

# UCU NEC elections: Vote Lee Short

For North East member (Further Education)

Election runs from 1 to 26 February

# Fight to defend Further Education

**S**taff in FE are under attack from a government intent on destroying the public sector. They are using austerity to drive down pay and conditions and force us to work harder for less.

The Area Reviews, successive restructurings, the introduction of loans in FE and the 'bottom line' ethos undermine the opportunities for students to study in our colleges.

The Prevent strategy being rolled out also places us in the front line in resisting rising racism and Islamophobia.

I believe UCU must be at the forefront of campaigning for decent pay, defending jobs, pay and conditions, and open access to wide-ranging, high quality education and training.

As branch Chair at Barnsley I am proud that our branch has been part of the Defend ESOL campaign and has also taken strike action in the last year to defend its members' jobs.

We know that there is a widespread mood to resist cuts, austerity and the race to the bottom, and we also know that when we stand up and fight back, we can win, as we have seen where trade unionists have successfully fought victimisations of reps such as at SOAS and the National Gallery recently.

Our national campaign last year against compulsory redundancies also bore fruit in forcing commitments from managements not to make staff compulsorily redundant in a number of colleges.



I am pleased that as part of the NEC this year we have initiated the campaign to restore our pay through the slogan '£1 an hour extra for all'. Now we need to work with others to make this a reality.

## A fighting union is a recruiting union

I believe the success of national campaigns has an impact on our ability to recruit and build the local networks of solidarity that we need in the face of our employers' demands and the culture of cuts.

As a UCU Left supporter I believe that solidarity is crucial for building confidence in the trade union movement and promotes the potential for further joint national action.

It is clear this will be indispensable if we are to oppose the impact of the Tory Trade Union Bill, which will make organising national action even harder for trade unions who face the most restrictive trade union legislation in Europe.

## Building and uniting resistance

To defend high quality education and training, to support colleagues, and to build activism and solidarity, I believe UCU needs to be a campaigning and organising union, not one based on servicing and individual casework alone.

## If elected I will:

- Continue to work hard to ensure that the NEC is responsive and accountable to the membership
- Report back from NEC meetings and make myself as available as possible to speak to branches
- Argue strongly for UCU to uphold democratic decisions made at conferences to ensure members do not feel let down.

## 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](http://www.uculeft.org)

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