

UCU NEC elections: Vote Sean Wallis

For London and the East representative, Higher Education

Election runs from 1 to 26 February

Stand up for HE

Dear colleague

I am asking you to vote for me because I have spent my career speaking up for research staff in Higher Education.

Now I am even more concerned about the future of the University.

Every time I stood for national election, I argued the same point:

The basic idea of a University is under attack from a Government and a political class who fear a critical, independently-minded, University-educated populace.

We need to respond by mobilising our own members: both in their own immediate interests, over pay and conditions, and in a wider defence of the University ideal.

Roadmap for privatisation

The HE Green Paper is a roadmap for HE privatisation, allowing private companies to compete for tuition fee income (cf. direct competition with "state providers" in the NHS.)

On their consultation website, BIS darkly comment that the intention of the Green Paper is to "change [not improve] the Higher Education landscape".

An entire section of the Green Paper (complete with flowcharts) is dedicated to make it as easy as possible for corporations to enter – and exit – this potentially lucrative "market".

It proposes shortening the time it takes for a private company to get degree awarding powers to *three* years – shorter than some undergraduate courses – as well as reducing the qualifying period to get degree awarding powers and university titles.

This explains why the Government pushed undergraduate fees up to £9,000 – the price had to be right.



Staff and students will suffer. All players in this market intend to expand speculatively, and the cheapest way to do this is to issue casual contracts with no employment rights and offer students minimum contact time.

To add injury to insult, the Tories also want to use their "anything goes" business model to attack real universities' founding principles.

So Part C argues for the reduction of protections for academic freedom in existing universities – whether they be 'old' or 'new' – on the basis that private corporations don't protect academic freedom!

The Green Paper identifies a mechanism to let the market rip. Our sector faces a race to the bottom.

But we can win. At UCL we fought off an attempt to rewrite our college Statutes.

We turned an attack on academic staff rights into a debate about extending academic protection to researchers and others.

But the Green Paper proposes removing the Privy Council protection

that helped us protect our Statutes.

We have to unite the sector to oppose the Green Paper. We need to organise urgently. We must unite across the academic community and encourage the widest possible debate.

Second Convention for HE

Come to the Second Convention for HE in London on 27 February. (See www.heconvention2.wordpress.com to book and for more information.)

We also have to win an argument among the population: *Universities are critically important for an educated society.*

Defending education means reversing Government cuts and dismantling fees. It means standing up ourselves, including fighting for our own pay.

I am a member of UCU Left, a hard-working branch vice president and a life-long defender of research staff. Vote for me for a union that represents you and fights for you.

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

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