

UCU NEC elections: Vote Veronica Killen

for UK-Elected member (Higher Education)

Stop privatisation and market madness in higher education

Elections run from 4 February to 1 March

Through my links with the NHS I have witnessed the decimation of services in the name of 'modernisation' over the decades. Now we in education are witnessing more corporate forms of HEI, threats from private equity companies, un-evidenced changes to courses and curricula and resultant subject demise in many areas.

Students and their families are struggling to pay for some of the most expensive courses in the world. Not surprisingly, numbers applying for university courses are falling. Right wing attacks on migration are having a devastating effect on international student recruitment.

UCU has always stood for free education for all, paid for through collective contributions based on the redistribution of wealth and income. It needs determination to turn things around and develop our welfare state for the good of the majority. The money is there - it's just in the wrong hands. Trade unions must play their part and come up with good alternative solutions.

Our next HE pay claim must ensure we reverse recent losses. That also means keeping up the equality pressures on employers, such as equal pay audits, disability adjustments and better work/life balance. We should link pay with our pensions and resistance to job losses, just as other teacher unions are doing. I believe we can, and must, do this.

We face increasing casualisation



in the sector, affecting predominately women and BME members, increasing workloads and performance management.

All are part of the 'more-for-less' neoliberal ideology. For some members, obtaining meaningful holiday time is now a luxury, never mind time for scholarly development and research!

How long before withdrawal of maternity entitlements, even more draconian sick leave policies, performance management and even the loss of the post-92 contract altogether? The REF should not be used as another performance management tool.

UCU must focus on what unites us in order to resist the unnecessary cuts, stop privatisation, and improve the working lives of our members.

We know that strong trade unions increase recruitment. Data from UCU shows that recruitment increases when we are engaged with national campaigns on pay, jobs and pensions.

Union democracy is about inclusiveness, respect for diversity and

debate through inclusive meetings at local, regional and national level. NEC members should uphold Congress as the sovereign decision making body.

Our NEC should consist of experienced activists who stand up for members and the intrinsic values underpinning strong trade unions. I believe I do just that. If elected I will continue to:

- Represent and speak up on behalf of all members, in all sections of higher education, particularly part-time and hourly paid.
- Respect and defend the mandate of members, whether it is through national ballots or congress. Support democracy within our union.
- Defend the equality agenda.
- Support decisive action that defends jobs, pay, pensions and equality.
- Visit branches and LAs to consult and report back.
- Work alongside other campaigning trade unions, anti cuts groups, trade councils, socialist MPs and student groups to bring and end to the market madness.

Please vote for me along with other like-minded candidates from UCU left. I urge you to 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

Find out more at www.uculeft.org

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**