

UCU NEC elections: Vote Pura Ariza

for LGBT rep (Higher Education)

PUTTING EQUALITY AT THE HEART OF A FIGHTING UNION

As universities pursue their business model of managerialism, expansion and competition, it is essential that UCU puts itself at the heart of defending members' interests and defending education for the future.

Every attack on terms and conditions has a disproportionate effect on equality groups, and every move towards privatisation is a nail in the coffin of the public sector equality gains we have made in recent years.

To fight these attacks, we need to build a strong, fighting and democratic union which responds to all members' needs. The victory at Lambeth College is significant for us all. It shows how we can take on an employer and win. That victory was led from the branch itself, fought with real determination and supported by branches across sectors and across the country. We need an NEC which can learn from these successes.

What we cannot have is the recent situation in FE (pay) and HE (USS) where branches were ready for action but were 'stood down' at the last minute. This will only lead to demoralisation and risks members leaving UCU altogether.

As an LGBT trade unionist with over 20 years' experience (previously NUT), I believe equality is not a bolt-on addition but an integral part of all campaigns and actions.

Building a strong union benefits us all: in equality, in pay and pensions, in defence of education and in



collective bargaining.

For the past two years, UCU members have been resisting attacks on pay and pensions. As North West Regional Secretary, I have seen how we can build a strong union where members are involved in campaigns both in their workplaces and in the region.

We must now elect an NEC which responds to these members, and to the mandates of Congress.

UCU members are right to be frustrated with the failures of leadership in recent disputes. As branch secretary in one of the HE branches attacked with punitive deductions, I know the importance of solidarity. We must never leave branches to fight alone; individual branch attacks are nothing more than employers rehearsing tactics and gaining in confidence for the future. We must formulate campaigns and action which bring people together to defend our education against marketisation – whether on the USS dispute, in individual FE colleges or on the broader

issues of pay and pensions.

A democratic union will put strong equality structures at the heart of its organisation so that every member and every equality group has confidence in UCU's commitment.

As a member of UCU Left I believe UCU has a key role in opposing privatisation and defending education and equality. We are stronger when we work together. I support working with other unions, with students and with other equality campaign groups wherever possible.

If elected I will:

- * Ensure equality is part of every UCU campaign and action
- * Oppose any reduction to equality structures in UCU
- * Continue to campaign against the inherent threat to equality in the marketization of education
- * Put members' decisions at the heart of campaigns and strategy
- * Campaign against soaring workloads and casualisation, highlighting how these changes undermine equality
- * Ensure the NEC adheres to membership decisions and instructions
- * Support further action to halt the detrimental proposed changes to pensions

Vote Pura Ariza for LGBT (HE)

Elections run from 2 February to 27 February

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