

# UCU NEC elections: Vote Lee Short

for North East member (Further Education)

Elections  
run from  
X February  
to X March

## Defending Further Education

Staff in FE are under attack from a government determined to destroy the public sector. They are using austerity as a lever for driving down pay and conditions and driving up workloads. The withdrawal of EMA, introduction of FE loans, and a 'bottom-line' ethos affects the opportunities of the poorest and most vulnerable within our communities.

I believe UCU must be in the forefront of those campaigning to defend jobs, pay and conditions, and access to wide-ranging, high quality education and training for all. An example of where defending education and jobs are intertwined is the Defend ESOL campaign. I am proud that my branch campaigned locally and were part of the national success to defend ESOL.

### A fighting union is a recruiting union

- I am pleased that UCU has built a clear national pay campaign and that members have responded positively to it.
- I was proud to deliver a message of solidarity to the South Yorkshire HE strike rally in Sheffield on October 31st.
- On the build up to the December 3rd strike my branch recruited new members who were angry about the derisory pay offer but pleased UCU was taking action to defend pay.
- On December 3rd it was heartening to see new staff - many of them young - picketing for the first time.

I believe the success of national campaigns have an impact on our strength to recruit, campaign and negotiate at a local level, as do the examples of resistance and victories within the wider trade union movement.

The Wigan BFAWU victory over zero hours contracts is an inspiration to all trade



unions and given the rise of casualisation in FE, and there is much we can learn from their dispute.

### Building and uniting resistance

- My branch has worked hard to unite local activists and inspire activism in the branch by forging links with local trade unions; sending delegates to picket lines and organising solidarity rallies for unions taking action, such as CWU, PCS and FBU most recently.
- I was proud of my branch's support for the 'Halesowen Four' campaign. We invited those involved to our branch and raised money for their fighting fund.

As a UCU Left supporter, I believe that solidarity is crucial for building confidence across the trade union movement and promotes the potential for further joint national action like we saw on November

Vote Lee Short 1, Umit Yildiz 2

Please also vote Loraine Monk for Vice President

Lorraine's election blog is at:

30, 2011. For instance, throughout the FBU pension dispute I have represented my branch and local Trades Council at picket lines and rallies. Their members were lifted by this and the FBU returned the favour on December 3rd by joining our regional rally and sending a donation to our branch hardship fund.

### Why vote for me?

To defend high quality education and training, to support colleagues, and to build activism and solidarity, I believe UCU needs to be a campaigning and organising union, not one based on a servicing model.

### If elected I will:

- Work hard to ensure that the NEC is responsive and accountable to the membership.
- Report back from NEC meetings and make myself available to speak to branches if requested.
- Argue strongly for UCU to uphold the democratic decisions made at Congress, to ensure members do not feel let down.

### Biographical information including service to the union

I am currently employed as 0.8 Course Leader for Level 1 and 2 Art & Design at Barnsley College where I am the UCU joint Branch Secretary.

I have been an active member of UCU (formerly NATFHE) since becoming a lecturer in 2004, starting out as a branch committee member and representative.

- I was elected as joint Branch Secretary in 2011
- I have represented the branch at UCU Congress and FE Sector Conference
- I am a branch representative at Yorkshire and Humberside region
- I am branch delegate to Barnsley TUC

## 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**

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