and regions of the union, building the union from the bottom up. It has proved crucial that we have strong democratic structures which reflect the issues that matter to our members.

The presence of UCU Left activists on the National Executive has helped shape our union as a progressive organisation with a record of fighting hard to defend its members. The candidates being supported by UCU Left in the coming elections have a strong record as grassroots activists and are committed to building an active and campaigning union.

*Pensions battle, HE White Paper...*

## UCU LEFT ORGANISING CONFERENCE

**Saturday 28 January, 12-4pm**

**Speakers:**

**John McDonnell MP**

**Priya Gopal**

*On the Higher Education White Paper*

**Alex Kenny**

*NUT NEC*

**Mark Campbell**

*UCU general secretary candidate*

**Angie McConnell**

*UCU vice president candidate*

**Ian Bradley**

*Electrician campaigning against pay cuts, Unite London rank & file committee*

**Langdon Park striker** (invited)

**@ Vernon Square Campus of SOAS,**

**Penton Rise, London WC1X 9EW**

**10 minutes walk from Kings Cross station**

**Sign up online at [www.uculeft.org](http://www.uculeft.org)**

All UCU members welcome

## We recommend a vote for these UCU Left candidates in the elections

### Voting advice for National

#### Vice President FE

Angie McConnell  
Wigan and Leigh College

#### N. Ireland HE

Brian Kelly  
Queens University Belfast

#### North East HE

Elizabeth Lawrence  
Sheffield Hallam University  
Gavin Reid  
University of Leeds  
Veronica Killen  
Northumbria University

#### North East FE

Graham Mustin  
Barnsley College  
Umit Yildiz  
Bradford College

#### London & the East HE

Mark Campbell  
London Metropolitan University  
Jane Hardy  
University of Hertfordshire  
Jim Wolfreys  
Kings College London

#### London & the East FE

Mandy Brown  
Lambeth College  
Sean Vernell  
City and Islington College

#### Wales HE

Liza van Zyl  
Cardiff University

#### North West FE

Darren Bradshaw  
Blackpool and the Fylde College

#### UK-elected members HE

Jane Hardy  
University of Hertfordshire  
Lesley McGorrigan  
University of Leeds  
Jelena Timotijevic  
University of Brighton

#### UK-elected members FE

Steven Boyce  
A4E Prisons Branch  
Richard McEwan  
Tower Hamlets College  
Jenny Sutton  
College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London  
Umit Yildiz  
Bradford College

#### Representatives of women members HE

Marion Hersh  
University of Glasgow

#### Representatives of women members FE

Alison Lord  
Tower Hamlets College  
Jenny Sutton  
College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London

#### Seats for casually employed members FE

Regine Pilling  
Westminster Kingsway College

#### UCU Trustee

Alan Whitaker  
Oxford and Cherwell Valley College

## STV VOTING SYSTEM

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**

**More at [www.uculeft.org](http://www.uculeft.org)**