

UCU Left Constitution

As adopted at founding conference of UCU Left at the Mechanics Institute, Manchester, Saturday November 25th 2006 (and subsequently amended at the 2007/8 AGM on Saturday 29th March 2008).

Principles

The UCU Left is committed to:

- building a fighting, democratic union, including strong branches and regions, with a vibrant rank & file
- making equality work central to the work of the union
- the defence/restoration/establishment of national bargaining on pay and conditions of services

The UCU Left supports:

- human rights and workers' struggles internationally
- union democracy, including lay control of union structures and negotiating processes
- full equality for women, BME people, disabled people lesbians and gay men and bisexual and transgender people
- defence of academic freedom and civil liberties
- repeal of all anti-trade union laws and their defiance where necessary
- the principle of free universal education under democratic control of education workers, local communities and users
- the restoration of student grants and the abolition of tuition fees
- democratic and collegial governance of all FE and HE institutions
- struggles for sustainable environmental policies both within FE & HE institutions and in wider society

The UCU Left opposes:

- all discrimination & prejudice on the grounds of sex, race, disability, age, sexuality and religion
- the neo-liberal marketisation of our colleges and universities
- imperialist wars and imperialism.

Membership

All UCU members who subscribe to the above principles and pay the appropriate monthly subscription to UCU Left are entitled to membership of UCU Left. *[For 2008/9 the amount is £2.50/month waged, £1/month unwaged/retired]*

Meetings

There shall be an annual conference of UCU Left. All members of UCU Left may attend the conference, speak and vote.

UCU Left will hold a meeting at Annual Congress of UCU.

A UCU Left Steering Committee will be elected at the AGM which will consist of the officers plus representatives of equality strands and UCU left groups in the regions

Where there are sufficient UCU Left members in a town, city or region, they shall organise local or regional meetings for UCU Left members and public meetings for all UCU members.

National Office Holding of UCU

All UCU Left members who wish to stand for national office of UCU shall send their election address to the UCU Left National Secretary.

The election address shall state clearly that the candidate is a member of UCU Left.

UCU Left members shall only stand for election for national office if they are on the agreed UCU Left slate, and only for those seats in which it is agreed they stand as part of the slate.

UCU Left members elected to the NEC shall meet, where possible, before NEC and NEC Committee meetings to discuss the business in the light of the principles adopted by UCU Left.

Officers of UCU Left

The following officers shall be elected at the annual conference of UCU Left:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Membership Secretary and Treasurer
- Publication Editor