

UCU NEC elections: Vote Jim Wolfreys for London and the East (Higher Education)

FIGHTING TO DEFEND PUBLIC EDUCATION

I have been a lecturer in French and European politics at King's College London (KCL) since 1994 and President of the local UCU association since 2005.

In 2010 KCL UCU was engaged in a high profile and successful campaign against compulsory redundancies that united university staff, students and the wider community around resolute action in defence of education.

Since then I have played an active role on the National Executive Committee, arguing that UCU needs to repeat this kind of local experience nationally in order to protect our pensions, pay, jobs and conditions and to oppose the consequences of the government's HE White Paper.

Hands

Our employers' attacks on job security, pensions, pay and conditions play into the hands of the government's generalised assault on the public university. Their antics in the USS dispute, imposing their diktat on staff, mirrors the shift away from democratic governance taking place in virtually every university.

Although the government has shelved plans to debate a Higher Education Bill in parliament, the agenda outlined in its HE White Paper is being implemented anyway: marketisation, casualisation and privatisation. This will create a



highly stratified university sector, where resources are directed away from teaching and research towards auditing and branding. Some universities, as the government has made plain, will be allowed to go to the wall.

Market

The new market for student places puts a premium on AAB+ grades, disproportionately achieved by those from private or selective schools. This despite the fact that state school pupils with lower grades perform to the same level as these students once at university.

Across the board, the government, aided by servile university managers, is rewarding privilege rather than ability, and fostering all that undermines public education, from elitist traditionalism to

market fundamentalism.

In universities as elsewhere, the pressure to cut costs is disproportionately affecting those colleagues who are already discriminated against, through gender, sexuality, ethnicity or disability. Conditions for hourly paid staff are also under threat.

UCU was the first union to take national action against the effects of austerity. Local branches, working closely with regional and national officials, have mounted strong resistance to compulsory redundancies. Further robust campaigning and resolute action will be required over pensions, pay and conditions but also against course closures and other consequences of the government's HE agenda. These campaigns will need to involve close cooperation with students and local communities and workplaces.

Our universities belong to the whole of society – we need to involve everyone in defending them.

Please vote

*Mark Campbell for General Secretary,
Angie McConnell for Vice President*

In the election for London and East HE seats please vote for Mark Campbell, Jane Hardy and myself.

Elections
run from
6 February
to 1 March

UCU Left recommends a vote for these candidates in the elections

Voting advice for National

General Secretary

Mark Campbell
London Metropolitan University

Vice President FE

Angie McConnell
Wigan & 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 & Islington College

Wales HE

Liza van Zyl
Cardiff University

North West FE

Darren Bradshaw
Blackpool & 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 &
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 &
North East London

Seats for casually employed members FE

Regine Pilling
Westminster Kingsway College

UCU Trustee

Alan Whitaker
Oxford & 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