

# UCU NEC elections: Vote Karen Evans

for UK-Elected member (Higher Education)

Elections  
run from  
February  
3<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

# Defend Higher Education, Defend our pay and conditions

I have worked in and around universities for the last 25 years, as a researcher on short-term contracts and as a member of lecturing staff at the University of Liverpool. I have seen conditions of service and pay deteriorate, especially in the last ten years.

Vice-chancellors have largely abandoned the idea of education as a public good and have shifted to a market-led model of education which sees other universities as competitors and sets up inter-departmental rivalry and competition for funds.

What's more, 'high quality education' is now synonymous with shiny new buildings whilst the people who provide the high standard of teaching, research and support for students, which should be the marker of quality, are treated with growing contempt and mistrust.

## Partners in learning?

As a result students experience education as consumers rather than as partners in learning. We must challenge the direction in which education is heading.

The last five years have seen a 13% drop in the salaries of those working in higher education as a 1% pay settlement each year has eroded our pay significantly.

Our employers have lazily fallen into the rhetoric of austerity and the new annual 1% norm for public sector workers which we know is a year on year cut in our wages. How far are they prepared to go? In another four of five years we could see our wages slashed by a quarter.

We must take a stand against the continuing imposition of pay cuts.

And now is the time to do this.

We are not alone as a union in saying that enough is enough.

Unison are due to bring their workers out in lunch-time protests in February, PCS and the other teachers' unions have also called for an end to these imposed pay cuts. Even the director-general of the CBI has called for higher wages.

We have to fight, too, for the low-paid in our sector. Unison estimates that 4000 staff are paid below the living wage but our employers refuse even to increase wages for these workers.

Pay restraint has not delivered anything of benefit to either staff or students. While we have taken cut after cut we have seen greater pressure at work, a widening pay gap, the growing use of zero-hour contracts and the loss of our members' jobs.

All this is creating the perfect circumstances for privatisation of support services and of our universities too and must be resisted.

If we do not stand together we are in danger of losing national pay bargaining and national role profiles - which are already being eroded.

As a member of the NEC for 6 years I fought to keep pay, jobs and conditions at work high on the list of our priorities as a union.

I have been disappointed that UCU has not fought harder over loss of pay



and pension rights in the last few years. As an NEC member I often felt thwarted by others on the NEC who seemed to be working to a different agenda.

## Defending union democracy

UCU must not become a mere servicing union - it must keep its local and national democratic structures intact and implement policy made by Annual Congress.

I was dismayed therefore to hear in December that our NEC decided not to escalate our action as promised and to delay our marking boycott to April. I believe that this is simply too late.

If re-elected to the NEC I will continue to work to ensure that all members' issues are high on the agenda of UCU nationally. I applaud the united stand which the education unions have taken over this pay round.

We need to continue to work together and with students to turn the direction of our education system away from market-driven philosophies which are destroying what we have created over many years.

I am currently a national negotiator for the UCU. I am a member of UCU Left and have fought for UCU to be an active, member-led union which listens to its membership's concerns and acts on them.

**Vote Karen Evans 1, Lesley McGorrigan 2, Jelena Timotijevich 3, Andreas Bieler 4, Carlo Morelli 5, Eleni Michalopoulou 6, Paul Blackledge 7**

**Please also vote Loraine Monk for Vice President**

**Loraine's election blog is at: <http://lorainemonk4vp.wordpress.com>**

Branch

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

Vice President FE  
**Loraine Monk**  
North East HE  
**Paul Blackledge, Mike Lammiman, Jeff Fowler**

North East FE  
**Lee Short, Umit Yildiz**  
London & the East HE  
**Adrian Budd, Ionna Ioannou, Sean Wallis**

Women members HE  
**Sue Abbott, Nadia Edmond, Saira Weiner**  
Women members FE  
**Rhiannon Lockley, Margot Hill**

UK-elected members HE  
**Andreas Bieler, Paul Blackledge, Karen Evans, Lesley McGorrigan, Eleni Michalopoulou, Carlo Morelli, Jelena Timotijevich**

UK-elected FE  
**Alan Barker, Margot Hill, Allister Mactaggart, Paul Pritchard, Darren Tolliday**

## 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](http://www.uculeft.org)**