

UCU NEC elections: Vote Isabel Brotherston for North West Region member (Further Education)

Work together to stop the attacks on education

Elections
run from
4 February to
1 March

I am a lecturer at The Manchester College on a fractional contract and I believe that meaningful communication between branches and UCU at a national level is critical to building a strong union.

I have been an active member and a member of branch committee since I joined Natfhe in 2004. I have been a delegate to the North West Regional Council since 2010 and was elected as a UK-elected member to the NEC in 2011.

I initially became a union activist because I was one of 40% of lecturers employed on hourly-paid contracts. The high profile campaign led by NATFHE in promoting part-time workers' rights galvanised our branch.

At the heart of my activism lies the conviction that successful campaigns are built at grass roots level, by listening to branch members and organising to defend their interests.

Our Principal was a pioneer of 'opening-up' education to the market place. An active branch was an obstacle and when I became branch secretary in 2008, the previous branch secretary had been



victimised, all staff were threatened with contract change/dismissal and management had de-recognised UCU.

Grassroots

I helped rebuild the branch and sought election to the NEC to represent the experiences of grass roots members in a hostile climate.

Since elected, I have helped organise successful grass roots campaigns on unannounced teaching observations and workloads, and represented membership concerns at NEC and National Congress.

I have also helped build the national campaigns on IFL and the defence of our occupational pensions.

I believe that an organised rank and file membership is crucial to the survival and success of trade unions in the face of unprecedented government attacks.

That is why I am a member of UCU's rank and file network - the UCU Left. Faced by government attacks on education, I believe we need a united front, within UCU and with fellow unions. If re-elected, I will campaign:

- Against erosion of conditions,
- For a decrease in crippling workloads,
- Against austerity cuts to our pay and pensions
- Against the de-professionalisation of FE
- For good communications between national and regional bodies
- For greater, genuine democracy in our union.

Vote Darren Tolliday 1, Isabel Brotherston 2 in the regional election.

Please also vote for Liz Lawrence for Vice-President and Gavin Reid for Honorary Treasurer.
Liz's election blog is:
<http://lizlawrence4vp.wordpress.com>

Please vote for the following candidates in the national officer and NEC elections

Vice-President
Elizabeth Lawrence

Honorary Treasurer
Gavin Reid

Honorary Secretary, Scotland
Carlo Morelli

Disabled members
Rob Murthwaite

Black members
Dawn Livingston

LGBT members (HE)
Pura Ariza

UK-elected HE
Paul Blackledge, Adrian Budd, Peter Dwyer, Jeff Fowler, Marion Hersh, Veronica Killen, Gavin Reid, Sean Wallis

UK-elected FE
David Armstrong, Mandy Brown, Alison Lord, Loraine Monk

Midlands FE
Alan Barker, Brian O'Sullivan

North West HE
Eleni Michalopoulou, Jo McNeill

North West FE
Darren Tolliday, Isabel Brotherston

Midlands HE
Ron Mendel, Nicholas Cimini

South HE
Patricia McManus, Ellen Seiss, Lesley Kane

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; and
- Give your highest preferences in the UK-Elected list to UCU Left candidate(s) **from your region**

Find out more at www.uculeft.org