

UCU NEC elections: Vote Carlo Morelli for UK-elected (Higher Education)

END THE SELL-OUTS: VOTE FOR A NEW LEADERSHIP

Elections
run from
2 February to
27 February

The undermining of USS pensions in HE is one of the greatest failures faced by UCU members since the union's formation. Yet it is a failure of the union's own making. The membership gave an overriding vote for a defence of pensions. This was because members understood the importance of pensions AND were given a clear lead by the union's activists at Congress who voted for a clear plan of action. However, the majority of our union leadership (led by the Independent Board Left grouping) ignored all of this and did the opposite. They accepted the USS employers' arguments, agreed an end to the Final Salary scheme and even the introduction of a defined contribution scheme. This is a disgrace.

All of this was done without discussion by the members and in complete opposition to conference policy. If ever the World War 1 comment 'lions led by donkeys' was apt it is in relation to UCU's majority leadership. This is not simply a lesson in pre-92 institutions, it has massive implications for the defence of the three Teachers Pensions Schemes in England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, for members in post-92 institutions.



The majority of the union's leadership do not believe members can fight back against the cuts we face and therefore we have to beg for small concessions. Rather than recognise that when we fight we gain bigger concessions even if we don't win everything the right wing of our union do not believe in fighting.

It is also not an accident that many of those doing the negotiations have nothing to lose; some of them had already taken their pensions. The right wing's politics is formed by the influences of the Labour Party and Communist Party, both of who believe austerity and cuts are inevitable and only voting in a Labour Government can bring change. Yet, when we fight we show an alternative is possible. My own experience at Dundee University has shown repeatedly when you fight you stop the cuts.

Inequality and Discrimination: Unity is Strength

The pensions sell-out drives inequality and discrimination further into HE for women and BME staff. The imposition of the monitoring of foreign students and staff is another example of the ways in which institutional racism and discrimination is driven into education. We need a union which supports ALL workers and students in their fights against inequality whether they are in UCU or not.

War & Academic Freedom

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have made the world a more, not less, dangerous place. The slaughter, dressed up as 'collateral damage', creates the conditions whereby terrorist organizations emerge. In the aftermath of the Paris killings we have to stand up to the likes of UKIP, islamophobia and anti-Semitism and say 'we are not all Charlie Hebdo'.

I am the past President and am currently Assistant Secretary of Dundee University UCU. I have many years experience as an activist in the union and I am a member of UCU Left.

Vote Marion Hersh 1, Carlo Morelli 2, Jeff Fowler 3, Eleni Michalopoulou 4

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

President Scotland:
Carlo Morelli
UK Elected HE:
**Marion Hersh,
Carlo Morelli,
Jeff Fowler, Eleni
Michalopoulou**
North West HE:
**Jo McNeill, Chris
Sheehy**

LGBT HE:
Pura Ariza
Casually Employed
members (HE):
Vicky Blake
UK Elected FE:
Mandy Brown
North West FE:
Nina Doran

Midlands FE:
**Rhiannon
Lockley, Allister
Mactaggart**
Casually Employed
members (FE):
Amy Jowett
Trustees:
**Alan Whitaker,
Angie McConnell**

(Please note that
all members
can vote in the
elections for
Equality, Casually
Employed
members' and
Trustees seats)

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