

Speaking up for research staff & against the crisis in our sector

Election runs from 25 January -1 March

I am asking you to vote for me because I have spent my career speaking up for research staff in Higher Education. I believe UCU activists should be more than defenders of the status quo. We have to fight for the future of the University.

We need a renewed industrial strategy based on members' active democracy.

We should remember that every member who took part in the MAB was a hero. They stood up for all of us, for our sector and for our students. Our students rallied to their side.

The HE political crisis is leading to attacks on us, but it means we can gain much wider support. Every time I stood for national election, I made 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.

The introduction of high tuition fees in 2010 and the Willets 'reforms' split our sector and triggered an employers' offensive against staff. Market competition between universities and wholesale

Vote Sean Wallis for London & East HE



Principal research fellow at UCL. Researcher in AI, statistics and linguistics for 28 years. Spent over 20 years on fixed term contracts.
2013-present: Branch President, VP, branch secretary, UCL UCU
2008- London Region HE secretary, regional secretary
2013-2020* Member of NEC
2018- JNCHES national negotiator

capital spending undermined USS and was the excuse to cut pay by some 35% since 2009.

The high-fee regime is

unsustainable. The student debt mountain is growing by £20bn a year. It passed the £200bn mark in June. Michelle Donelan's 'solution' is to make student loan debt a birthright without a university place and to launch a 'culture war' against 'woke science'!

Our employers are motivated by pure self-interest. Drive pay down, push casualisation and workload up. Demand ever-higher student fees (UUK says £12K). Attack academic freedom.

National pay bargaining is at greater risk than ever before. Just as we celebrate reversing USS cuts, and pre-92 universities receive a windfall of ~5% of staff pay, post-92 universities face TPS employer contribution increases of a similar scale.

We need to rally around. We should demand government "Pay Up for Post 92". We have to fight back, and we need a leadership that leads.

We are fighting for the future.

I am a member of UCU Left (uculeft.org), a hard-working branch secretary and a staunch defender of research staff. Vote for me for a union that represents you and fights for you.

For more information about the UCU Left platform and candidates
<https://uculeft.org/ucu-elections-2024>