

UCU NEC elections: Vote Nadia Edmond

For women members (Higher Education)

Elections
run from
February
3rd-28th

Defending public education, tackling inequality

A strong democratic union, recruiting, involving and organising members in every institution is vital to the task of defending education and tackling inequality.

The attack on our pay and pensions is part of a broader attack on education resulting in increasing inequality throughout the sector.

The discourse of 'necessary economies' and 'belt tightening' is used to justify measures which in fact contribute to this growing inequality.

The significant rises in senior managers' salaries and the erosion of the salaries of other academic and non-academic staff has resulted in increasing pay differentials between lowest and highest paid (as high as 1:32.5 in some institutions).

Fighting inequality

It is also linked to the persistent gender and ethnicity inequality in pay and progression within the sector.

The recent UCU report on the position of women and BME staff in professorial roles in UK HEIs demonstrates the unequal chances of progression and remuneration at even the highest levels. At the other end of the pay scale, we are seeing increasing precarity and casualisation.

I have worked in FE and HE and been a rank & file member of Natfhe and then UCU since 1985. Currently I work at the University of Brighton as Principal Lecturer.



In the last few years I have been increasingly dismayed at the impact of government policy on the F/HE sector and want to play a more active role in the collective defence of public education and struggle for greater equality within the sector.

After many years of taking part in strikes, pickets and campaigns including representing my union in the local UAF, I was elected secretary of my local branch in 2011.

In that role I have witnessed the growing anger at ever increasing workloads, over pensions and the impact of austerity policies and the desire of members for coordinated collective resistance.

My experience of the recent strikes convinced me of members determination to win and to take the action necessary to

win which goes beyond the programme of action agreed by the HEC on the 6 December where I would have supported the programme of escalating strike action agreed at conference.

I am a supporter of UCU Left and believe that we need to work with students, local communities and workplaces to campaign and take action against the policies which through a general attack on public education are undermining equality.

A way forward

The suspension of the Sussex university students and their subsequent reinstatement following massive support by staff and student and the wider community, shows a way forward in resisting growing authoritarianism on campus and defending universities as democratic institutions.

This is vital to ensuring equality. We cannot, for example, wait the 40 years which it is estimated it will take for gender equality at the current rate of progress.

The UCU must take a leading role in fighting for equality throughout the sector and be at the forefront of defending public education against privatization and 'marketisation'.

Vote Sue Abbott 1, Saira Wiener 2,
Nadia Edmond 3

Please also vote Loraine Monk for
Vice President. Loraine's blog is at:
<http://lorainemonk4vp.wordpress.com>

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 Wiener
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