

# UCU NEC elections: Vote Rachel Cohen

For London and the East HE representative

# DEFEND HE, NO TO AUSTERITY

Election  
runs from  
1 to 26  
February

I am a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at City University London. I research work and employment and I coordinate City Q-Step Centre, which works to improve the quantitative skills of social science undergraduates.

Prior to joining City I was a Lecturer at Surrey and Fixed-Term Lecturer and Post-Doctoral Researcher at Warwick.

## Member of UCU Left

Strong trade unions make a huge positive difference to members and to society. Given the current onslaught from a Tory government determined to impose market logic on HE, a strong, united and active union offering an alternative vision of the purpose of education is essential. UCU has the capacity to be that union, but we have to organise and make better use of our strengths.

## Excellence / Performance Management

The hated REF is being supplemented by the TEF. Both formally identify 'excellence', but the logic of these ranking exercises is to reproduce the influence and power of elite institutions (and disciplines within these institutions) while identifying market failure and paving the way for alternative (private) providers.

The search for 'excellence' has exacerbated the use of punitive performance management. Individually we face an increasing number and variety of targets exacerbating stress and insecurity and making it easier to manage-out those who do not fit.

Constant restructuring, a metrics based approach to performance and the casualization of academic roles are increasingly part of 'business as usual' in most universities.

Meanwhile, the likely end of HEFCE will dramatically reduce research capacity, especially in arts, humanities and social sciences where alternative funders are

## Regional



unavailable with potentially huge impacts on academic freedom.

Our university managers are preparing to make swingeing changes to manage a 'difficult environment'.

We need to argue for a sufficiently compelling alternative vision of higher education, its purposes and working practices. To do this we must develop support within our wider communities.

One way that we can all be involved in developing such an alternative vision for Higher Education is by attending The Second Convention for Higher Education in London on 27 February.

See [www.heconvention2.wordpress.com](http://www.heconvention2.wordpress.com) to register and for more information.

## A member-led UCU

Our members are our strength. We are accountants, computer-scientists, artists, musicians, industrial relations experts and so on.

Many members have a national profile. UCU will better represent us all if we broaden the pool of UCU spokespeople and develop ways of working that are inclusive and systematically incorporate members' diverse skills, knowledge and creativity in our campaigns.

## Pay / Pensions

Like many, I was frustrated with recent pay and pension campaigns.

Poorly coordinated national action is ineffective but also saps the strength of local branches and the activists who take part. This can undermine activists' ability to fight local struggles.

Conversely, well organised and well-resourced national campaigns build strength.

I am standing for NEC because when we come to fight again members will need action that is well organised and coordinated, and the confidence in knowing that we are in it to win.

**Vote Sean Wallis 1, Ioanna Ioannou 2, Rachel Cohen 3, Mark Campbell 4**

## Union service

2013-	City UCU Executive
2010-2013	Surrey UCU Executive
2011-12	Branch Secretary
2011-2012	South-East Region HE Chair
2006-2010	Warwick UCU Executive
2005-	AUT/UCU member

## 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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