

UCU NEC BY-ELECTION NORTH WEST REGION FE VOTE DARREN TOLLIDAY

Ballot opens from 5th September to 2nd October

DEFEND FE, DEFEND PAY AND CONDITIONS



I am seeking your vote for re-election to the NEC on which I served from 2011-13. I have been teaching since 1993 and I have been branch secretary at Mid Cheshire College since 2003.

Increasingly, managements in both HE and FE are obsessed with targets, data collection and performance indicators. For them it is all about the market and the 'bottom line', rather than education. For us it is about valuing the education we deliver and the diverse students we teach.

We also deserve to be valued but in recent years our real incomes have fallen by over 16%. The AOC has offered 1 percent, but this is well below inflation

and half what recent strike action by our HE colleagues achieved. I believe in the current consultation we should support the Further Education Committee's recommendation to reject, as other unions who struck on July 10th have done.

The Con-Dem government is continuing its drive to privatise Further Education. To do this its first task will be to undermine the staff in the sector and our unions. When we stand up for education, our students and ourselves we have an impact: recent strikes and protests by teachers and lecturers have now resulted in Gove and Wilshaw being dumped in the recent cabinet reshuffle. However their replacements will still wish to blame staff rather than funding cuts for any perceived reduction in the quality of education. We have half a million students in FE yet we are treated as the Cinderella service when it comes to funding, pay and conditions.

I believe we must stand up for the basic

principle of equal access to free, publicly-funded education. As lecturers we do a brilliant job for a wide range of students who frequently have to struggle in order to access meaningful education.

This is something we have a responsibility to defend. As a branch officer at Mid-Cheshire College I have recently helped our membership successfully resist another round of damaging redundancies of committed and dedicated teachers. I recognize the importance of developing an effective branch committee, with a team of reps focusing on health & safety issues and promoting a robust Equality agenda.

I also recognize the crucial role our regional committees can play in supporting branches and, as North West FE Committee Secretary, I regularly liaise with local branches in campaigning against attempts to reduce our terms and conditions because, as we know, the conditions teachers teach in

are the conditions students learn in.

Colleagues join UCU when they see us standing up for staff, such as defending Equality at work. This was exemplified by the recent indefinite strike action by our Lambeth College colleagues against the assault on their contracts. Their courageous action and the fantastic support they are receiving from inside and outside UCU show the willingness of members to collectively draw a line in the sand.

I support the UCU Left's commitment to developing UCU as a campaigning, democratically accountable and member-led union and I am also a member of Unite Against Fascism which led the recent successful campaign to remove BNP fascist Nick Griffin from his North West MEP seat.

If elected, I will work hard to encourage our NEC to address the unprecedented threats we face in FE and I will report back regularly to the North West region and branches.

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