

# UCU NEC elections vote Christine Vié

## Universities are not for sale!

Dear Colleague,

As a sitting member of the NEC, I am actively committed to building a union that is at the forefront in the fight against privatisation; a union that values and respects democratic processes; a union that understand members priorities; and a union that is not afraid to be political in its resistance to New Labour's market based priorities.

The challenges we face, are common to us all:

- ✿ Our terms and conditions under systematic attack.
- ✿ The inexorable rise in staff-student ratios and our workloads.
- ✿ Our teaching content under pressure to be standardised and anodyne.
- ✿ Creeping privatisation of our courses, such as languages.
- ✿ A competition driven environment where students are turned into customers.
- ✿ A metrics based research assessment which further negates equitable institutional research funding.

What I campaign for on the NEC...

- ✿ As universities are transformed from scholarly institutions into profit centres, UCU must resist market competition by campaigning for a HE that puts students' education, our academic freedom and research before profit.

✿ UCU needs to be political to take-on government's spending priorities and its obsession with market-based league tables and inter-university competition, where the winners, increasingly, take more.

✿ National pay bargaining is vital as it is our guarantee that all UCU members benefit and are protected.

✿ This is year three of the pay settlement. We must build for a new fight over pay. Our resolve during the 2006 pay dispute demonstrated that when we take action we have real power.

✿ Campaigning against universities' sea of insecure academic and academic-related McJobs with their low pay must remain a priority after the Framework Agreement.

✿ New Labour refuses to radically increase HE funding while it wastes billions on wars and weapons of mass destruction. As an activist in



Stop the War and Unite Against Fascism, I believe UCU must continue to strengthen its progressive political policies.

As a member of UCU Left, I am committed to continuing to build a fighting democratic union that defends educational equality and opposes the neo-liberal marketisation of our universities.

**Christine Vié**

### Biographical information including service to the union

**I am currently a UCU NEC Member (UK HE) and also sit on the Recruiting, Organising and Campaigning Committee.**

I have been the branch Casework Co-ordinator at Manchester Metropolitan University for five years. I provide support, advice and representation to members on management bullying, all forms of discrimination, workload issues, disciplinary matters, contracts, redun-

dancy and redeployment.

I have been a branch negotiator since 2002 and was Vice-Chair from 2002-06. As Vice-Chair I had responsibility for liaising with MMU campus unions. I was a lead negotiator on the Framework Agreement where I have resolutely fought for equal treatment for hourly paid lecturers and fractionalisation of their contracts.

I am a senior lecturer at MMU.

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