

VOTE FOR CANDIDATES WHO WILL LEAD A FIGHT

We are facing the biggest onslaught on post-16 education in many decades – one which risks reversing the consistent growth of Higher Education, virtually sinking much of Adult Education, cutting a huge swathe through Further Education and completely derailing the notions of ‘lifelong education’ and ‘widening access’.

Even in the so-called good times of recent years teachers and lecturers in Further and Higher Education have faced relentlessly increasing workloads and declining terms and conditions.

Our pay is slipping relative to other professionals and as a sector we are being stressed, bullied and demoralised. Rather than centres of learning and personal development our educational institutions are becoming corporate enterprises in thrall to the market, where learners are commodities and lecturers just cogs in the machine.

Now we face huge cuts, major job losses, course closures and attacks on our pay, conditions and pensions as signalled by Alistair Darling’s and Peter Mandelson’s recent announcements. They want £720 million cuts in Adult Education, reductions in Basic Skills and Esol provision, a 10% cut in FE and £533 million cuts – 13,000 jobs – in universities. 6,000 job losses in HE had already been notified to UCU before Mandelson’s latest announcements.

The UK already has one of the lowest

proportions of teenagers in education, and is one of only two developed countries currently cutting funds to post-16 education in a period when unemployment is almost 3 million and youth unemployment over 1 million.

Whoever wins the general election will carry on cutting, using our pay, jobs and pensions to grab back the billions enthusiastically poured into banks and businesses during the financial crisis.

While poverty, unemployment, debt and repossessions grow for us our Principals and Vice-chancellors pay themselves mega-salaries and bankers go on insisting that they deserve huge bonuses.

Resistance

Now more than ever we need to ensure that the UCU is a union that can fight back. We need to elect a leadership which can develop national and local resistance to the attacks on post-16 education.

Since the UCU was formed four years ago UCU Left members have been at the forefront of developing a democratic, member-led union prepared to organise effective action for decent pay and conditions. Crucially we have also sought to promote a vision of education as a universal right and public service, and have been clear about the need to resist neo-liberalism whereby everything is measured by profit and the bottom line.

This academic year we have seen

the victory of UCU members at Tower Hamlets College after a four week strike to defend jobs and education. Members at Barnsley College have also driven back a major attempt to cut jobs and downgrade lecturing staff. UCU Left supporters have been at the heart of these fight backs.

There have also been some important victories against attempted job cuts in Higher Education – notably at Liverpool University. These campaigns show that if we build a broad, united resistance to defend education and fight job losses, we can win – and other workers, students and our communities will respond in solidarity.

That is why we urge you to vote for our list of candidates in the elections for UCU’s Vice President and members of the NEC which will take place in February. All our candidates

are experienced activists but also UCU members who share a commitment to education alongside the basic trade union principles of solidarity, the need for united action, and the idea that ‘an injury to one is an injury to all’. We need a national campaign of resistance to the attacks we face which should involve both sectors in unity with other trade unions, students and our communities.

We can begin by supporting the Day of Action and lobby of Parliament in the week of 25th January, and by sending delegates to the Right to Work Conference on January 30th which UCU nationally supports. **Join UCU Left.**

Vote for UCU Left candidates in the Vice presidential & NEC elections

UCU Left are calling for a vote for the following candidates

Voting advice for National

Vice President
Sean Vernell

GEOGRAPHICALLY ELECTED REGIONAL NEC SEATS:
London & East (Higher Education)
Mark Campbell
Jane Hardy
Jim Wolfreys

North East (Higher education)
Elizabeth Lawrence
Gavin Read
Jeff Fowler

North East (Further Education)
Dave Gibson
Vanessa Maughan

NATIONALLY ELECTED SEATS:
(Higher education)
Mark Campbell
Christine Vie
Jean Crocker
Sue Blackwell
Dominique Lautenbourg

(Further Education)
Richard McEwan
Craig Lewis
Mike Barton
Keith Mallinson

EQUALITY SEATS:
(Women Higher Education)
Veronica Killen
Marion Hersch

(Women Further Education)
Alison Lord

Elections run from 8 Feb to 5 March

STV VOTING SYSTEM

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; and
- Give your highest preferences in the UK-Elected list to UCU Left candidate(s) **from your region**