

UCU NEC elections: Vote Jo McNeill

for North West region (Higher Education)

Election runs from 2 to 27 February

FOR A DEMOCRATIC FIGHTING LEADERSHIP

I am Fair Access in Admissions Manager at the University of Liverpool. This is a full time post on an Academic Related contract. I am also studying part-time for my PhD.

I am currently President of the University of Liverpool UCU branch, this is my second term. I was Vice President for one year before that and have been an committee member and caseworker since joining UCU in 2007.

Prior to this I was a member of NUS as a student and PCS whilst working for the Home Office.

I am lead negotiator in our branch and have held the North West Regional representative seat on the NEC and HEC since 2013.

Equality

I support UCU Left and believe our Equality agenda underpins all aspects of trade unionism and all work we do should focus on how decisions we make will affect all of our members.

Our branch is involved in campaigns against zero hours contracts and casualisation and we are about to embark on a workload campaign, issues our members told us are important to them.

I was part of the minority currently represented on the HEC who voted to fight in defence of our USS pensions.

Every win the trade union movement has ever had has been on the back of industrial action.

Members in my branch were ready to take action in defence of our pensions, but unfortunately decisions

made by the HEC majority took any opportunity to fight away from us and have cost us dearly.

Our colleagues in FE are leading the way, Lambeth's members have been an inspiration and living proof that sustained action wins.



Battle

Most recently Conel's swift moves to action showed their employer that they were up for the battle and the employer backed down.

Short term losses are incomparable to the long term gains we can have if we organise and motivate our membership.

When our employer recently proposed to terminate approximately 3,000 contracts – with reinstatement into contracts with severely detrimental terms and conditions – I led our branch to a successful outcome in a dispute which was of national significance.

This win was down to branch members giving me the strength as a negotiator to make demands that our employer knew would be backed by swift action.

I made sure that final offers from the employer were communicated to the membership before any decisions were made. Our members did not have to take a single day of action in this dispute.

I also led our branch through the national pay dispute which saw the most actively supported day of action we have ever seen in our University.

Our push locally to develop strong relationships with sister unions on campus resulted in over 300 members registering as pickets on the first day of action!

At NEC/HEC meetings I consistently vote for members to be consulted on national decisions because I believe UCU is and should always be a member led organisation. But I also believe the nationally elected lay leadership should make recommendations – and actually lead.

I believe UCU should listen to the voice of the membership, many of whom are angry and dismayed at the poor leadership and the retreats over the USS scheme and pay in recent months.

These concerns, and day to day issues of workloads and increasing levels of petty bureaucracy, demand that UCU must step up and fight the corner of all those who pay their dues!
Vote Jo McNeill 1, Chris Sheehy 2

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
- Give your highest preferences in the UK-Elected list to UCU Left candidate(s) **from your region**

Please vote for these UCU Left candidates • Find out more at www.uculeft.org

President Scotland
Carlo Morelli

North West FE
Nina Doran

North West HE
Jo McNeill,
Chris Sheehy

UK-elected HE
Marion Hersh,
Carlo Morelli,
Jeff Fowler, Eleni
Michalopoulou

Trustees
Alan Whitaker,
Angie McConnell

UK-elected FE
Mandy Brown

LGBT HE
Pura Ariza

Midlands FE
Rhiannon Lockley,
Allister Mactaggart

Casually Employed members (HE)
Vicky Blake

Casually Employed members (FE)
Amy Jowett

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

For a lay leadership that will:

- Fight to defend post-16 education
- Defend members' pensions, pay and conditions
- Respect democratic mandates
- Seek to build a campaigning, member-led union