

Vote UCU Left in the NEC elections...

Stand up for post-16 education

Election runs from 1 to 26 February

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- *Vote Mandy Brown for Vice President*
- *Note that **all** UCU members vote in the Vice President election. (Candidates are drawn from FE and HE on alternate years).*

UK Higher Education faces the biggest challenge in its history. The £9,000 tuition fee is destabilising institutions.

Some are expanding rapidly in a gold-rush for students, getting into debt and investing in new buildings and campuses.

Others are contracting so quickly they risk collapsing altogether.

The market is running rip, and no-one is safe. Boom can turn to bust.

Staff face new threats inside our institutions as a result. The drive for 'efficiency' means cuts in educational provision and jobs, pay and conditions.

Casualisation is rampant, and our pay has been driven down by more than 13 percent in real terms since August 2008. Workloads and stress

levels have escalated.

The Tories plan to make things worse.

The HE Green Paper is a roadmap for more privatisation, aiming to make it as easy as possible for private companies with no track record in education to enter a lucrative market for tuition fees.

Our sector faces a race to the bottom in which both staff and students will suffer.

The Tories' proposed Teaching Excellence Framework replaces meaningful Higher Education quality evaluation with 'metrics' like student satisfaction and income!

Sense

This makes no sense, until you realise that the entire proposal is to get private companies into our sector to milk Government-funded tuition fees.

The Governance proposals in the Green Paper are intended to create a race to the bottom. The Tories' "big idea" is that established universities will "compete" with private corporations, who are exempt from Freedom of Information requests and Academic Freedom protection for staff. Even

if they don't start out as private corporations, universities will be pressured to behave like them.

The Tories are losing the argument. The Green Paper has provoked conservative University Senior Management Teams to speak out. Even the Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University has co-authored a scathing response!

Class

The basic idea of the University is under attack from a government and political class who fear an independently-minded university-educated populace.

Continued overleaf...

STV voting system

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

UCU Left is supporting the following candidates in the NEC elections

Vice-president FE
Mandy Brown

London & the East HE
Sean Wallis, Ioanna Ioannou, Rachel Cohen, Mark Campbell

London & the East FE
Sean Vernell, Julia Foster

North East FE
Lee Short

UK-elected FE
Margot Hill, Sarah Foster, Allister Mactaggart

UK-elected HE
Mark Campbell, Pura Ariza, Julie Hearn

Women members FE
Rhiannon Lockley, Elaine White

Women members HE
Sue Abbott, Saira Weiner

Black members
Dawn Livingston

FE members (casual vacancy)
Elaine White

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

More election materials can be found at the UCU Left website: www.uculeft.org

Find out more: www.uculeft.org



UCU and Unison members striking together at London Met in June Photo: London Met UCU

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The Tories' market is opening a huge class divide between cash-rich Russell Group universities and those who recruit 'non-traditional' students and can genuinely claim to be committed to 'widening participation'.

The very existence of some institutions is now threatened.

Every member needs to get behind the current dispute at London Metropolitan University (See tinyurl.com/h72hwrf).

Opposition

The Tories know that they face huge opposition to their plans. So they are attempting to neutralise it.

The new Tory Trade Union Bill is designed to undermine unions' ability to fight over any issue in the future, and make national disputes much more difficult to get going.

Finally it is the height of cynicism, sexism and racism for David Cameron to announce new targeted funding for 'Muslim women who have poor English' after last summer's savage Tory cuts to ESOL funding.

We know that some staff are being pressured into participating in the Government's Prevent Duty.

That is why the demonstrations against racism, fascism and

Islamophobia on 19 March are so important for branches to mobilise around.

But there is a growing mood to fight back, and we can win, as we have seen with recent victories against victimisations at SOAS and the National Gallery.

Fight

Last year the majority of our union leadership chose not to lead a fight over pay, having failed to make the case with members.

The Higher Education Committee agreed at its last

meeting to support the call by UCU Left supporters to initiate a high-profile pay campaign leading to an early dispute for next year.

Rent, transport and housing costs continue to go up. Pay is a crucial issue for our members and therefore the union has to fight.

It is also right that addressing pay inequality is at the heart of our claim.

For all these reasons it is crucial that the union leadership we elect this February is willing and able to lead the resistance we need to these attacks. This is why you should vote UCU Left.

Convention for Higher Education

**Saturday 27 February, 10am-5pm
University College London**

The Convention is a grass-roots initiative led by union activists working with the Council for the Defence of British Universities and the Campaign for the Public University in opposition to the Tory policies in the HE Green Paper.

It is officially backed by UCU and the CPU and a growing number of union branches. This event is a must for all those who want to defend HE.

heconvention2.wordpress.com

Sessions on:

- Teaching quality, social mobility & the TEF
- Opening the market to private providers – easy come, easy go?
- Measure anything, fail everyone? – the rise of 'performance management'
- Deregulation, the attack on governance & statutes: academic freedom under threat
- The future of research
- Strategies to win: How can we defend the Public University?