

UCU NEC elections: vote Maria Chondrogianni for UK-elected HE

Working together to defend education

Election
runs from
1 February
- 1 March

I have been a union activist throughout my university education and career because I believe strongly that by working together we can defend education and protect our rights.

The magnificent industrial action by UCU members in defence of USS pensions shows how we can fight back effectively, while transforming our union in the process.

As branch chair at a post-92 institution, I have championed the post-92 academic contract, for example defending and protecting it in a successful ACAS negotiation to stop a detrimental teaching-only contract being introduced.

Moreover, I led the negotiations that successfully achieved fractionalisation for hourly paid staff as part of the framework agreement.

Over the last ten years, I have been instrumental in ensuring that no compulsory redundancies have taken place under challenging circumstances.

As an EU academic member of staff, I want to ensure that academic and academic related members of staff originating from Europe are treated equally by their employers and the state; we are neither 'queue jumpers' nor bargaining chips. The now scrapped settled status fee is only the first step towards the defence of our rights.

UCU members face a critical time in protecting education, jobs, and our terms and conditions.

While there is a lot of discussion

about the student experience, we need to keep highlighting the obvious, that it goes hand-in-hand with the staff experience.

As academic and academic related staff, we are currently facing punitive workloads, pay which has deteriorated year-on-year since 2008, pension uncertainties, while our contractual terms and conditions are constantly under threat. Attempts to introduce or impose detrimental teaching-only contracts with the pretext of the new REF have also emerged.

Moreover, the contractual right to ownership of intellectual property of any work produced during scholarly activity is also under attack, as well as the right of ownership of intellectual property and moral rights of any video recording. We must challenge this in the context of our work to defend academic freedom.

Our response can only be through national campaigning so that local UCU activists and members feel that they are supported by each other's strength.

I believe we need UK-wide campaigning to defend terms and conditions, in addition to the campaign to improve pay.

We need to strengthen local branches to defend our members' contracts against employer attacks, by sharing experiences, strategies and tactics,



particularly in opposing detrimental teaching-only contracts and punishing workloads. And we need to ensure that fair working conditions apply to all, first and foremost for casualised staff.

I am a hard-working branch chair and a defender of academic and academic-related staff. Vote for me for a union that campaigns for you and defends your employment conditions. I will be honoured to get your vote.

Biographical information including service to the union

I am a Principal lecturer at University of Westminster, and a NATFHE/UCU union activist since 1993.

I stand as a member of UCU Left and an EU academic.

Recent service

• 2013-present
UCU Westminster
Coordinating
Committee Chair;

and UCU Westminster
Cavendish Branch
Chair

• 2007-2010: UCU
Westminster
Negotiating Secretary
(joint)

• 2003-2007: UCU
Westminster
Equalities
representative and
member of the
negotiating team.

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 HE

Jo McNeill

Honorary Treasurer

Paul Anderson

Midlands HE

Kirsten Forkert

Midlands FE

Allister Mactaggart

South HE

Deepa Govindarajan

Driver

Lesley Kane

Marian Mayer

Jaya John John

North West HE

Anthony O'Hanlon

Saira Weiner

North West FE

Carol Cody

Honorary Secretary

UCU Scotland

Marion Hersh

President

UCU Scotland

Carlo Morelli

North East HE

Bruce Baker

UK-elected HE

Maria Chondrogianni

Marion Hersh

Carlo Morelli

Jo Grady

UK-elected FE

Richard McEwan

Saleem Rashid

Disabled members HE

Ciara Doyle

Black members

Naina Kent

Dave Muritu

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: uculeft.org

Find out more: uculeft.org