

Defend FE – solidarity and strike action can win!

Government cuts are having a devastating impact on poor and vulnerable community groups.

As an ESOL Lecturer at Lambeth College I see this first hand.

As Branch Secretary at Lambeth College and a representative at London Region I have helped to build a strong, democratic branch which has resisted compulsory redundancies, struck solidly to defend pensions, and last summer took the longest strike action – five and a half weeks – in UCU's history, against attacks on working conditions.

After ten months, and 42 days of strike action, the branch finally won protection for 430 out of 530 of college staff from a draconian new contract.

This success was made possible by the solidarity from other colleges, universities and workplaces around the country, including the raising of £45,000 in donations.

ESOL

As a leading campaigner for Action for ESOL I worked alongside students, trade unionists and community organisations to raise awareness of ESOL and multiculturalism which in August 2012 resulted in a government U-turn.

The alternative would have meant up to 70 percent of learners, mostly women from BME groups, being



Mandy Brown on the Lambeth picket line

unable to afford to learn English to improve their lives.

I am a UCU Left supporter because I believe UCU must remain a democratic, member-led union with a campaigning agenda to ensure it is capable of defending further education and jobs, pay and pensions.

This can best be achieved within the framework of national bargaining and we must ensure that the union maintains its collective bargaining power.

The decision of the FESC in December to pull out of the pay campaign and to halt the ballot mid-way has damaged the union and its ability to win better pay and conditions for its members.

UCU must listen to the voice of

its members via policies agreed at Congress and respect those decisions.

If we are serious about UCU collectively defending members' pay, jobs and conditions, and not retreating to a call-centre style, servicing union which focuses on individual casework, the FESC decision in December to pull out of national action on pay cannot remain unchallenged.

If elected I will campaign for:

- Adult education and FE to remain free and accessible, especially for those who need a second chance
- Reduced workloads and fair conditions for all staff, including hourly paid
- An alternative to the punitive Ofsted regime
- FE to be put back on the map, with the help of the UCU Charter for FE

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**

Candidates supported by UCU Left in the coming NEC elections

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