

UCU NEC elections: vote Lesley Kane

For South HE

Election runs from
1 February
- 1 March

Defend Equality, widening participation and lifelong learning

Government politicians pay lip-service to “the student experience” while enacting legislation and policies that irrevocably harm it, and limit access to it.

Market culture is undermining job security and conditions of service, while causing profound damage to the quality of education. Equality, widening participation, and lifelong learning are being de-prioritised, hence the collapse in part-time university student numbers.

The HE Bill threatens academic fragmentation of HE followed by pay fragmentation. We must rebuild our industrial strategy, which will not be easy in the face of the TU Act, but if we build our branches and give members confidence we can win. National UCU cannot go on building pay campaigns and then allowing them to fizzle out.

The HE Bill is premised on defining universities as “Higher Education Providers”, a minimalist definition that promotes a race to the bottom and increased exploitation of both staff and students. In the USA this led to an expansion of “for profit” universities, many of which have been best with a series of scandals.

UCU must promote alliances, such as the HE Convention, of those who oppose this threat to academic freedom and standards. Academic freedom is not just an abstract principle, it is a necessity in the real world. Publically accountable science is necessary for democracy, freedom and for public safety.

Excessive workloads ruin education



and are a severe problem for many members. Some institutions compound the pressure with crude forms of “performance management”. We must campaign and negotiate to bring workload under control.

The use of casualised contracts has increased chaotically in recent years. I have held insecure contracts over the last decade, and had to re-apply for my own job. I do not want the younger generation of academics to go through this. We need better legislation and proper contracts with guaranteed work for members currently employed on zero hours’ contracts (or similar).

We need national concerted action on casualisation and the gender pay gap, as well as support for local branches. UCU must tell the national employer bodies that we will no longer allow them to avoid responsibility.

The promises in the 2008 Research Concordat must be made a reality, and research a viable career, not just a series of short-term contracts.

The current political climate makes it crucial that we unite to protect the rights of colleagues who are not UK nationals.

I am a UCU Left supporter and Labour Party member who believes that the defence of education must be at the heart of our campaigning. Good quality free education goes hand in hand with good conditions for education staff.

My UCU experience includes:

- Secretary of the Open University branch 2008-present
- OU Joint Negotiating Committee, Health & Safety Committee
- Experienced negotiator – served on OU Associate Lecturer (AL) Negotiating Group which negotiated job protection saving hundreds of AL posts in 2012-2014, currently on negotiating groups for a new AL contract providing secure employment
- Active caseworker
- NEC member 2007-8, 2009-2015
- NEC substructures served on: Anti-Casualisation Committee, Recruitment and Organisation Committee, Working Groups on workload protection and resisting redundancies, National Review Panel

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

Trustees

Steve Cushion
Laura Miles

General Secretary

Jo McNeill

Vice President HE

Carlo Morelli

Honorary Treasurer

Paul Anderson

Midlands HE

Elio Di Muccio

Midlands FE

Rhiannon Lockley
Safia Flissi

UK-elected members FE

Mandy Brown
Richard McEwan

UK-elected members HE

Carlo Morelli
Marion Hersh
Phoebe Moore
Ioanna Ioannou

South HE

Lesley Kane
Mark Abel
Marian Mayer

Representatives of LGBT members

Pura Ariza

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

Find out more at uculeft.org

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